11-year-old Jahdiel Mojica Ocasio was nominated by Carol Gannon, his art teacher from Legacy Elementary School in Ocala. “Jahdiel wishes art class could be every day”, writes Ms. Gannon. “When in his regular classroom, he draws every opportunity he gets and he draws very well”.

Legacy Elementary School participated in the Marion County Tax Collector’s tag art contest, where Jahdiel’s submission was chosen as their Choice Award recipient. With that distinguished recognition, his artwork will be on the front of all of Marion County Tax Office vehicles for a year. Additionally, the district superintendent has invited Jahdiel to open an upcoming school board meeting where he will lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. As an enthusiastic self-starter, Jahdiel has already begun working on his entry design for the 2020 Doodle for Google contest, the theme of which is, “I show kindness by…”.

This articulate and outgoing SLD student is “excited about art”, shares Ms. Gannon. He loves all aspects of the art making process including talking about his craft with teachers and his classmates, which many times includes an infectious smile on his face.

Jahdiel participates in the after school Good News Club and remains active in his church.