PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

2026 Virtual Gallery



Cover Art By Stella, Eighth Grade, Jefferson Middle School

Celebrating 42 Years of Partnerships

City of Columbia
Office of Cultural Affairs

The Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) is a department of the City of Columbia whose mission is to create an environment where artists and cultural organizations thrive by advancing and supporting the arts for the benefit of the citizens of Columbia. In addition to initiating or supporting a variety of arts and culture programs, the OCA administers the city's Percent for Art program, which allows for 1% of the cost of new city construction or renovation over $1 million to be used for site-specific public art, as well as overseeing funding programs for local arts and cultural organizations.

OCA is proud to serve as Partners In Education to the Columbia Public Schools Fine Arts Department and to present the annual PIE Virtual Gallery experience on a virtual platform for the 2025-26 school year.

CPS Fine Arts

The arts have always served as the distinctive vehicle for discovering who we are. Providing ways of thinking as disciplined as science or math and as disparate as philosophy or literature, the arts are used by and have shaped every culture and individual on earth. They continue to infuse our lives on nearly all levels—generating a significant part of the creative and intellectual capital that drives our economy. The arts inform our lives with meaning every time we experience the joy of a well-remembered song, experience the flash of inspiration that comes with immersing ourselves in an artist's sculpture, enjoying a sublime dance, learning from an exciting animation, or being moved by a captivating play.

Partners In Education

Partners In Education is a business-school partnership program that connects a local business with an individual school, curriculum department, or grade level. Each partnership establishes a steering committee, mission statement, objectives, and activities specific to the business and school's needs and abilities.

The overall goal of Columbia's Partners In Education (PIE) program is to build bridges between the world of business and the world of education. It seeks to create a better understanding of the public school system within the community, strengthen and enhance the district's programs, create a climate of involvement and interaction between organizations, businesses, and schools, and provide students with opportunities to develop attitudes and skills that enhance their success in the world of work.

For more information or to become involved in the Partners In Education program, contact Molly in the school district's Community Relations office at (573) 214-3960 or visit www.cpsk12.org/pie.

PIE History

The History of Partners In Education Columbia Public Schools' Partners In Education program celebrates 42 years of businesses bringing achievement, enrichment, innovation, and opportunities to schools and students. Partners In Education began as a simple vision of Former Superintendent Russell Thompson, Former Superintendent Jim Ritter, and School-Community Program Director Jolene Schulz.

Together, they studied an "adopt-a-school" program but wanted the CPS program to be based on a handshake, not a handout. They molded this idea into a program that would benefit Columbia Public Schools, a true "partnership" between local businesses and schools. Partners In Education became the national moniker when President Reagan accepted the idea and gave it national status.

Over more than four decades, Columbia Public Schools has seen tremendous achievements by Columbia's youth due to the involvement and dedication of partnering businesses. The original

eleven charter partnerships that kicked off back in 1984, at the start of the Partners In Education program has grown to an unbelievable 150 Partners In Education and more than 100 Partnership Friends. These partners include banks, colleges, universities, hospitals, architects, veterinarians, grocery stores, media outlets, real estate agencies, restaurants, nonprofits, churches, insurance companies, and more.

Over the years, partnership activities have expanded, including opportunities such as a satellite school located within a business, job shadowing and business tours, classroom presentations, banks within schools, and mentoring. Hundreds of students and community members have participated in the program, and throughout the years, strong friendships have been built that have endured even as students and employees grow and change.

PIE Week Art Walk

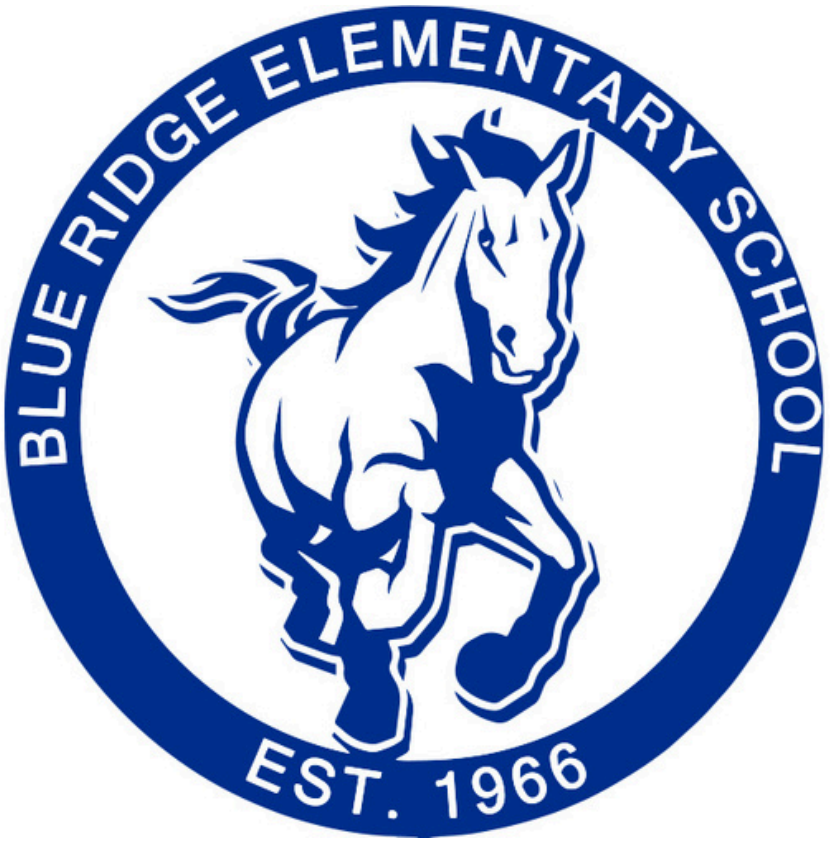
Since 1984, the Columbia Public Schools Partners In Education (PIE) program has connected our local businesses and schools.

“Best Place to Work, Best Place to Learn” 42nd Annual Partners In Education Week, March 9-13, 2026 Presented by the City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs, Columbia Public Schools Fine Arts and CPS Community Relations Office: The City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs celebrates the work of all the CPS student artists by exhibiting artwork in the windows and “gallery” spaces of downtown businesses in partnership with CPS Fine Arts! The City’s Office of Cultural Affairs judges our students’ artwork online to select a first place artist. The student artist’s winning school receives a $500 honorarium for supporting classroom art supplies and a chance to be published. Each business participating has a sticker decal in the window.

