

## Arts4All Florida Student of the Month March 2020



18-year-old **Ashley Gilford** was nominated by her art teacher, Kelly Delaney at Atlantic Coast High School in Jacksonville, Florida. Delaney writes, “[Ashley] has become a role model to her peers. Her leadership has developed immensely; she inspires others to create and develop their talents.”

Delaney has watched Ashley progress and improve over the past 4 years and now, as a 12th grader, she is delighted to have witnessed her development into an artistic and creative young lady, always smiling and positively interacting with her art classmates. Ashley’s artwork is colorful and expressive and through the use of acrylics she produces outstanding landscapes and images of nature. Last year, Delaney shares, “she was recognized with an art award for overall excellence in the arts”, at Atlantic Coast High School.

As a tenacious student with autism, Ashley participates and excels in the College and Career Transition Club and community-based Vocational Education program as well as serves as an intern with severely disabled students. Her contagious optimistic attitude serves herself and many well!



11-year-old **Easton McKenzie** was nominated by Hannah Croll who works at Seminole Trails Elementary School in West Palm Beach, Florida where he is a 5th grader.

“Easton is an exemplary student both in art class and in his regular classroom”, Croll writes in her recent nomination. “[He] is funny, kind, helpful and nearly as tall as his teachers. Every assignment gets the same dedicated attention as the last because to Easton, every detail is important.”

Easton can be shy, quiet and maybe easily overlooked at times, however through observation it’s apparent that he’s quite a talented young artist with a keen eye and focus. Just as he diligently attends to his daily school work, turning in only his very best, his desire to perfect his drawing skills comes quite naturally and only the finest will do! “Above being an incredible student and a joy to work with,” Croll shares, “Easton is a phenomenal artist.”

Easton, who has autism, recently participated in the Seminole Trails art show and has begun the audition process to attend Bak Middle School of the Arts for middle school next year.