

The Ottoson Middle School Display Board Descriptions:

Each of the 3 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 and 8th grade artists.

8th Grade students were introduced to the idea of using their art as a way to relay a message to an audience. Students looked at the work of contemporary artists such as JR, Vik Muniz, Shadi Ghadirian, Kehinde Wiley, and Steve Locke to see the variety of ways that artists show their personal voice through art. Students were challenged to come up with their own message, something that they are passionate about, and create a piece of art that conveys that message. 8th Graders were also challenged to be subtle with their designs as a way to bring the viewer in and make them wonder and think about their piece.

For their Choice Projects, the 8th graders were asked to design a project entirely on their own. The goal was for students to choose a project or idea that appealed to them personally and incorporated materials that they would be excited to work with. Students either made a project from a list of project ideas inspired by heroes, or they made a project entirely of their own design. They were asked to choose a subject based on something that related to them or someone that they look up to as a hero. Students were allowed to choose their materials and whether their project would be two-dimensional or three-dimensional.

This term the 7th Grade students looked at many different contemporary artists to find inspiration for their Master inspired sculptures. Students were asked to find a painting by a master artist that they connected to in some way and respond to it in the form of a sculpture. Students could choose to replicate the composition or some piece of the original art - they could incorporate any element of the original artwork - the colors, the shape, the subject - however they wanted to reflect the original painting. The sculptures are made with cardboard, newspaper, paper mache, found and recycled materials and paint.

7th Graders also experimented with printmaking and mixed media techniques this term. We looked at the work of master printmakers and contemporary artists to see the endless possibilities of the medium.

Students were asked to plan their own print which is inspired by an event, in the past or present, that has impacted their life either personally or globally. They could also plan a print that is inspired by a topic that they are passionate about.

Students experimented with many different printmaking techniques including monoprinting and block printing. They also experimented with other various mediums to create different layers in their prints. We challenged the students to be subtle in their use of imagery and asked them to show their ideas to the audience abstractly or symbolically rather than spelling them out with more obvious narrative representation.