Downtown District Businesses Displaying CPS Student Artwork

March 9-13, 2026

American Shoe Store
Arcade District
Artlandish
Black Tea Bookshop
Bluestem Missouri Crafts
Boone Olive Oil Co.
Calvary Episcopal Church
Candy Factory
Central Bank of Boone County
City of Columbia City Hall
City of Refuge
Columbia Art League
Commerce Bank
First Presbyterian Church
Goldie’s Bagels
Lakota Coffee
Makes Scents
Maude Vintage
Missouri Theatre /
University Concert Series
Missouri United Methodist Church
My Secret Garden
North Village Arts District
Orr Street Studios
Pizza Tree
Poppy Made by Hand
Ragtag Cinema & Uprise Bakery
Sager Reeves Gallery
Serendipity Salon and Gallery
Shortwave Coffee-Bakery/
The Understudy
Simmons Bank
Skylark Bookshop
Sparky's Homemade Ice Cream
The Shops at Sharp End
Speckled Frog Toys & Books
The State Historical Society of Missouri
Stephens College
Tallulahs
The District
Tiger Hotel
Tigers Community Credit Union
“We Always Swing”® Jazz Series
Yellow Dog Bookshop



Blue Ridge Elementary School



Carlos

first grade



Hadia

first grade



Jennifer

first grade



Je’Rian

first grade



