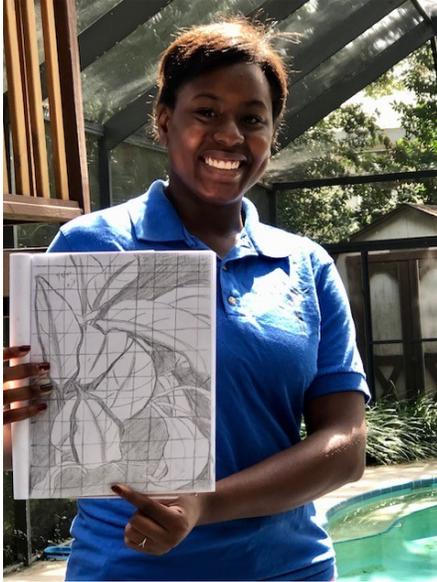


**Arts4All Florida
Student of the Month
October, 2020**



17-year old **Grace Dortch** was nominated by art teacher Joan Crane of LiFT Academy in Seminole, FL. Ms. Crane writes, "Grace has chosen art as an elective two semesters in a row, something that makes my heart sing with excitement as I watch such a young, creative soul bring so much of her personality into the classroom."

Ms. Crane goes on to say "Grace, in her third year here at LiFT Academy, is now a 12th grader who aspires to become a fashion designer, and as her art teacher, I'm convinced her goal is attainable and can see her easily as the next big name in fashion design! Grace shows an extreme amount of creativity, skill, perseverance, and passion for art. This semester I've had to instruct her through remote learning on Zoom, but her artwork hasn't been affected in the slightest. When she finishes an assignment, the outcome always amazes me because not only does she complete the assignment according to the directions, but she also

includes her unique style and knowledge of the subject -- all with a creative slant. The photo I submitted of her gridwork drawing of the potted leaves is only a small sample that illustrates her artistic abilities. I hope to see this positive and brilliant student continue more of her excellent work in the art classroom until she graduates." With a disability in auditory processing, being involved in the visual arts programs allows Grace to excel at something she loves.

In addition to her outstanding accomplishments in her art classes, Grace is also very active in her church as a volunteer assisting in the church nursery and at Vacation Bible School, as well as participating in Teen Bible Study programs.



13-year old **Joanie Barroncini** was nominated by Debra Jacoby, an educator at Pine Crest School in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, who is also Joanie's mother. She writes, "Joanie enjoys using some of the most trending technological tools in her creations and spending time practicing her skills with those tools. Recently she has been creating designs on sneakers and clothing. One of her favorite comments when she's selecting classes for each new school year is, "Art is a must; I have to take it daily as it is how I best think during the day." Joanie's art teacher, Ileana Lavender, is very proud of this special recognition.

Ms. Jacoby adds: "Joanie loves being able to create using tactile techniques and materials. Her journey from drawing to building started when she was in elementary school designing buildings with a 3D pen, followed by attending the Architects in

the Making summer program at the University of Miami. During this past spring and summer she was able to hone other artistic skills using a variety of new tools, including blacksmithing while working on independent studies with *The Guild Florida* located in Pompano Beach, where she was also able to design with metal and leather. Another exploration involved using basic craft supplies, such as *Perler* Beads to create large scale anime images.”

In addition to her artistic pursuits, Joanie has been ice skating since she was 7 years old at The Rink in Pompano Beach, is currently a level three *Freeskater* and is looking forward to rejoining the ice as more entertainment activities reopen. To enhance her ice-skating skills, she takes ballet daily at school as she feels it strengthens her flexibility, and last year graduated to taking classes with point shoes. Joanie is also a big help in her school community, often seen helping teachers during her after-school free time. She loves animals, especially cats, and has volunteered in the past with Beyond Nine Cat Rescue by helping bring food and water and clean cages at local pet stores where animals are waiting to find their forever family.

This young artist is truly remarkable in her pursuit and mastering of so many art forms and applications and in being able to look at her dyslexia disability as a “super power” that allows her to see things differently and use that ability creatively!