



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications and Community Outreach
6901 Charles Street Towson, MD 21204
443.809.5908 (English) 443.809.7801 (Español) www.bcps.org

FOR RELEASE: June 16, 2021

CONTACT: Dept. of Communications/Community Outreach, 443.809.5908
[BCPS press releases are available online](#)

BCPS Superintendent selects award winners from inaugural exhibition at administration building gallery

*Recognized students represent Sudbrook Magnet Middle, Bear Creek Elementary,
Towson High*

Towson, MD – Baltimore County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams selected a charcoal self-portrait by Cailyn Sydnor of Sudbrook Magnet Middle School as the Best of Show entry in the inaugural exhibition in the [Superintendent's Gallery](#).

Supt. Williams also selected pieces by Shayla Haggerty of Bear Creek Elementary and Mason Moore of Towson High School for Superintendent's Purchase Awards. All three pieces will be purchased and remain on display in the BCPS administration building. Sherri Fisher, BCPS visual arts coordinator, believes this is the first time that works by elementary and middle school students have been purchased for display in the building.

"Making these selections was so difficult," said Supt. Williams. "The quality of arts instruction our students receive and the creativity they exhibit is at such a high level. Ultimately, I chose the pieces that resonated with me personally, and I took into consideration the thoughtful artist statements students wrote."

In her artist statement, Sydnor wrote: "In this drawing, I was trying to communicate that behind me is a window of possibilities, anything that you put your mind to (the pencil is on my chin to represent thinking of what I can do/draw), you are able to do it." Sydnor is a Grade 8 student, and her visual arts teacher is Jayme Rodriguez.

Haggerty's drawing is titled "Winter Moon." In her artist statement, Haggerty wrote: "I used blues and purples to make it look like winter. The colors are meant to radiate from the moon. I like the way it came out. I also tried to make interesting positive and negative spaces in between the branches over the moon." Haggerty is a Grade 3 student, and she studies visual arts with teacher Joe Gibison.

About his pine sculpture, Moore wrote: "How do I culminate my experiences in nature into physical forms? This investigation began as I interpreted these images from my experiences into textures, patterns, and forms of clay. This evolved over time until I realized that I convey these feelings, emotions, and experiences through imagery translated upon an object." Moore is a 2021 Towson High School graduate, and he studied visual arts with teacher Lindsay Miller.

The BCPS Office of Visual Arts launched The Superintendent's Gallery in the administration building of the school system's Greenwood campus in April. The inaugural exhibition in the gallery features 24 juried student artworks from 18 schools across the county. The exhibition will remain in place until the new school year and can be viewed [online](#).

(Editor's note: Images of the works by Sydnor, Haggerty, and Moore accompany this release as well as a photo of Supt. Williams in the gallery with Visual Arts Coordinator Sherri Fisher and a photo of Supt. Williams with the Best of Show artwork.)

#

[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).