Edelin

first grade



Leonardo
first grade



Faraja

first grade



Jesus

first grade



Andre

first grade



Ja’Vontae
first grade

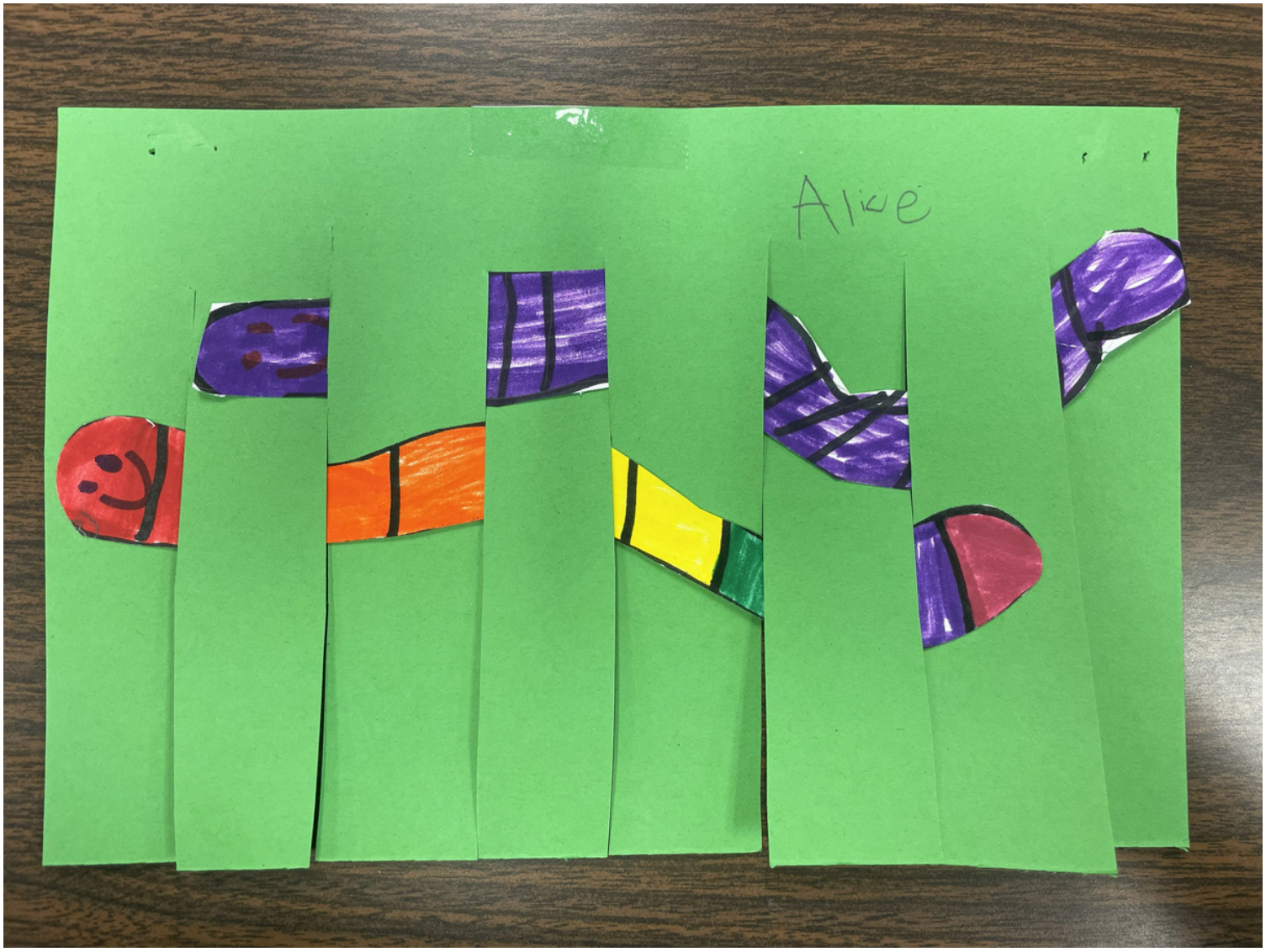


Chase

first grade

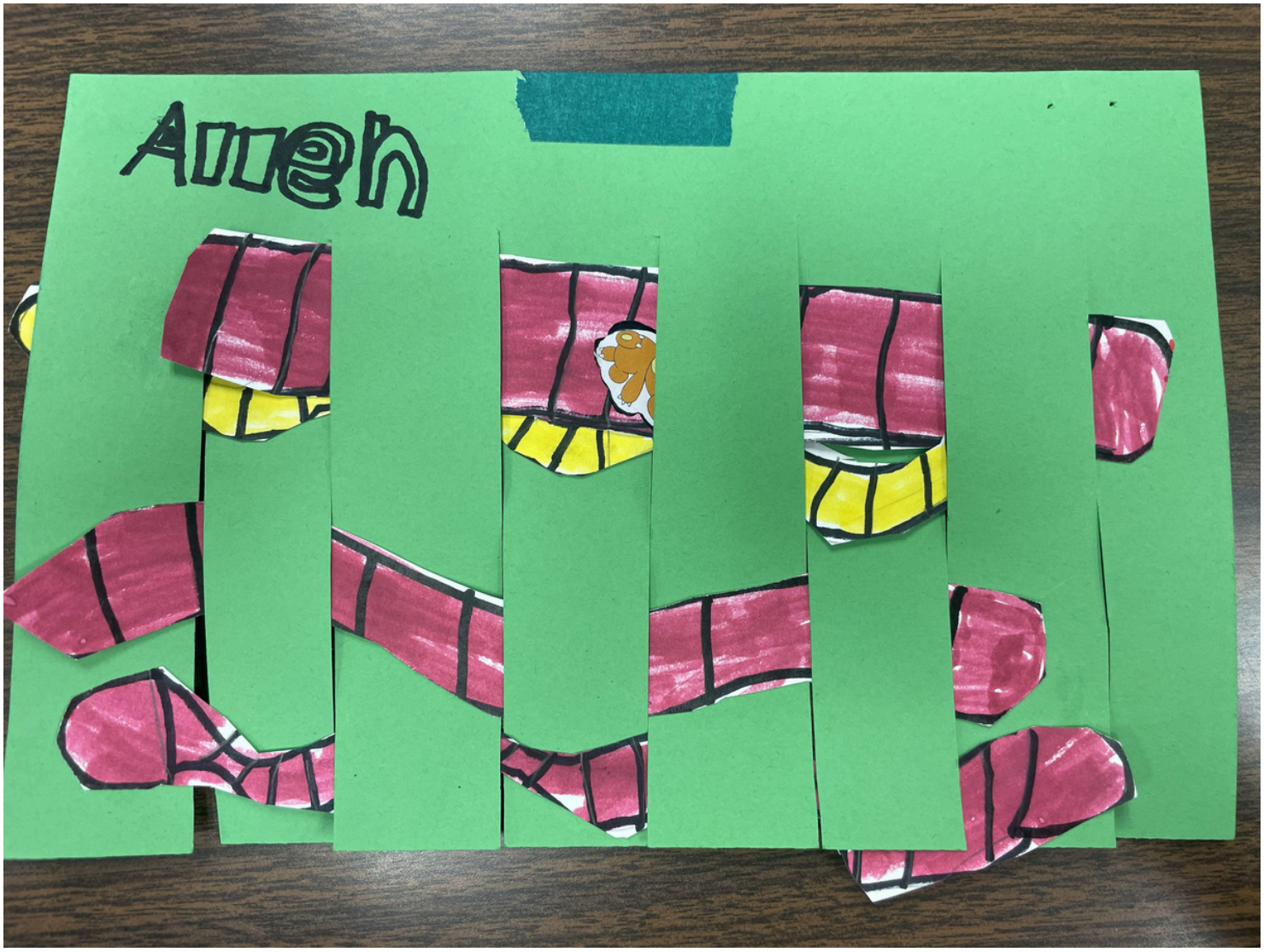


New Haven Elementary School

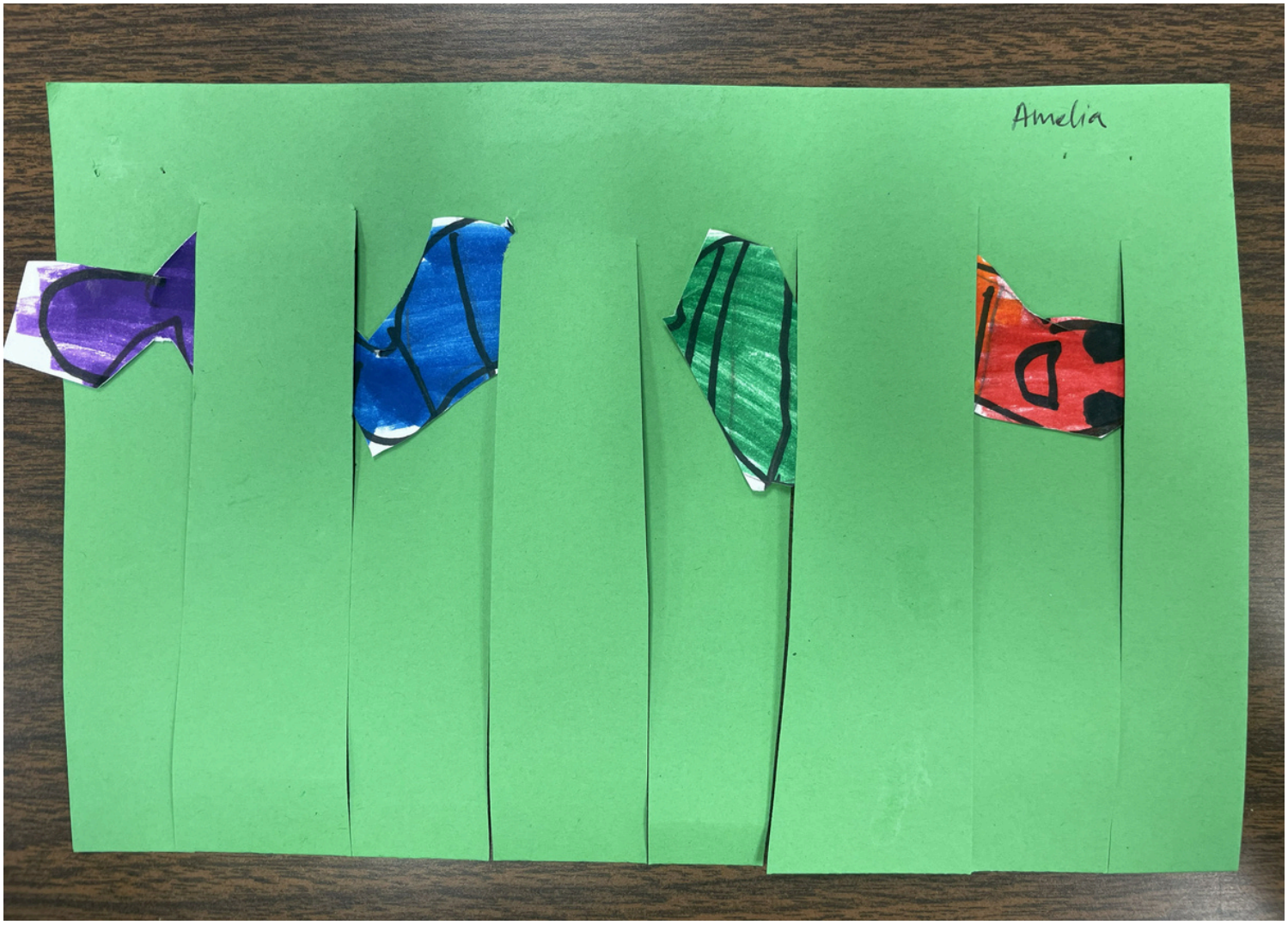


Alice

kindergarten

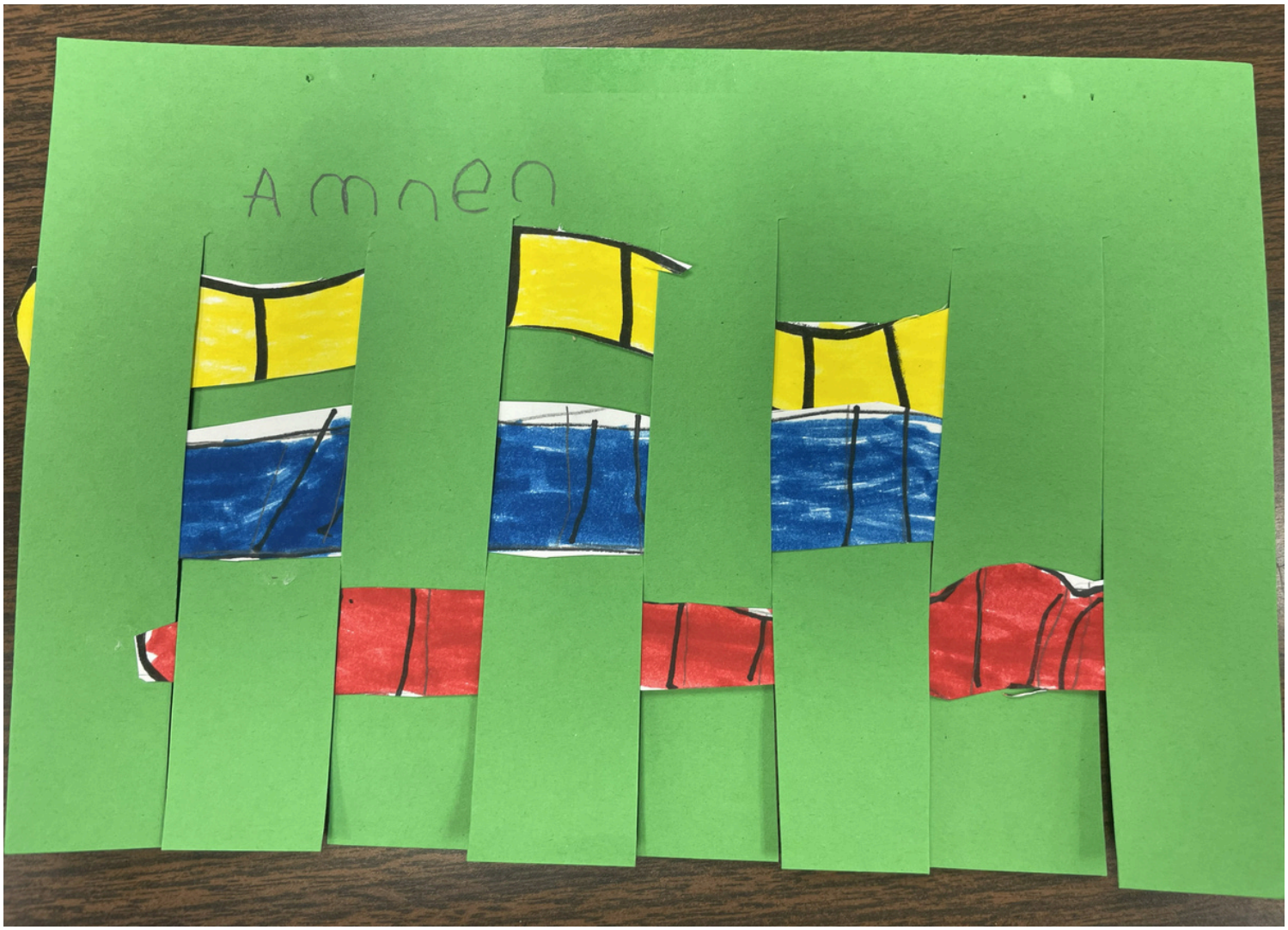


Allen
kindergarten



Amelia

kindergarten



Amnen

kindergarten



Aries
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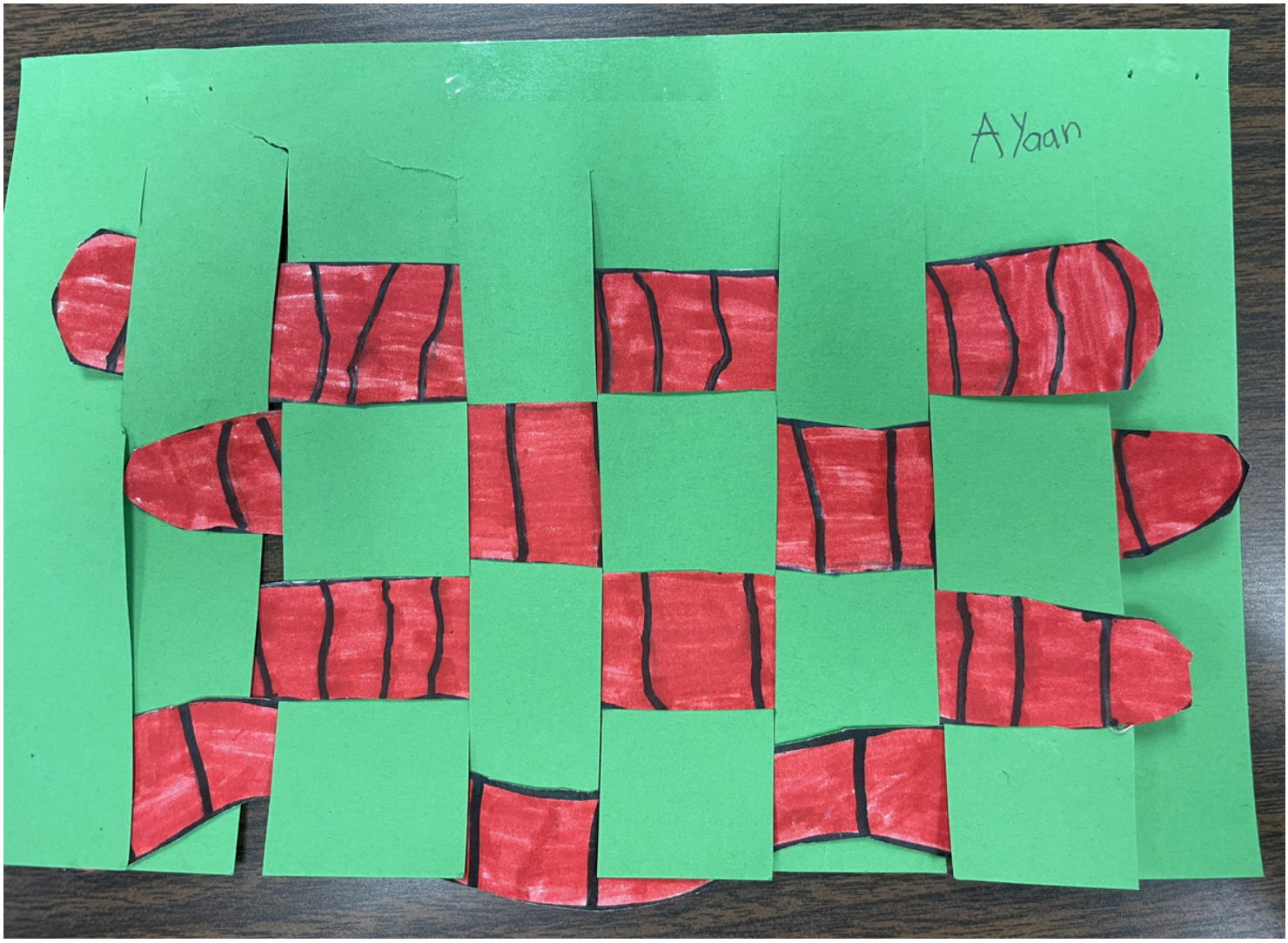
Ava

