

Step Up For Students Providing Successful School Choices for Local Parents Through Scholarships



Ethan Cadore

July 5—Ethan Cadore, 17, of Jacksonville, made his final appearance at Seacoast Christian Academy in Jacksonville on May 25 to get one last thing—his diploma. Cadore's graduation was an achievement that seemed impossible just five years ago due to his wavering academics.

Cadore has been on a Step Up For Students Scholarship, locally administered by Children First Florida, since he was in eighth grade. Prior to being awarded the scholarship, Ethan was making F's in math and his grades in his other classes also were declining.

"I found myself getting very frustrated because I was not receiving the individual attention to address my questions," Cadore said. "I think it was mainly due to the large classroom size of nearly 30 kids, and the teachers just didn't have time to answer all of the students' questions."

Joy Worrell, Ethan's mother, feared that his struggles in school would only get worse. However, as a single parent raising two children on a limited income, Worrell knew she could not afford to send them to private school.

"It was always my goal to send my children to private school," Worrell said. "My boss heard about the Step Up For Students Scholarship on the radio and encouraged me to call. I am so happy I did because Ethan and Tyla, who is now in seventh grade, went from D's and F's to A's and B's."

Cadore's performance in school increased drastically over the past five years. He no longer struggles with math and earned his place on the A-B honor roll at Seacoast Christian. Cadore was a valuable member of the school's basketball team and served as a teacher's aide.

"My experience at Seacoast Christian was very memorable," Cadore said. "Everyone was very friendly, it was almost like a family atmosphere there. The classroom sizes are smaller and the teachers are dedicated to ensuring that all of the students' needs are met."

As a graduating senior at Seacoast Christian Academy, Ethan was in the top 10 percent of his class academically and looks forward to attending college next year to pursue a career in law.

"I am excited, I will be attending FCCJ for one semester, then I will transfer to Southeastern University in Lakeland," Cadore said. "I plan on majoring in pre-law and then practicing criminal justice law."

Cadore has become a very motivated young man, driven by a strong determination to accomplish all of his goals. The Step Up For Students Scholarship Program has been a life-changing experience for Ethan's family and he is very thankful for those who have made it possible for him to reach his full potential.

Over 5,000 new Step Up For Students Scholarships for low-income families are currently available for the Fall 2007 school year. Don't delay and join nearly 17,000 students on the scholarships that can be used at over 900 private K-12 schools in Florida. For more information, please visit www.stepupforstudents.com/parents.htm or call (866) 739-1197.