

THE DISTRICT CORRESPONDENT

Connecting our community



BUILDING THE FUTURE

MJHS Students Partner with Renowned Sculptor Dale Rogers on Project

As part of the Sunrise Crossing development, MCS has established a partnership with property developer CRM Companies, working with Kim Nyberg of the Madison Area Arts Alliance and Tony Steinhardt from the City of Madison, to create a hands-on, creative learning experience that will build upon existing academic standards and layer them with a creative vibe and opportunity to craft and share stories visually through artistic expression.

"We are thrilled for our students to work with renowned sculptor Dale Rogers/Dale Rogers Studios on this project," shared Eric Phagan, local artist, and MJHS Art teacher. "This is one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences that will plant a seed that grows from class to class." Mr. Rogers met with students over a three-day period in March and shared stories about his creative process, techniques for working with different materials, and helped students think about how they can adapt their learning to their classroom, skill level, and scope of the project.

The work began with MJHS students developing their points of view for complementary pieces. Inspiration came from their annual walking field trip through historic downtown Madison in early April. Students visited numerous sites along the way and were tasked with capturing ideas that could be turned into a sculpture that would complement "Bird Man". Then we thought, why not make it a contest? Twenty students entered their drawings into a juried contest, made a presentation with slides to a room full of people to sell their project, and in the end, eleven pieces were selected to move on to production with MCHS Cub Industries.

"My vision for this project is to bring community art, creative educational partners, and students working together between our campuses to produce (potentially) numerous pieces of various sizes and scope that capture the history of our entire community eventually weaving together locations throughout our county," Phagan continued. Winning selections will go to production in August for a late fall installation schedule.