kindergarten



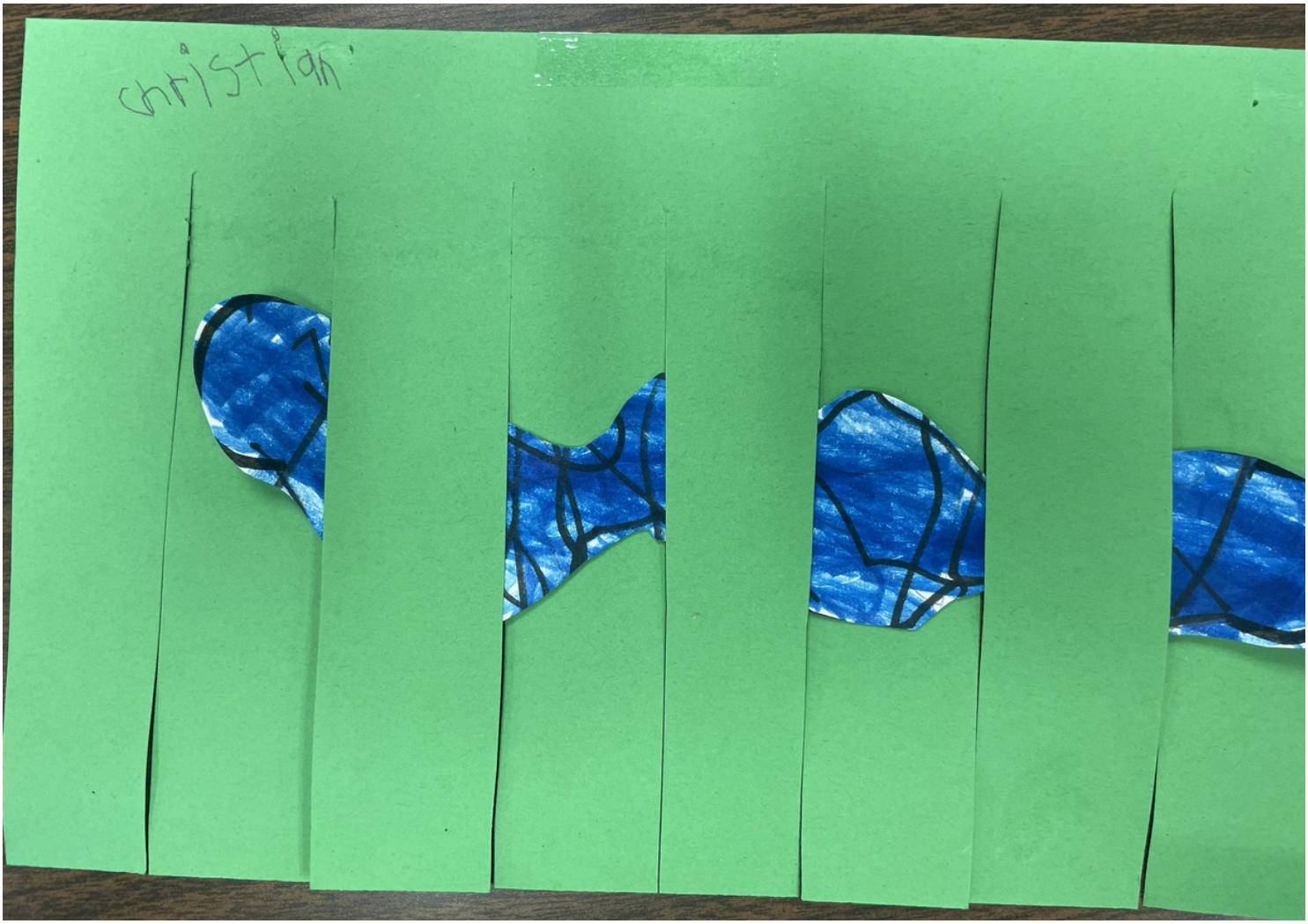
Ayaan

kindergarten



Bennett

kindergarten

