

**Step Up For Students
September 2008 Student Spotlight:**



**Destiny Flucas
Holy Rosary Catholic School
Jacksonville, FL**

Destiny Flucas is a seventh grader attending Holy Rosary Catholic School in Jacksonville, a school she has attended for four years on the Step Up For Students Scholarship Program. Over the past few years Destiny has developed into a highly driven individual determined to have a successful future. But a few years ago her future did not seem as promising.

When Destiny started Kindergarten she was excited to go to a school where her grandmother was a teacher, which gave her an extra boost of confidence. Destiny initially did well in her classes, but as time went on she began having problems, especially in reading and math. As Destiny's grades dropped so did her self-esteem and she began to doubt herself and her academic abilities.

With Destiny's grades declining, her mother, Tawana Flucas, worried that her daughter would continue down a negative path. She knew her daughter had it in her to do much better. Tawana wanted Destiny to develop into the young lady she knew she had potential to be – one with morals, respect and a drive to succeed. However, she felt like her current academic environment was not a good fit for Destiny.

Tawana felt like the best option for Destiny was private school, but as a single mother of two who works hard to make ends meet there was no way she could afford the private school tuition. After confiding in her own mother about Destiny's problems in school, Tawana learned about the Step Up For Students program and immediately applied for Destiny to receive a scholarship. Once her application was approved, Tawana chose to send Destiny to Holy Rosary Catholic School--the school she felt would best meet her daughter's needs.

Since attending Holy Rosary, Destiny's grades have drastically improved. Her better grades have even earned her a spot on the honor roll at her school, a high achievement for a student who once struggled in school. No longer struggling with reading, Destiny now enjoys writing reports and has developed a knack for public speaking. She has given numerous speeches in her class and church, as well as at her mother's workplace, BlueCross BlueShield of Florida. During the "Bring Your Child to Work Day," she gave a speech about her experience in front of the entire volunteer class.

Destiny has grown into a well-rounded young lady with high morals and respect, and a plan for the future. With math and science as her favorite subjects, Destiny plans to pursue a medical career,



possibly as a pediatrician. Tawana works as a Service Advocate III at BlueCross BlueShield of Florida in Jacksonville and is proud of Destiny and grateful for the opportunities her daughter has been given through the scholarship program.

With a mature and confident attitude that is beyond her 12 years of age, Destiny is bound to succeed in all she sets out to do.

About Holy Rosary Catholic School

Located in Jacksonville, Fla., Holy Rosary Catholic School currently serves more than 200 students, 64 of which are Step Up For Students scholarship recipients. The school administers the Iowa Test of Basic Skills each year to measure student progress and achievement. The annual tuition cost at Holy Rosary is \$2,900 plus \$300 for books.

About the Step Up For Students Scholarship Recipients

The typical Step Up For Students scholarship family of four has an average income of \$24,489 and more than 60 percent of scholarship recipients come from single-parent homes. The typical scholarship student is an ethnic minority living with a single parent/caregiver. Many are either below grade level, failing at their previous school or both when they receive a scholarship. Parents who find their children in these circumstances and care about their future look for viable options. They apply for Step Up For Students Scholarships so their children can attend the school best suited for their special needs, beliefs and abilities, and to address negative trends in their child's learning skills and/or environment.

Step Up For Students Scholarships are funded by corporations that redirect up to 75 percent of their corporate state income tax liability to a qualified Scholarship Funding Organization in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. For more information or to learn how your corporation can participate in the program, visit www.StepUpForStudents.com, or call Kerri Vaughan at (866) 344-9553.

