

## Congratulations Benjamin Prince! 2023 Yes I Can! Award - Art



Benjamin currently attends the Clinton County RESA Transition Program after graduating from Pewamo-Westphalia Community High School. As a student with Autism, Benjamin has faced social barriers and has had difficulty managing anxiety throughout his day. However, despite his struggles Benjamin continues to have a positive impact wherever he goes. He is always willing to try things that are outside of his comfort zone with a positive attitude.

Benjamin's love for art has been a significant part of his school life for many years, and his exceptional artistic skills have helped him to build confidence and have also served as an avenue to escape from the things that stressed him. During Benjamin's senior year of high school he created illustrations for a book his mother, Debbie Prince wrote, entitled Trenton the Turtle. He took his time on every detail of the illustrations, including the cover for the book which he finished after graduation. The book is now in publication and is sold at Barnes and Noble, Amazon and other sources. The story of Trenton the Turtle is about a turtle exploring the world at his own pace. Trenton's slower pace allows him to see and appreciate things others overlook, and Benjamin's detailed illustrations make the story come to life. Benjamin has been interviewed by the news and has had the opportunity to share his book with multiple school audiences, sharing his talents and inspiring others in the community.

Throughout the years, Benjamin has consistently displayed excellence in both talent and character. Aside from his incredible giftedness and attention to detail in art, what stands out most about him is his kindness, politeness and conscientiousness. Benjamin's friendly and caring personality has earned him the respect of not only the students and staff at Pewamo-Westphalia Schools, but the entire community.