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Arts4All Florida  
University of South Florida  
[www.arts4allflorida.org](http://www.arts4allflorida.org)

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Manatee County Student Named Arts4All Florida  
January 2024 Student of the Month  
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Arts4All Florida is pleased to announce 21-year-old Vanessa Foster January 2024 Student of the Month. She attends Lakewood Ranch High in Bradenton, FL. Vanessa was nominated by her teacher Megan Storm.

Ms. Storm shared “It comes so easy to nominate an exceptional student and person, Vanessa Foster for Arts4all Florida student of the month. Vanessa is a 12th-grade student here at Lakewood Ranch High School who is not only exemplary academically but also musically through her leadership and personal achievement. Whether it be in her science class where she demonstrates how to take care of a young baby through a personal presentation, in her keyboard class where she helps a peer find the proper note or in her always striving to do her very best. By observing Vanessa, you see a girl who went from believing that her being a dwarf with tiny fingers would prevent her from ever playing the violin to someone who has advanced to first violin in orchestral concerts. She has accomplished this through her grit, and her love of performing with others through their mutual love for the unmistakable sounds of the violin. The art of music has brought social benefits to Vanessa as well. Often considered socially awkward, her violin playing has opened up opportunities for Vanessa to showcase her talent thereby, enhancing social interactions that otherwise may not have had the chance to occur. In addition, Vanessa's music endeavors have opened up another door as a vehicle for self-expression. She has learned how to make up her own songs, attach her own meaning to the songs she plays, and work out feelings that otherwise would be more difficult for her to express. It would be an honor not only for Vanessa but also for all the exceptional students out there who have a love for all forms of art to be recognized by All4Arts Florida.”



Arts4All Florida was impressed with her outstanding work ethic and looks forward to recognizing Vanessa in our newsletter, highlighting her on our website, and sending her 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](http://www.arts4allflorida.org).

