



Left: Hannah Thorpe. Right: Madelyn Clarke.

Stamped

Frank Juarez

For the past five years, I have been teaching a design unit with my Drawing Intensive students focusing on USPS postage stamps. The idea came about when I was at the post office in Sheboygan waiting to be called upon. As you may know, waiting in line can feel like an eternity. So, I started to look around and came upon a set of windows. This is when I had the idea: What if I assigned my students the task of designing their very own postage stamps?

Displaying Student Art

Once I was called upon, I stepped up to the counter and asked with whom I could talk in regards to displaying student artwork. I was given the name and contact of the postmaster. I called him and pitched my idea and he loved it! As a result, around the holidays I had ten to twenty pieces of student artwork displayed in the lobby of the Sheboygan Post Office. From what I've been told by the

employees, people loved seeing the art. My students' designs were displayed from November to January.

This became a tradition for the past few years—until this year. Every year I would contact the post office and inquire about display-

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ing student art in the lobby. The new postmaster contacted me and indicated that they are no longer able to display student artwork in the retail area. I have to admit I was disappointed, but I understood. The hardest part was breaking the news to my students.

Getting Stamped

My students' designs are based on their own interests, whether it be

images from their Instagram feed, cartoons, Pop Art, and so on. Their designs have to include the current cost of the postage stamp, USA, a title, implied perforations, sans serif and serif text, and incorporate colored pencil techniques, skilled artistry, and originality.

I believe that art should be displayed in areas where there is high traffic, especially when it is out in the community. Unfortunately, things change, and it is important to adapt and make the most of it. This year, our Drawing Intensive USPS postage stamps are displayed near the commons at Sheboygan North High School as well as on our website, www.nhsartdept.com.

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