



The ALL-STAR Newsletter

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In This Edition:

**It's Graduation
Day!*

**Getting to Know
You... Graduates
Edition!*

It's Graduation Day!

Preschool and secondary students were the real all-stars as the School of Bright Promise conducted its 2024 graduation ceremonies on May 17.

Two teens and five soon-to-be kindergarteners were recognized for completing their programs and preparing for the next stage of their lives. More than 30 people gathered at each event, which was held at the Jeffco Center at the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities' campus in Steubenville and were greeted with words by JCBDD officials and video memories of the grads. The latest alumni from the secondary program at Bright Promise were Javon Galloway and Darian Starkey while the preschool graduates included Curtis Baker, Maddox Crawford, Dante Fabbro, Benjamin McEndree and Anna Tucker.

JCBDD Superintendent Michael Zinno welcomed the crowd and said he was pleased to be involved with the services.

"Today, we come together to celebrate our graduates. It is an honor to stand here with you and our dedicated staff from the School of Bright Promise," he said. "Our school is an essential part of the wide range of services that the county board provides. Our school strives to provide quality services and supports that our school districts need. I am proud to be part of an agency that provides such a wide range of services.

"As you know, our school is dedicated to serving individuals with developmental disabilities, and today is a testament to the hard work and support of our students, families and staff. Each of you has played a crucial role in the educational goals of our students. Today, we celebrate you."

Preschool teacher Jenny Joyce thanked the parents, school offi-



Preschool and secondary students graduated from the School of Bright Promise during ceremonies held at the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Jeffco Center in Steubenville with family and school members in attendance. Pictured, at top, are preschoolers Maddox Crawford, Dante Fabbro, Anna Tucker, Benjamin McEndree and Curtis Baker staff member Sheryl Eckroth, teacher Jenna Joyce and aide Charleigh Harding. Above: Secondary students Darian Starkey and Javon Galloway were recognized at the latter event.

cial and others who have supported the youngsters and shared video highlights of the past year.

"At the beginning of the year, it was a time of building trust and the team formed one goal: to help the children," Joyce said. "It's

hard for us to believe the children are leaving us. Thank you for allowing your children to be here and letting us be part of your lives. It's time for your children to

(Continued as GRADUATION)

move on to kindergarten.”

Dr. Georgia Pavlic-Roseberry, director of children’s services, shared her excitement in watching the grads achieve their milestone.

“Our story began the first day you each came to the school for the first time,” she recalled to the preschoolers. “I remember the look on your faces...that look of excitement and anxiety at the same time. Here we are sometime later, and as I look out at our families, I now see the look of amazement. Our preschool students have accomplished a great deal and we are extremely proud of them.”

She presented certificates to the youngsters and recognized them for their sweetness and spirit.

During the secondary graduation festivities, she thanked everyone who supported the students in their success.

“There are many people who contributed to the success of the students—the parents, staff, therapists, school districts, county board and Mr. Zinno,” Dr. Pavlic-Roseberry said. “The [Service and Support Administration] take care of them after they leave us, and Community Employment Services help them transition to the

workplace. We are so thankful that we got to be part of these young men’s lives.”

She then read comments about the teens by faculty and staff which reflected their personalities and described how Galloway was happy to come to school and worked

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-JCBDD Superintendent Michael Zinno

hard in class.

“He lit up the room with his smile,” she added. “Javon has grown so much in the time he has been at Bright Promise. [He] is going to be missed and we wish him well

in the future.”

She also noted that Starkey was a great student and fantastic artist, plus he was an excellent basketball player who made more than 50 foul shots at a recent unified sports game.

“Darian has been a joy to have in class. He works hard at competing all his tasks and academics,” she said.

Galloway, the son of Anthony and Hope Galloway of Mingo Junction, has spent a large part of his life at the school and his mother said he has made great strides.

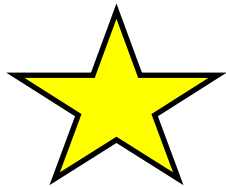
“He has been at Bright Promise since he was 5,” said Hope Galloway. “They helped him through his transitioning and helped him communicate with others.”

Starkey, who is the son of Tina and the late Gary Starkey of Toronto, has also been at Bright Promise since he was a youngster.

“[Darian’s] come so far,” added his mother, Tina. “I remember days when he did not like to come to class, but now he just loves it. He’s had a village involved to help him.”

Both young men will attend the PALS day facility in Cadiz as they transition to adulthood.

Getting to Know You...Graduates Edition!



**Javon
Galloway**



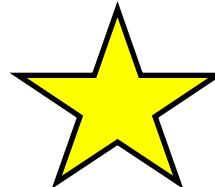
Javon Galloway is known for his bright smile and caring heart, and he is enjoying his recent milestone as a 2024 graduate of the School of Bright Promise.

The son of Anthony and Hope Galloway of Toronto, Javon has been described someone who loves his family, which includes sister Jaslin, and also likes listening to music and going for walks with his dog.

He has been at Bright Promise since he was 5 and school leaders said they would always remember how he lit up a room with his smile and how happy he was to come to school. He was described always being a tremendous source of joy.

JCBDD Children Services Director Dr. Georgia Pavlic-Roseberry said Javon had grown so much in the time he has been at Bright Promise and his deep laugh and smile were infectious. She added that he loved spending time with the staff and going for walks around the school.

Javon planned to attend the PALS day program in Cadiz following his graduation.



**Darian
Starkey**



Darian Starkey has brought tremendous joy during his time at the School of Bright Promise and is looking at a bright future.

The son of Tina and the late Gary Starkey, he was adopted at birth but his biological parents remain a part of his life. He also has a brother, Seth, and sister, Alexandra, as well as a nephew named Trey.

Tina Starkey said Darian shares his birth parents’ interest in art and loves drawing and coloring. He also enjoys anime and music and is a huge fan of The Muppets.

He joined Bright Promise at age 2 1/2 and came to love the environment while learning a lot during his time there.

School officials said he worked hard performing his tasks and counted math and gym among his favorite subjects, plus he enjoyed watching rollercoaster videos and listening to music.

He planned to take part in the PALS day program in Cadiz upon graduation.