

Youth Art Month Flag Judging

I want to thank all those who participated in this years competition. I hope that you find it to be a valuable learning experience for your students as well as rewarding. We had 11 schools participate with 94 student entries (52 elementary, 32 middle, and 10 high school). I hope that this will grow in the coming years. The creative ideas for the theme were amazing to see from our Kentucky students. The craftsmanship skills of some of this work would blow you away. I was very honored and blessed to oversee this process this year.

I wanted to inform everyone who the judges were, how the judging was done, and give some reminders.

I found some very talented artists to judge this years competition who have many years of experience in not only making their own art but working in our art community. The first was Delaire Rowe who is the present director for the Arts for All (formerly Very Special Arts or VSA). If you are looking to bring in an artist and a grant you need to check out her organization. This program can also help you with ideas on how to incorporate or make the learning experience more meaningful for your exceptional populations. The second judge was Andee Rudloph who wears so many hats across our state but is working with the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center SKYPAC now also. She has sat on so many arts boards (even ours at one time), philanthropic organizations, grants, community projects, and an international artist. She has worked many years with our Scholastic Arts competitions in many ways. The third judge was Joey Hayes who has been a working graphic designer for 35 years. He also is a musician and writer.

The judging was done blind. Each student entry was assigned a number as I received them and written on the back of the entry and entry sheets sent with them. The judges were given the same rubric that was shared with you and the only thing that it included was the corresponding number of the entry. Each of them scored individually. I had one judge in the morning by herself and the other two after school. The scores were totaled to determine the winning piece. I will tell you that the judges had a unanimous decision and that winning artwork received a perfect score from all three judges. The placement of the first places in the age levels were the same also within a couple of points but all agreed and placed pieces at the top of the category. Of course as we went into third, fourth, fifth, and honorable mention there was more discussion. As with any art show if we had a different set of judges it could go differently, but all the judges agreed our rubric helped them come to more objective rather than subjective decisions. I ask each judge to give their ideas to our process and how it was done at the end since they have all three been judges for numerous art shows. These will be taken into consideration for next years competition. I appreciate their willingness judge our competition and share their insights.

I also want to point out that art pieces that did not follow directions and have all yes answered at the top of the rubric were not shown to the judges in the final judging unless we needed to fill in remaining openings for awards. If this was the case than the ones pulled back in were the ones who only had one minor. None of

these pieces were allowed to score higher than those who had included all the requirements they could only fill in remaining slots. Which brings me to the reminders. Many of the students were missing parts of the logo like the words, some had letters in the wrong order, and others had the wrong letters all together. There were many excellent ideas that were missing requirements please have students check the rubric before sending in. I also want to remind you that each of you should fill out the online participation form so that Sargent Art has that. Some of you sent me a paper copy but this has to be done online.

I want to encourage everyone to come up with some way to participate across the state in some form of art advocacy or art celebration and send me an email with pictures and explanation. I would love to share what you are doing with others both far and near. You are awesome teachers who deserve to be highlighted with your students. Share the joy of creating and making things- and make sure to tell me about it. Thanks again to our judges, those who took part, and the support of everyone.

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