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Arts4All Florida
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**Lee County Student Named
Arts4All Florida September 2019 Student of the Month**

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Arts4All Florida is pleased to announce 12-year-old Matthew Smith as one of their September 2019 Students of the Month and the first of the 2019-2020 school year. Matthew, who attends Varsity Lakes Middle School in Lehigh Acres, Florida was nominated by Michelle Smith, his mother and no doubt, his greatest advocate for his dedication and love for music. She writes, "Matthew has always shown a love for music and has taken the opportunity to learn to bugle on his own." For two years Matthew has successfully accepted the leadership role as his Boy Scout troop's "bugler".

Matthew is a member of his middle school band playing the trumpet, although he now aspires to join the JROTC program at school to continue his bugling service. As a very active member and a LIFE ranked Boy Scout, Matthew continues to gain leadership experience and inspire fellow scouts to follow his example, learn to play the trumpet, and share his love for music.

In addition to playing the trumpet, Matthew has taken piano lessons for 2 years and recently began learning to play the guitar and joined the Guitar Club at school. Although he has ADHD and some cognitive delays, Matthew continues to channel himself toward community service. He volunteers for Benches for Babes and organizes community clean-up efforts. He volunteers for school events to help with parking, guiding parents and students on tours and promoting school activities. He is a Den Chief for a local Cub Scout pack once a week, as well.

Arts4All Florida looks forward to recognizing Matthew and presenting him with a personalized trophy at an awards ceremony in the coming weeks. 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.

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