



## Congratulations Jaxon Martinez!

### 2023 Yes I Can! Award - Self Advocacy



Jaxon struggled with communicating his needs as a freshman and had difficulty advocating for himself in class. Jaxon had great difficulty with initiating social interactions and forming meaningful interpersonal relationships with his peers. He also struggled with self regulation and processing through frustrations or adversity in class.

He would shut down and withdraw from these situations. Jaxon has not only made incredible progress in being able to identify his stress-ors and sources of frustration, but he is able to effectively advocate for his needs in these circumstances (example, asking teacher to take a break, talking to a trusted adult, and even talking with teachers directly about what the problem is after he calms down.) Jaxon's progression in being able to process through adversity has benefited his ability to stay engaged in class and make progress in the general education curriculum with minimal support.

Jaxon's self-advocacy skills have reduced the need for the amount of special education support he receives. Jaxon is much more self confident in his ability to process through difficult situations, and he rarely shuts down or completely withdraws with a situation now. Jaxon worked with the school social worker, speech pathologist, and his special education teacher over the years to help him develop self-advocacy and problem solving skills to help him work through frustrations and adversity. Jaxon has proven that he is a strong advocate for himself, and he respectfully advocates for his accommodations within the classroom setting.

Jaxon is part of Walled Lake Northern's Tech Team. For the past two years, Jaxon has been responsible for various aspects of theater sound production, including the set-up microphones and the theatrical sound effects for Walled Lake Northern's plays and musicals. Being involved with the Tech Team has helped him to better develop the interpersonal and social skills that help him to effectively communicate and interact with others with caring. As a result Jaxon has become an advocate for other students that don't necessarily have the confidence and or the ability to do it for themselves. Jaxon has truly excelled in the area of advocacy, both for himself as well as for others.