



# PRESS RELEASE

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**TEXAS MIDDLE SCHOOL ART STUDENTS BRING HOME SIX MEDALS  
FROM REGIONAL JUNIOR VISUAL ARTS SCHOLASTIC EVENT**

***Texarkana, TX*** – Three Texas Middle School art students participated in the Region VIII Junior Visual Arts Scholastic Event (JrVASE) held in Mt. Pleasant, TX. An estimated 125 students participated in this year's event.

Sponsored by the Texas Art Education Association, JrVASE provides the opportunity for students to bring artworks created in their art classes to a regional event where they are interviewed by a certified juror who evaluates their work based on a standards-based rubric and their understanding of the art processes involved in the development of their artwork. Only academically eligible 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in Texas public or private schools can participate. Each student is allowed to submit a maximum of two art entries.

Event jurors look for originality of concept, technical expertise, understanding of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the interpretation of the student's stated intent. The jurors evaluate the student artwork using the following standard: Rating 4 Superior; Rating 3 Excellent; Rating 2 Average and Rating 1 Below Average. Students compete on three different experience levels depending on the amount of experience the students has had in JrVASE. For Texas Middle School students, this was their first JrVase competition.

All three Texas Middle School students – Katelyn Mercer, Katie Mitchell and Brooklyn Walker – submitted two pieces of original art and were awarded Rating 4 Superior Medals for each piece of submitted work.

Additionally, Brooklyn Walker received a Best of Show Silver Medal and a Scholarship Award in the top category that featured only those students receiving Superior Medals.

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