

VSA Florida – April 2017 Students of the Month

VSA Florida is proud to announce **Tyler Sanders** and **Marguerite (Maggie) Grey** as the April 2017 Students of the Month.



11-year-old **Tyler** was nominated by Marsha Rockhill, his art/music teacher and mentor on the Tier II Behavior Support Team at St. Andrew School in Panama City. She writes, “Tyler is that one singular person whose vision and tenacity place him in a column that is all his own. His personal goal is to communicate through his art his vision of the world and what one visual image can say to change a person’s perception of life and environment.” Tyler was recommended for the Tier II Behavior Program at St. Andrew for anger management intervention. Through his hard work and concentration as a visual artist, he has improved his character, changed his behavior, increased

his academic performance, and served as a mentor for other students in the classroom. Ms. Rockhill reports that Tyler has a natural artistic ability that has afforded him the chance to exhibit his work throughout Bay County winning awards and local recognition. Recently Tyler’s piece, “The Eye,” was chosen for the *Artful Truth* exhibition where student art displays the truth about tobacco usage and its consequences. Tyler is an active member of SWAT club (Students Working Against Tobacco) and has created posters and participates in meetings in an effort to promote a tobacco-free generation.



Maggie was nominated by Kellen Mills, her art teacher at Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School in Fort Myers. Ms. Mills shares with us that Maggie “is a leader in the classroom and school community through her spunky positivity and enthusiastic participation.” Maggie’s artwork serves as a model for her classmates and being on the autism spectrum has not dampened her creativity or passion. Recently, her artwork has been selected for the Lee Art Education Association’s annual show at the Lee County Alliance for the Arts, an extremely coveted and respected award for student achievement in the arts. Maggie is a member of SOAR (Spirit, Optimism, Achievement and Respect). She

makes posters that inspire participation in the community values of this school organization, and is on the SOAR squad for pep rallies. Additionally, she is involved with the school TV production crew and stars on the morning news report.

In the coming weeks, VSA Florida is looking forward to presenting Tyler and Maggie with their gift certificates and personalized trophies for winning this prestigious award.