

The Ottoson Middle School Display Board Descriptions:

Each of the 4 Ottoson display boards are a mixture of art work made by 7th and 8th grade artists. The displays include photographs of the three dimensional work that the Ottoson art students are working on this year as well as mixed media prints made by the 7th grade artists.

The small figures pictured in the photographs are the 8th grade “Superhero” projects. Each 8th grader was asked to create a superhero based on a person that is important to them. Parents, siblings, friends, public figures and even their pets were recreated in these 12 inch sculptures. The figures were built with wire armature, newspaper, paper mache, paint and recycled materials. Students gave their heroes superpowers to help people in the world. Their powers were based on characteristics of the person they were inspired by. For example one student wanted to honor Bethany Hamilton, a surfer who persevered in her passion for surfing even after losing her arm to a shark attack. Her super powers allow her to watch over surfers to keep them safe in the ocean. Students created environments to depict where their heroes live or work, and accessories to use in their super hero adventures.

The other 3-dimensional works pictured are 7th grade Emotive Sculptures. We explored how different emotions can be relayed using color, shapes and gestural lines. We also discussed examples of both abstract and representational sculptures that successfully depicted feelings. Students explored sculptures made in a variety of styles and materials and then made their own illustrating an emotion or a feeling. The armatures for these sculptures were built using cardboard, recycled materials and paper mache. Students painted and embellished the sculptures making intentional choices to create the color, shape and textures that best illustrated the emotion or feeling they were working to illustrate

7th Graders also are exploring printmaking and mixed media techniques this year. After looking at examples of master printmakers and contemporary artists' work to see the many possibilities of this medium, students experimented with monoprinting and mixed media techniques. Students were asked to plan a print inspired by an event (personal or global) that has impacted their life. Students then created a print to represent their chosen topic.

The prints include at least 2 layers, first a monoprint layer and then a layer of their choice (including pen and ink, collage, drawing mediums). Students represented the action, place and mood of their event using color, line, texture and shapes.

We challenged the students to be subtle with their use of imagery and asked them to show their ideas to the audience abstractly or symbolically rather than spelling out the idea with obvious narrative representation.