

2019-2020 Freestyle Academy

Student of the Year

Niko Jokhadze



A true gentleman and skilled youth storyteller with an open mind ready to absorb knowledge. Self directed student; great at managing his time and resources. Always open to help his peers and give them feedback with a smile and sense of humor.

~Adriana Copete, Animation Teacher @ Freestyle Academy

It is my pleasure to pick Niko Jokhadze as a student of the year, who I have in my Senior Animation class at Freestyle Academy. Niko demonstrated tremendous effort and growth throughout the 3D animation projects. He brought a great energy to class. He has that combination of a positive attitude and the perfect art and technology skill sets like using Autodesk Maya, ZBrush and Motion Capture

data that he has always improved in a very short time period, I think that's rare in a high school student. He did such a great job in making 3D Visual Narrative Animation.

~Tommy Cho, Animation Teacher @ Freestyle Academy

Niko is one of my most confident and disciplined students. Ever since he joined Freestyle at the start of his Junior year, he has consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic, an open-mindedness to new ideas and perspectives, and a distinct passion for creative work. He often assumes a leading role in discussions and collaborative activities without being asked. When he sees his peers in need, Niko takes the initiative to help them. Indeed, his excellent communication skills, dependability, and selflessness have significantly enhanced the learning environment of our school. Like the true martial arts instructor that he is, Niko brings a powerful sense of respect to the Freestyle community, caring for our campus as if it were his own dojo and helping those around him improve a little each day.

~Jason Greco, English Teacher @ Freestyle Academy

One day I left school around 5 PM as the last teacher at school. I checked all the rooms and found Niko tidying up the Animation Room because ... he just cares. No-one asked him to do it. When our Animation Class had a long term sub, I never questioned where Niko was even though he was supposed to be in my Senior class. I knew he was helping the Juniors with their projects because ... he just cares. Even with the self-imposed responsibility of helping many others, Niko seems to always get his own projects completed well in advance of any deadline. If I were to pick a dreamteam of a few Freestyle students over the past 14 years to do a big project, Niko would be part of that small team because I know he would be a tremendous collaborator as a respectful listener and a prodigious contributor of high quality ideas and project productions. Thank you Niko for caring so much about Freestyle.

~Leo Florendo, Program Coordinator and Digital Media Teacher @ Freestyle Academy

You can view all of Niko's Freestyle Projects on his website <https://freestyleacademy.rocks/~NikoJ>