

## **What is the Special Seal?**

The Board of Education, Administration and Staff believe students who receive the "Special Seal" recognition will have an advantage over other students when they seek employment. The "Special Seal" is the school system's effort to validate to employers that those students who have earned this credential are prime candidates for employment. It is awarded to our 5th, 8th, and 12th grade students.

## **Rationale and Description**

A major part of the Williamstown School's Mission is to prepare our students for life and their eventual transition from school to the world of work. Instilling and modeling a strong work ethic is essential if we expect our students to be able to secure and retain employment. To address this important component for success in life, the Williamstown School recognizes those students who exemplify a good work ethic by placing a "Special Seal" on their diploma. In addition, students upon completion of the fifth and eighth grades who meet the criteria receive certificates to reward them for a strong work ethic. Seniors who receive the "Special Seal" also are individually recognized during the high school graduation ceremonies.

## **Participation**

Participation is voluntary. Pursuit of the "Special Seal" is the student's responsibility. Interested students are to make themselves aware of the criteria and then state their intentions to their respective teachers, administrators, and board members.

## **What criteria must be met to receive a special seal?**

Some of the criteria to qualify for the "Special Seal" are subjective and will be evaluated by a committee of five staff members who are familiar with the students being considered. To help eliminate bias and to achieve the most fair evaluation, the Olympic system of scoring will be used. The high and the low scores will not be considered. A student must receive an average score of 4.5 on a 5.0 scale to qualify for the "Special Seal".