

Mark Vance
Brunswick Pride Awards

Description:

Every school year for the past 10 years I have been organizing an art show that showcases the work from all seven elementary buildings in the Brunswick City School District. The artwork (about 50 pieces) is framed and displayed in the board office. In May all the students and their families are invited to an awards ceremony in front of the school board that includes the superintendent and the assistant superintendent.

Impact:

The impact this has is two fold. First, the people that work in the board office love when I come in at the end of the school year to change out all the art. They are truly excited to see the new student work. They comment all the time how much joy the work done in the art program means to them. It brightens their work area and reminds them of why they work in education. Second, the students that have their work on display explode with pride when they come and see their work on display. When you take a child's work and put it in a glass frame and hang it on a wall there is real power in that. Their eyes get big and they take pictures with the work they created. I love to see all the smiling faces and the number of family members that attend.

Intent:

In order for me to complete this show every year I have to work with many different people. I work out set up and tear down with the assistant superintendents secretary and I have to work with all the other art teachers in collecting the artwork. The timing of the show is crucial and awards have to be printed and the media has to be included. All of this is so important to showcase all the hard work the districts art teacher put in and to highlight the importance of the art program.