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Arts4All Florida
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**Volusia County Student Named Arts4All Florida
September 2021 Student of the Month**

(Tampa, FL) September 20, 2021

Arts4All Florida is pleased to announce 13-year-old Isaac Vazquez Cruz as one of their September 2021 Students of the Month, the first of the new school year. Isaac was nominated by Jillian Larriviere, the Visual Art Teacher at Taylor Middle-High School. Ms. Jillian writes, "I have seen Isaac's creativity shine through; he lights up when he creates his creatures, and he really enjoys talking about them and giving the facts about them. You can see his love of drawing when he is working and it is a joy to see!"

Arts4All Florida was impressed by Isaac's talent as an illustrator but more importantly, how he leans towards his art for enjoyment and de-escalation. His teacher shared how "Isaac shares his love for drawing with his peers and teachers and uses the arts to demonstrate his understanding of curricular topics along with social and emotional outlets." This is emblematic of the important role the arts can play in and out of the classroom for students with disabilities.

Ms. Jillian also described how Isaac is consistently drawing and shares this passion with others. "[Isaac's] talent is apparent, and he creates various dinosaurs and prehistoric creatures...his drawings are meticulous." We reached out to his mom, Mrs. Cruz and she added, "Isaac is the strongest, smartest, bravest, funniest, and blessed kid in the whole universe. He has overcome so much at a young age [with] a smile." Mrs. Cruz shared how Isaac has always loved drawing and with his attention to detail, he has continued to improve.

Arts4All Florida looks forward to recognizing Isaac in our newsletter, highlighting him on our website and sending him a personalized trophy. The Arts4All Florida Student of the Month Program is designed to increase public awareness and recognize the impact arts make on students with disabilities statewide. Students who participate in the arts develop creativity, have increased self-confidence, understand teamwork, have increased language and math skills and are generally more engaged. For more information about the Student of the Month program and others, please visit www.arts4allflorida.org.

Arts4All Florida is partially funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education (BESE), through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B.

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