

**Arts4All Florida
Student of the Month
October 2022**



8-year-old **Mia Bermudez** attends John D. Floyd Elementary School in Hernando County and was nominated by her mom, Cindy Montes. Mrs. Montes shared “since she was little, my daughter has been passionate about the art of painting...” Mia expresses herself through her art, especially the joy and love she has for her practice.

Last semester she was chosen to participate in the Hernando County District 23rd Annual Art Gallery where Mia represented her second grade class. Mrs. Montes shared her gratitude for the Arts Teacher at JD Floyd Elementary whose guidance has helped Mia continue to grow in her painting skills. Mia is not only an aspiring painter but since 2019, has joined the Dibaile Dance School and Ministry. “The arts have transformed my daughter. Before, [Mia] did not dare to socialize, she was very shy. In dance she learned to create bonds of trust and friendship.” – Mrs. Montes. Mia’s story is emblematic of the benefits the arts can provide for students.

Through dance and the visual arts, Mia has been able to better express herself and engage in social environments. This has been a tremendous boost to Mia’s personal growth! Mrs. Montes described how because of the arts, Mia is more apt to participate in various activities. Mia has expressed her interests in becoming a great artist and to work in cinema and television.



15-year-old **Sanaya Roger** is a sophomore at Western High School, is enrolled in Advanced Placement Drawing, and recently joined the Arts Club. She was nominated by Marco Olibrice, Administrator at The Roger Institute in Hollywood, Florida. Mr. Marco shared how “Sanaya lives for the arts. She is constantly drawing and painting as this is her passion...It helps her cope with life, and she enjoys it wholeheartedly.”

Arts4All Florida was impressed by Sanaya’s style and developing skills evident in her work. Although unfinished, the painting to the left shows Sanaya’s understanding of form and light with her use of shading on the woman’s body. Malory Roger, Sanaya’s mom, recalled when she started gravitating towards the arts around the age of 11. Sanaya made a painting that shocked her family given the level of talent she exhibited. Since then, they have nurtured her growth by encouraging Sanaya to practice beyond

school classes. Her family provided an art room in their home for Sanaya’s use where she can work on several projects, including commissioned pieces that she earns money from. “Art has definitely helped her grow into the beautiful flower that she is. She has gained so much confidence as a young person and expressed herself so much better than she ever has.” – Malory Roger.