“Love All, Serve All” is the saying of my beloved teacher Sri Sathya Sai Baba. That is what I endeavor to follow in each and every step of my life and it makes it that much easier to be a Drum Major for Peace, Justice and Righteousness in my school and community.

Peace – I try to see myself in everyone and treat them as I would expect to be treated. I would be patient and strive to be the very personification of such virtues, so that my conduct would speak more than my words. At school, I would form a committee to stop drugs, bullying and other forms of violence. As a leader of that committee, I would make posters with my teammates and raise awareness through public speeches and PowerPoint presentations of the ill effects of bullying and drugs. Even if I get discouraged, I will relentlessly work toward achieving my goal, as I strongly believe that love and the spirit of service are infectious. In my community, I would promote peace by putting on small plays to show the value of being united as a family. I feel that kids get into bullying and other forms of violence mainly due to lack of family support. I would continue to volunteer at the local church, home for the aged and the Cleveland Food Bank.

Justice – At school, I would make sure that my classmates are treated fairly and in turn, treat me fairly. If I see someone treated unfairly, I would help in finding the cause and involve my teachers in getting the issue resolved. Even if a person threatens me or call me a “tattletale”, I would continue undeterred based on my conviction that what I am doing is right. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”. As part of the global community, I consider the whole world as my family, see the oneness in all and treat everyone fairly and justly without any difference whatsoever.

Righteousness – I will follow my leaders, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. All of them exemplified unity in thought, word and deed, lived a morally upright life and practiced honesty, service and love for others. I practice honesty in whatever I do, even if the conditions require me to do otherwise. I will continue to help friends and work towards helping humanity at large, so that the world can become a much better place.

In the present times, peace, non-violence and selfless service are in short supply! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said “If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values—that our reality hinges on moral foundations and that all reality has spiritual control.” I would emphasize and reiterate these values right from the family, to the school, community, state, nation and the world.