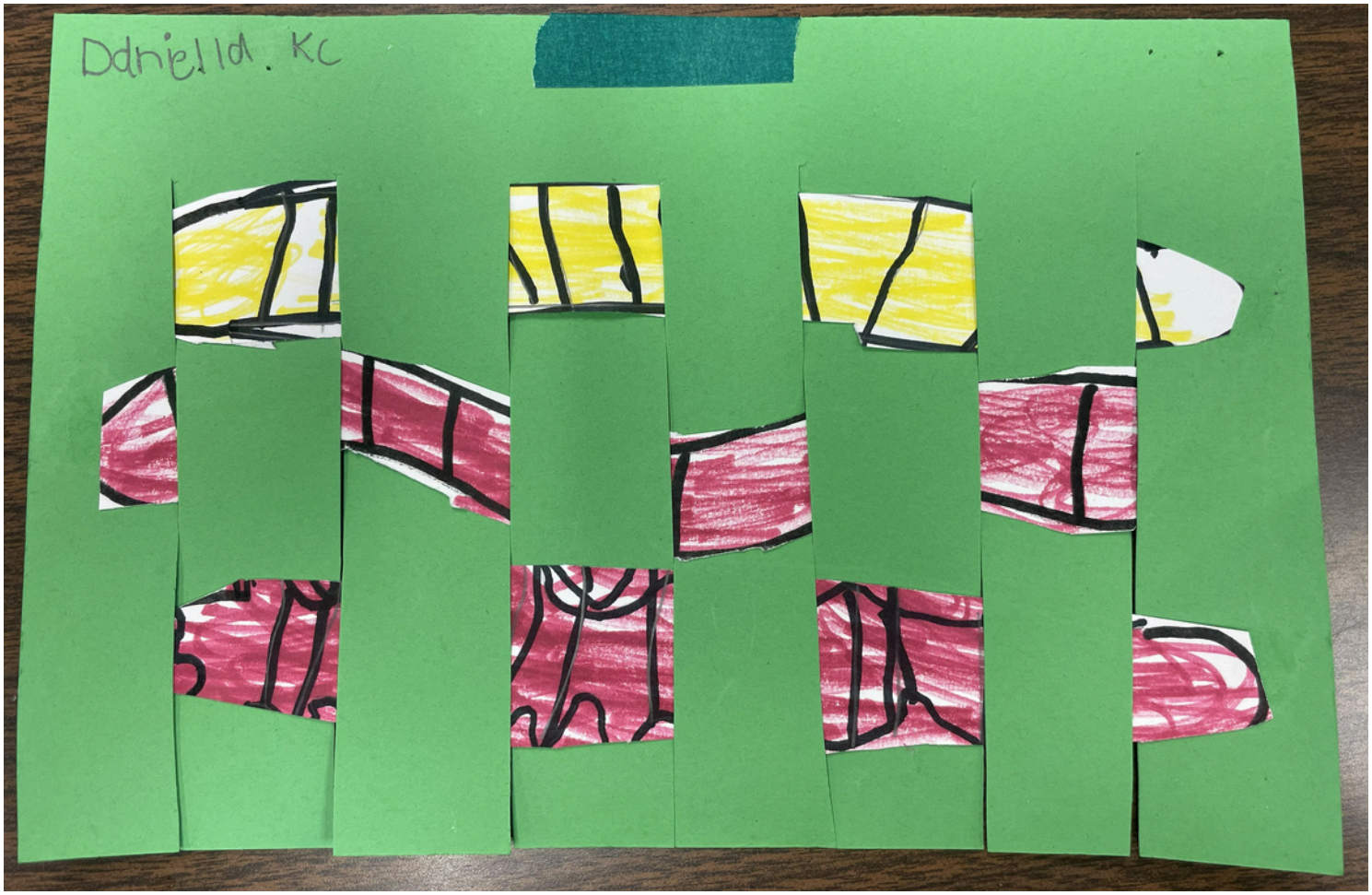


Christian
kindergarten

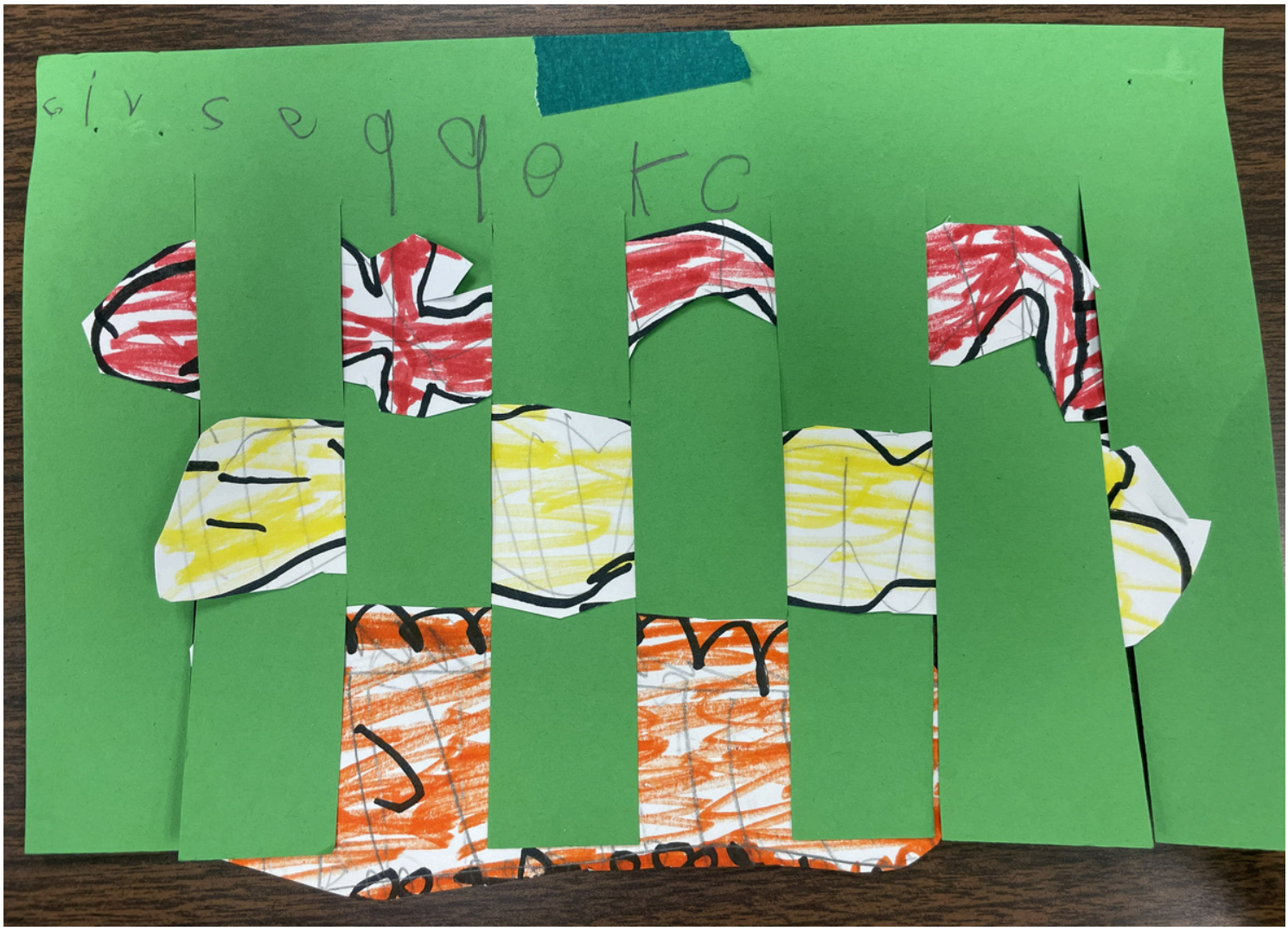


Daniel

