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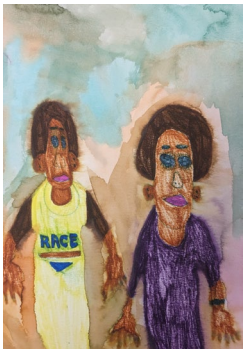
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Miami-Dade County Student Named Arts4All Florida
December 2023 Student of the Month
(Gainesville, FL) November 29, 2023

Arts4All Florida is pleased to announce 17-year-old Ayuto Okawara as December 2023 Student of the Month. He attends Miami Beach Senior High School. Ayuto was nominated by Osvaldo Samper the Fine Arts Teacher at Miami Beach Senior High School.



Samper shared that “Last year (2022) was my first year meeting Ayuto and I instantly knew he had potential but I didn’t know just how much till later on in the year when I discovered he could draw caricatures of people in such a unique style. Ayuto does not talk, so at first I would just tell him a random animal and in a minute or two he would come up joyfully to show it to me. And like that, we stayed for a while until I asked him to draw one of the students off-hand and discovered his full potential.



This year I begged for him to be in my class again because I needed to be involved in letting his full potential out. Now he is in my painting class, and we started drawing every student in his period.

What I find amazing about it is that I just point to a student and ask him to draw that student and with a quick glance he would memorize all the important features and details of that student and then recreate it in his own style.

Ayuto does not talk but he does communicate, and Art is his form of expression. I consider him one of my all-time top students and I believe he deserves as much recognition as he could get.”



Arts4All Florida was impressed with his outstanding work ethic and looks forward to recognizing Ayuto 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 .

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