

Arts4All Florida Student of the Month April 2022



9-year-old, **Calvin McCray**, was nominated by Mr. Ethan Sapp, his music teacher at Wyomina Park Elementary. He described Calvin as “a wonderfully talented student who is a pleasure to work with. He is not afraid to attempt a new experience with Music and enjoys it thoroughly.”

Calvin impressed Arts4All Florida with his ability to play the xylophone so skillfully to Imagine Dragon’s 2017 song, *Believer*. His homeroom classroom teacher, Ms. Taylor, shared how music has become a reward for Calvin’s good behavior. As a student on the Autism Spectrum, Calvin has shown improvements in his demeanor when he is allowed to express himself musically. Ms. Taylor has also incorporated the use of rhythm sticks to assist his timing in reading. “This practice is assisting in his classroom growth,” said Mr. Sapp. Mr. Sapp shared how Calvin is “beginning to show interest in other percussion instruments, such as the drum set.” We hope Calvin’s interest in music only continues to grow as he progresses through school and beyond!



14-year-old, **Jonathan Moore**, was nominated by Mr. Steven Dean, his music teacher at Cypress Lake Middle School in Lee County. He described Jonathan as talented student who has continuously developed as a musician and class leader.

Jonathan joined Cypress Lake’s Percussion Ensemble in August last year. Since then, he performed in his first concert in December and has dedicated himself to continuing his music studies. This month he completed the 2022 Florida Bandmasters Association Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment. Mr. Dean described how “for this event, Jonathan prepared a solo and performed his piece for a guest judge...For solo preparations and performances many students struggle with nervousness, but Jonathan rose to the challenge and represented our school with his performance.” He is now preparing for the Spring Concert coming up next month where Jonathan will be the drumline leader.

Beyond the arts, Jonathan participates in Panther Pals, a social club to promote inclusion. Jonathan has been an active member of the club since 6th grade. He also participates in two sports leagues, the Unified Basketball and Track teams. Unified Sports is part of Special Olympics which aims to bring students with and without disabilities together to play in competitive sports. Jonathan is a well-rounded aspiring musician who we are sure has a promising future ahead!