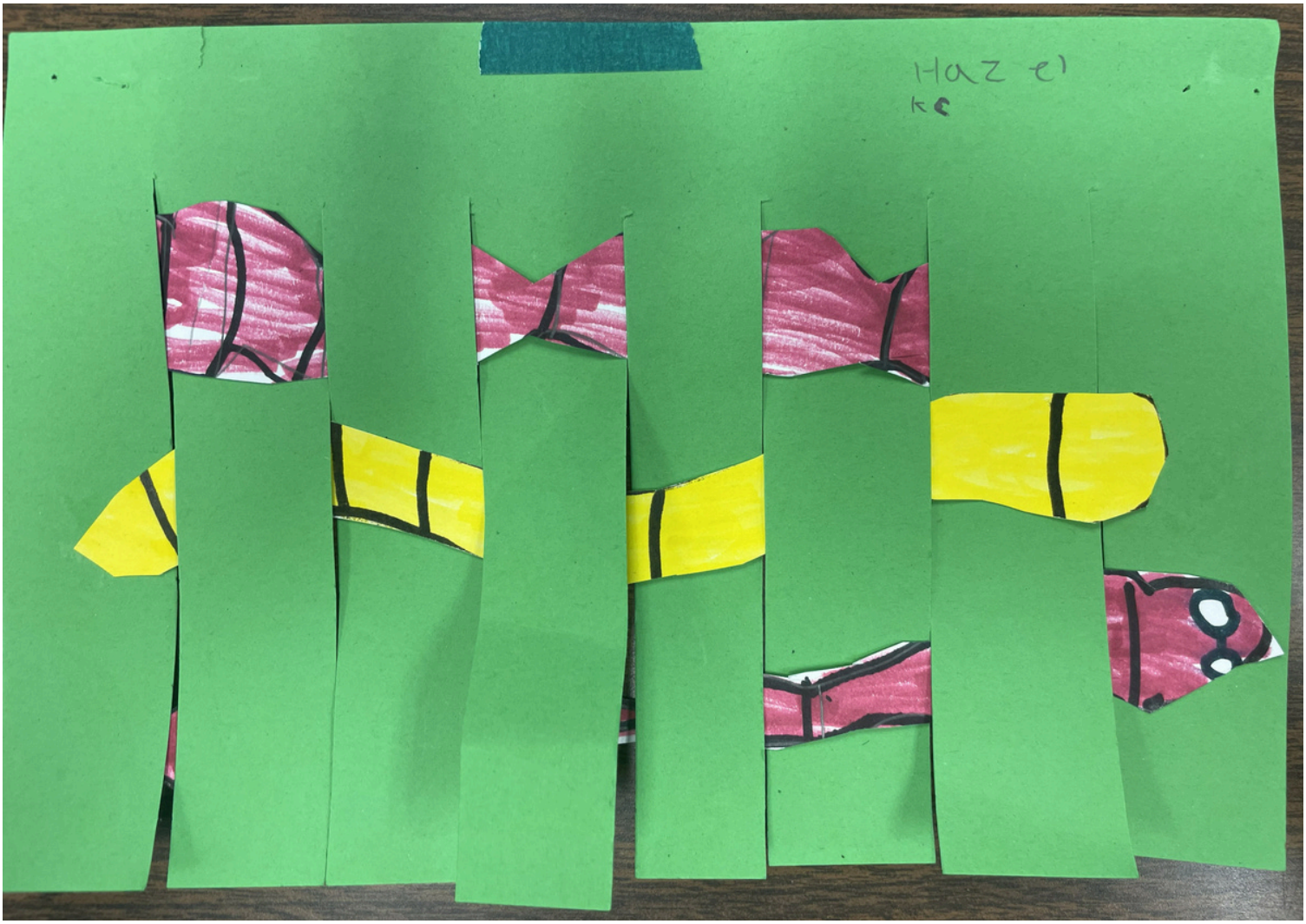
kindergarten



Daniella
kindergarten

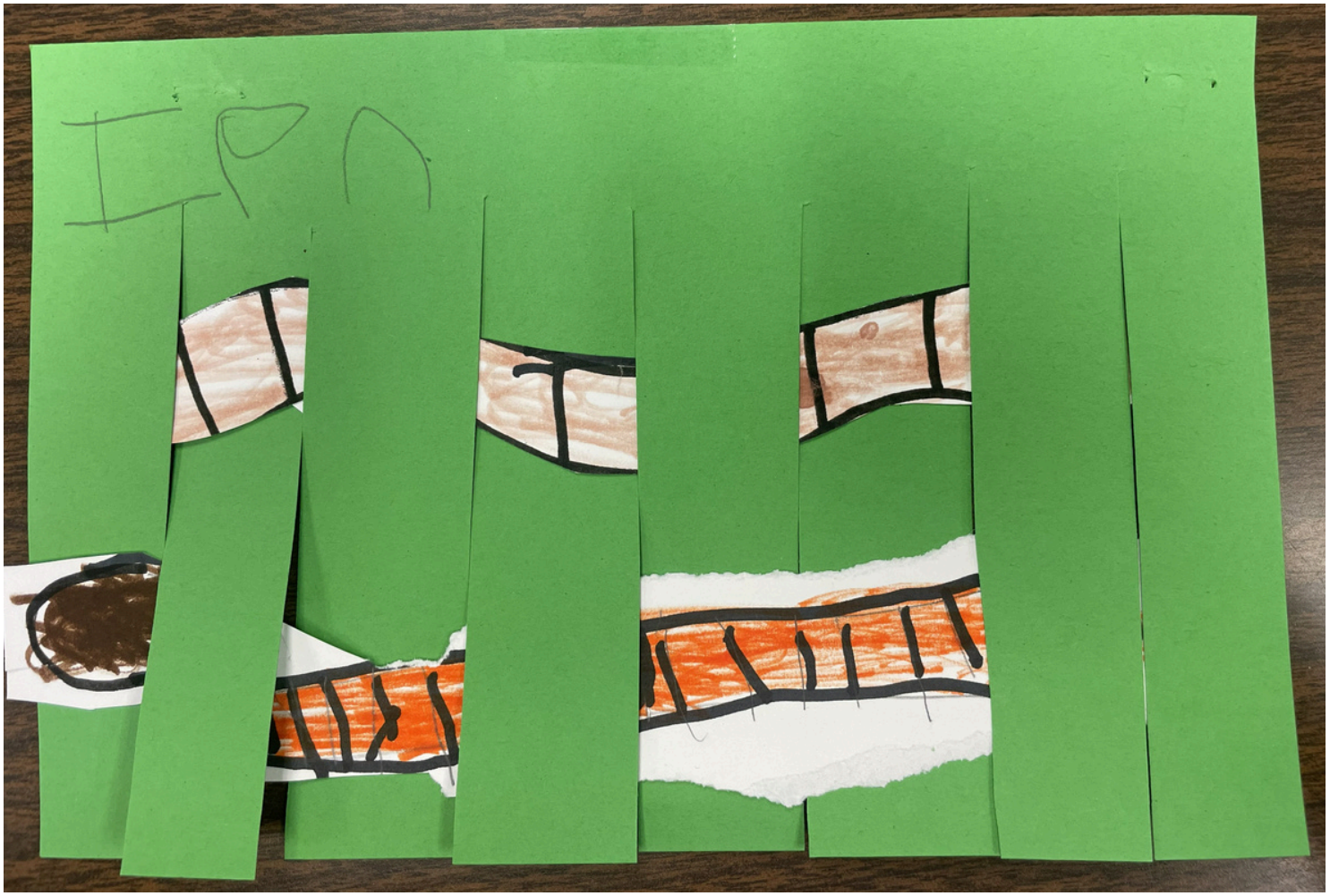