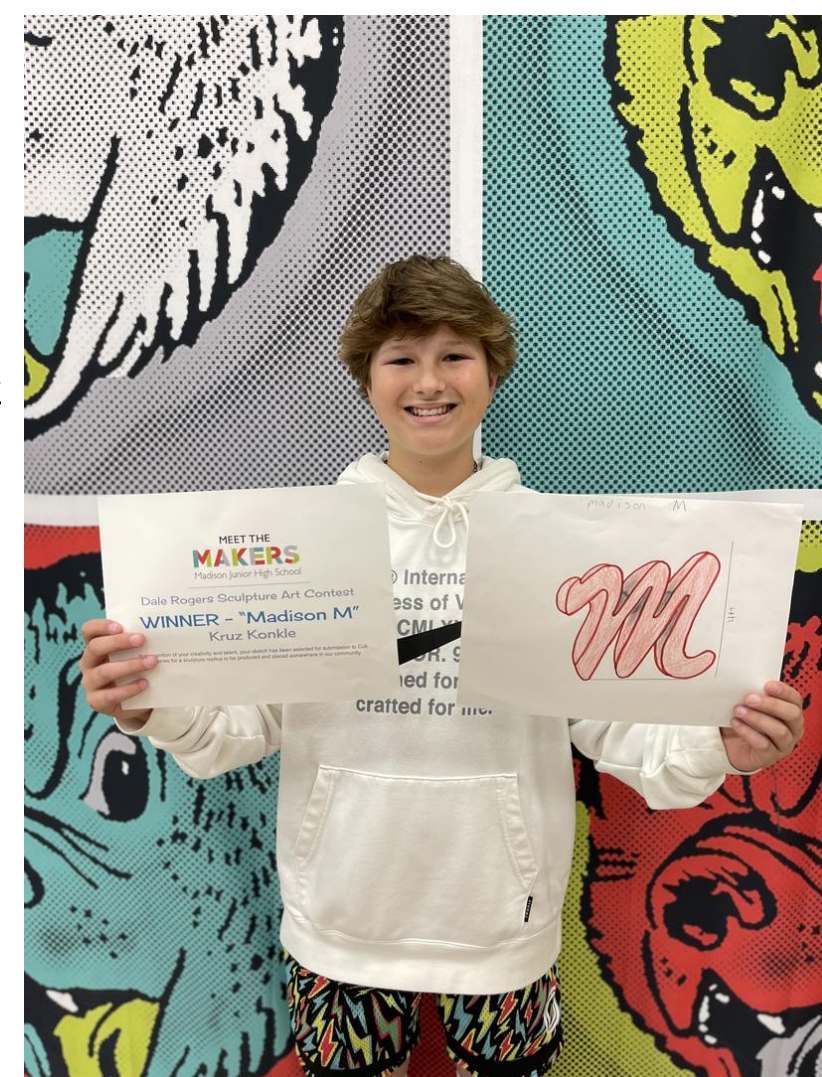


Twenty MJHS Student submitted their work for the juried art contest. Pictured left to right are: Gabriel Pattison, Hannah Ferguson, Mary Grace Jenner, Wyatt Overpeck, Owen Murphy, Brody Copeland, Kruz Konkle, Garrett Deuser, Keilani Youngblood, back row Mr. Eric Phagan, Ashlyn Crawley, Emma Katerberg, Jane Jenner, Sophia Davis, Izzy True, Ellie Mahoney, Isabella Zuckschwerdt, Marlee Thompson, Rachel Goley, Sophia Carey, and Ava Overfield.

A special place, for two reasons

One piece struck a chord with the judges and it was the Madison logo - script M, used by Madison Baseball teams for decades. As Kruz Konkle was presenting his idea he shared how much this 'M' means to him. "I have been in this community and around baseball all of my life. I think this is a really big part of Madison's history."

The judges agreed! However, this will be an addition with a special placement at MJHS. "I have been thinking about a sculpture for the front of the building for a while," shared Phagan. "We had already been working on a Cub head sculpture for the high school and this will be perfect at the main entrance at MJHS!"



Kruz Konkle - Madison 'M'

An avid Madison baseball fan and player, this M means alot!

See contest winners on next page...

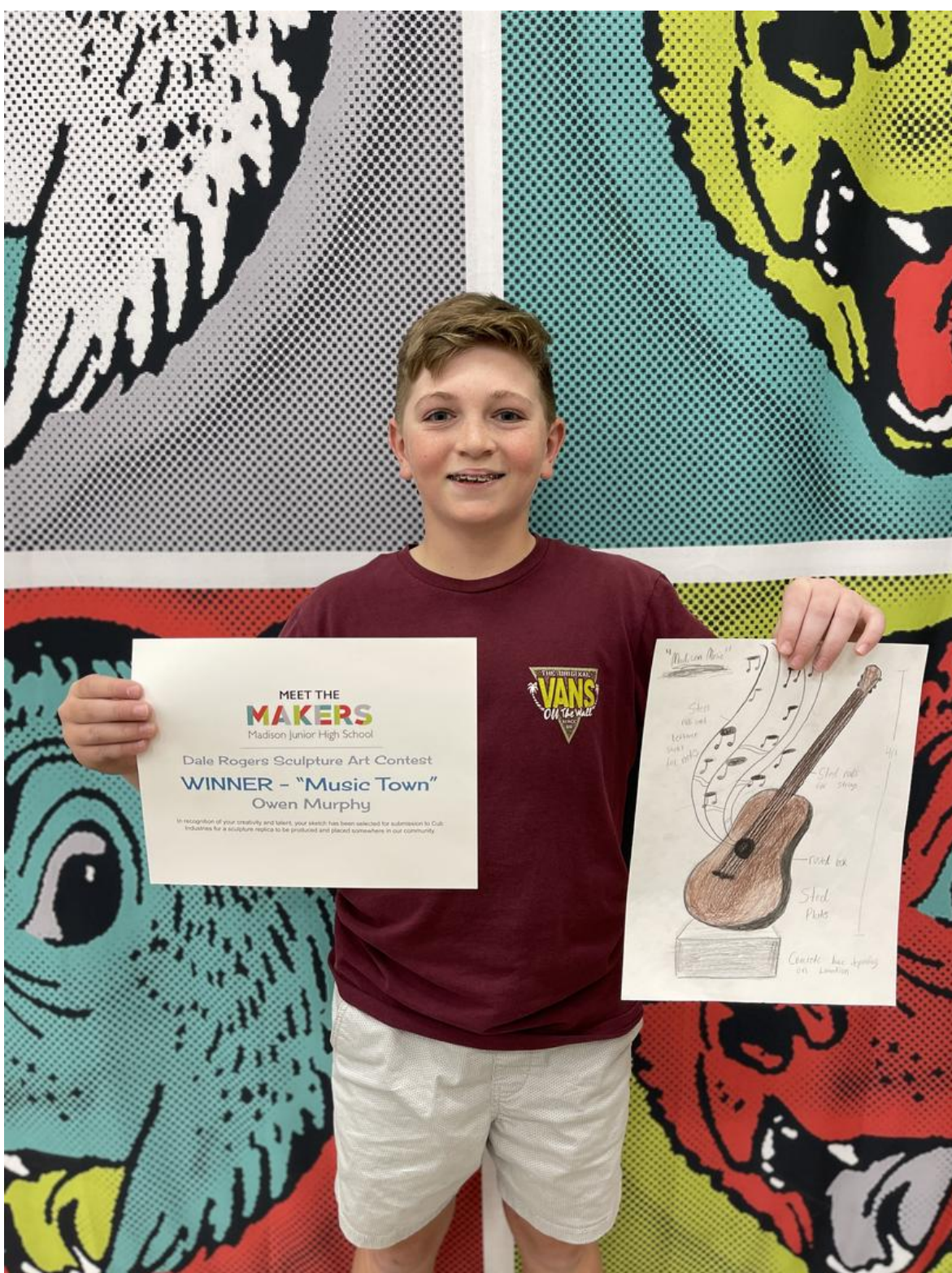
And The Winners Are!



