

Desvon Johnson



It is my pleasure to introduce Desvon Johnson. Desvon is a 6th grader at Kyrene Traditional Academy who has had the courage to thrive despite life challenges. Desvon Johnson is a young man who has been able overcome and show resilience through tough times.

Last year, when Desvon first came to Kyrene Traditional Academy, he was closed off and discouraged. He was upset at leaving his old school which he had attended since Kindergarten. As the year progressed, he was able pull down the walls he had put up with his classmates and teachers. He was able to make amends with students he had conflicts with and began to offer emotional support to his peers. As the Pandemic became our new reality, his school transitioned to online learning. He was the first to encourage students who were struggling with the new learning environment. He became a protector of his classmates, much like he is with his family.

In the summer of 2020 Desvon experienced a heartbreaking, life changing event. His uncle was shot and killed by a law enforcement officer. Desvon is very close to his family and this public event was understandably traumatic. When he returned to school, Desvon had a sadness in him.

Desvon could have retreated into himself, isolated himself from friends and teachers and give up on his classwork and school. But amid a pandemic, he showed up each day, ready to learn. On the heels of such a life altering summer, he showed courage daily.

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Desvon says he is proud of himself for being strong after the death of his uncle and tries to be happy. His father inspires him to be his best. He tells Desvon that “he’s not average” and I certainly agree with him. If a friend was going through a similar struggle, Desvon would tell them “It’s going to get better, everyone in life goes through hard times”.

This young man is obviously mature beyond his years. He shows empathy, a strong sense of justice and resiliency in his interactions with teachers, classmates and his family. Desvon would like to be an NFL Hall of Fame, football player. To achieve this goal, he plans to attend Clemson and study coding. He also intends to continue to support the Black Lives Matter movement in order to fight for justice.

Desvon would like to thank his school and his family for always supporting him.

Desvon, I am please to give you the Courage award for overcoming adversity while being an inspiring leader and positive role model.