

**Arts4All Florida
Student of the Month
November 2020**



11-year old **Andrew Patyna** was nominated by teacher Leisa Escobedo of Baldwin Park Elementary School in Orlando, Florida. Ms. Escobedo writes, “Andrew has been my student for a whole year and is starting on his second year with me. He enjoys drawing and expresses himself through his drawings. Andrew’s drawings are very detailed as he adds finishing touches that you do not see in many children his age. I often think Andrew has a photographic memory and is able to take the picture from his mind to the tip of the pencil without hesitation and with all the detail of the original object or picture observed. He will frequently put his own twist on something he has observed and make it his own.”

In addition to his schoolwork, Andrew, has his own YouTube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFVRwvpA11sMJVmkMy-Leig> dedicated to his artwork. Although he has autism, Andrew truly thrives on creating art. He recently took 3rd place for the 3-5th division in the 2020 Education Guide Art Contest, in which students from 6 counties in Florida participated. He also enjoys activities in the literary arts.



17-year old **Sarah Grove** was nominated by teacher Dixiana Murrell of Riverview High School in Riverview, FL. Ms. Murrell writes, “Despite recuperating from a serious head injury and other illnesses that life has handed her, she struggles to learn to cope with school and all things academic, and her skill in art has stayed and become a magnificent example to the others in her class of perseverance and working hard to overcome her difficulties.”

Ms. Murrell goes on to say “As she has recovered from her injury and some other setbacks, she has had to learn to communicate again and still speaks slowly and takes a few minutes to process what is being said to her before she responds.” Sarah is a full-time student working diligently to create abstract art and to showcase these talents in her visual arts class in 3D. She strives to get through her day while taking a full load of classes; she is in AP drawing and the remainder of her classes are Honors level. The amount of time and care she puts into her schoolwork doesn’t allow much time to do anything outside of school. In spite of her difficulties, her GPA is 3.97 at this time, a remarkable achievement. Her disability is labeled as “other health impaired.”