Ellie Mahoney - Miss Madison
Capturing the history and her love of hydroplane races on the Ohio River.



Mary Grace Jenner - The Brightest Bug
Indiana's state bug will have a bright future placed somewhere in Madison!



Owen Murphy - Music Town
He knows Madison is making a name for herself as a music town!



Garrett Deuser - Life's Beauty
Reminds us to slow down and enjoy the beauty of everyday life!

And The Winners Are!



Emma Katerberg - Marketplace
Drawing inspiration from old store fronts, this one is interactive!



Ashlyn Crawley - Merman
Take a close look and you will see an adaption from the Broadway Fountain.



Rachel Goley - Corn
There are few things more iconic in Indiana than a crop of healthy corn!



Marlee Thompson - Peony
The state flower is a beautiful pink and can live for 100 years. This one will live forever!

And The Winners Are!



Keilani Youngblood - *Fall in Madison*

A leaf from the state Tulip Tree in fall is a beautiful red and represents Madison!



Sophia Carey - *Red Bird*

The state bird, a Cardinal, will watch over
Madison while his yellow beak beams.

How did we decide?

All 7th-grade students had the opportunity to submit artwork for the contest. Approximately forty were submitted and a small panel of teachers and district personnel narrowed it down to twenty. "We knew what we were looking for," shared Phagan. "Something with some historical tie to Madison, something that could be reproduced in a mixed metal sculpture form, and finally who had really pursued the work."

The judges were community members representing the Madison Area Arts Alliance, the Community Arts Committee, City of Madison, the district's central office, high school students affiliated with the Fine Arts, and MCHS Cub Industries - Cub Engineering and Cub Manufacturing. "All of the students were invited to create slides, and present to the group why their project should be selected," Phagan continued. "In addition, they were to share the dimensions and preferred material and finish they would like to see. One important component of the judging was to be sure it could be sculpted into a metal design."

Next year, as 8th graders, they will visit with students in Cub Industries to check on the progress of their art.

