

Arts4All Florida Student of the Month March, 2022



Gaetano in front of his artwork depicting a neon-orange dragon

21-year-old, **Gaetano Esposito**, was nominated by Miss Zanita Hendry, art teacher at Hillcrest High School in Marion County. Miss Zanita shared, “Gaetano is a gifted artist. He has his own ideas about his artwork. When he is creating, one idea just seems to flow into another. It’s inspiring and motivating to watch him create his art and develop his ideas.”

Gaetano’s media of choice are 2D works on paper including pastels, watercolors, ink, colored pencils. In 2020, he was featured in Marion County’s [Superintendent’s Art Show](#), a youth art exhibit featuring one work from each school. Since 2018, this exhibit is shown at the Appleton Museum of Art and highlights artistic excellence across the county. Gaetano represented Hillcrest even amidst the covid-19 pandemic and will hopefully exhibit again this year. “His artwork usually shows his desire for visual self-

expression. He is highly individual and inventive no matter the medium or project expectations.”
-Miss Zanita.

Beyond the arts, Miss Zanita shared how “Gaetano also possesses leadership skills by helping other students who may have fallen behind or need a little help.” He also participates in Hillcrest’s work-study agriculture program. Gaetano is learning about gardening, hydroponics, and animal husbandry. He and his classmates are currently caring for the Hillcrest pig in hopes to show at the Southeastern Youth Fair.

