Remembering Benjamin “Jamie” Cecil

On Thursday, November 18th, High Road Academy suffered the loss of one of our former students. Benjamin “Jamie” Cecil graduated in June, 2009 after spending his high school years at High Road Academy. Last year, Jamie worked at the Smithsonian Museum and decided that working in a museum setting was his passion. He categorized fossils and learned the ropes working in an enormous museum setting.

Over the time that Jamie attended High Road Academy, he worked tirelessly to overcome his learning disabilities. **HE WAS A SUCCESS!** This year, Jamie was attending the New York Institute of Technology where he planned to earn a degree in Entomology. His dream was to complete his degree and return to work in a museum setting.

Staff members remember Jamie as a wonderful young man with outstanding potential…..

“I remember Jamie first as a quiet tenth grader in Biology. He rarely spoke or smiled. He was a very cautious, guarded student. I was blessed to have him again for one class in twelfth grade. He had grown into a very different person. He laughed and smiled and was very happy. There was so much growth to celebrate!” -Mrs. Horter

“Jamie was a loving and caring student, who demonstrated resilience and perseverance. He will be missed! -Mrs. Zozulak

“I will always remember Jamie’s calm manner and his quiet sense of humor. I will miss our little visits during the day. He was a gentle person and easy to be with.” -Mrs. Anderson

“If there is one student that captures the essence of High Road Academy, it would be Jamie! He personified what it takes to be resilient and persevere in spite of obstacles and challenges. I could see him blossom right before our eyes. I am so proud of his tremendous success! He was truly a blessing in my life!” -Dr. Gaske

Jamie’s family has set up a fund in his honor to help other students with special needs. Please feel free to donate to the following:

**Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund**
c/o Adas Israel Congregation
2850 Quebec Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20008