

## Congratulations Donovan Robinson!

### 2023 Yes I Can! Award - School & Community



Donovan Robinson is an eighth grade student at Garden City Middle School. Donovan has autism but does not allow for this to define him. All the students in his school call him, Donny. Donny is a fun loving, respectful student who spreads love wherever he goes. The key to Donny's success is his willingness to engage in the school community around him. He strives to learn the names of everyone he comes across, even the mailman that picks up the school mail. This personalization between Donny and his peers makes them feel special and it is not uncommon for kids in the cafeteria to argue over who Donny loves more. The peers genuinely want to be important to Donny.

Donny won the Shining Star in November 2022 from the Garden City Board of Education for making a difference in the lives of so many in his school. He was named Student of the Month by his peers. One of his nominators said, "Donny is a leader in this building and he doesn't even know it, he leads by example. He is the heart of our school". Another nominator stated, "I can't help but smile when Donny is around, his zest for life is truly contagious and I am honored that I get to be part of his daily routine (and lucky that he is part of mine)."

His Assistant Principal recently said, "In my 15 years of education, I am not sure that I have met a single student who has had a more positive impact on the greater school community. I have watched kids who struggle with confidence and emotional issues brighten at the mere sight of Donny. We would not have the school culture that we have at Garden City Middle School without Donny and that is something worth acknowledging and celebrating."