

# CCHS ART STUDENTS REACH NEW HEIGHTS: THE CEILING

## By Ron Barry

It's not exactly the Sistine Chapel, but it's just as spectacular to Amber Graves.

Graves is the art teacher at Crockett County High School, and at the conclusion of each semester, she allows a group of students to create individual expressions of their work on a most unique canvas: a ceiling tile.

Once completed, each student's tile goes into the ceiling of the art classroom, providing a variety of colors, moods, subject matter, styles, and even philosophical quandaries on occasion. Except for having to crane your neck to observe them, they're a source of joy to those who visit the room.

While it's doubtful that any of Crockett's artists needed four years to complete their ceiling tile - yes, that's the amount of time it took Michelangelo to decorate the Sistine Chapel ceiling - some have invested their four years in high school honing their craft. And, as Graves will happily tell you, there is some genuine artistic talent among the Cavalier student body.

"I love looking at them," Graves said at the conclusion of the school year. "It brings back memories of each of the students who contributed them. It reflects their different personalities, and the variety is what makes them all the more interesting."

When most people think about the Sistine Chapel, they immediately conjure up the image which is officially called "The Creation of Adam" - the one in which the finger of God is pointing toward the outstretched hand of his first human product. Some think it takes up the entire ceiling. But that painting is just one of more than 40 frescoes, all of which feature people and scenes from the Old Testament.

And while none of the ceiling tiles in Graves' classroom contains the detail that Michelangelo applied to his acclaimed work, you'd be surprised at how good - and elaborate - most of the Crockett tiles are, whether the subject matter is Minions or Jesus coming in the clouds.

Following are the latest additions to the art classroom ceiling. Graves wouldn't trade any of them for a Michelangelo original.