Guiseppe
kindergarten



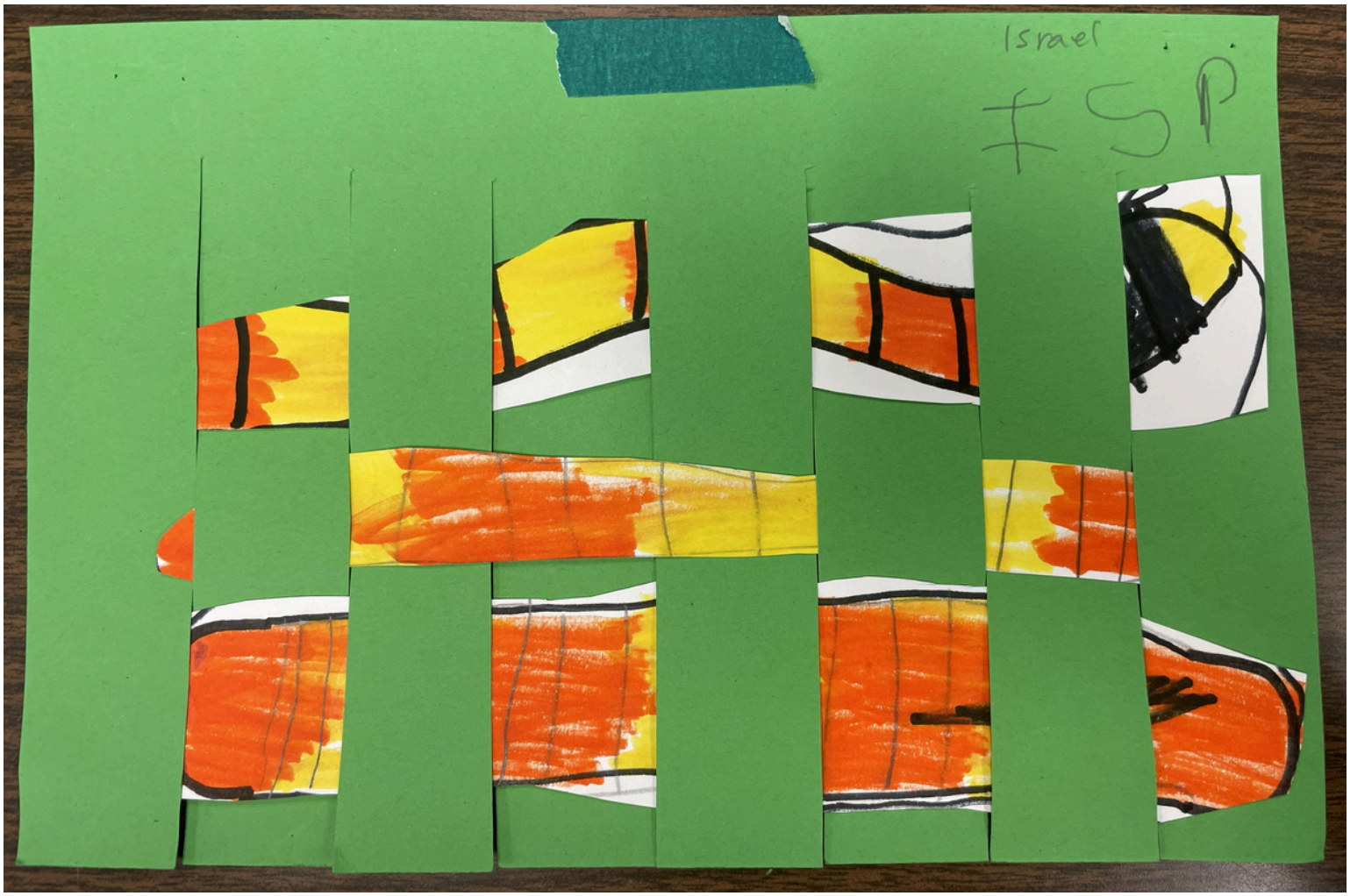
Hazel

kindergarten



Ian

kindergarten

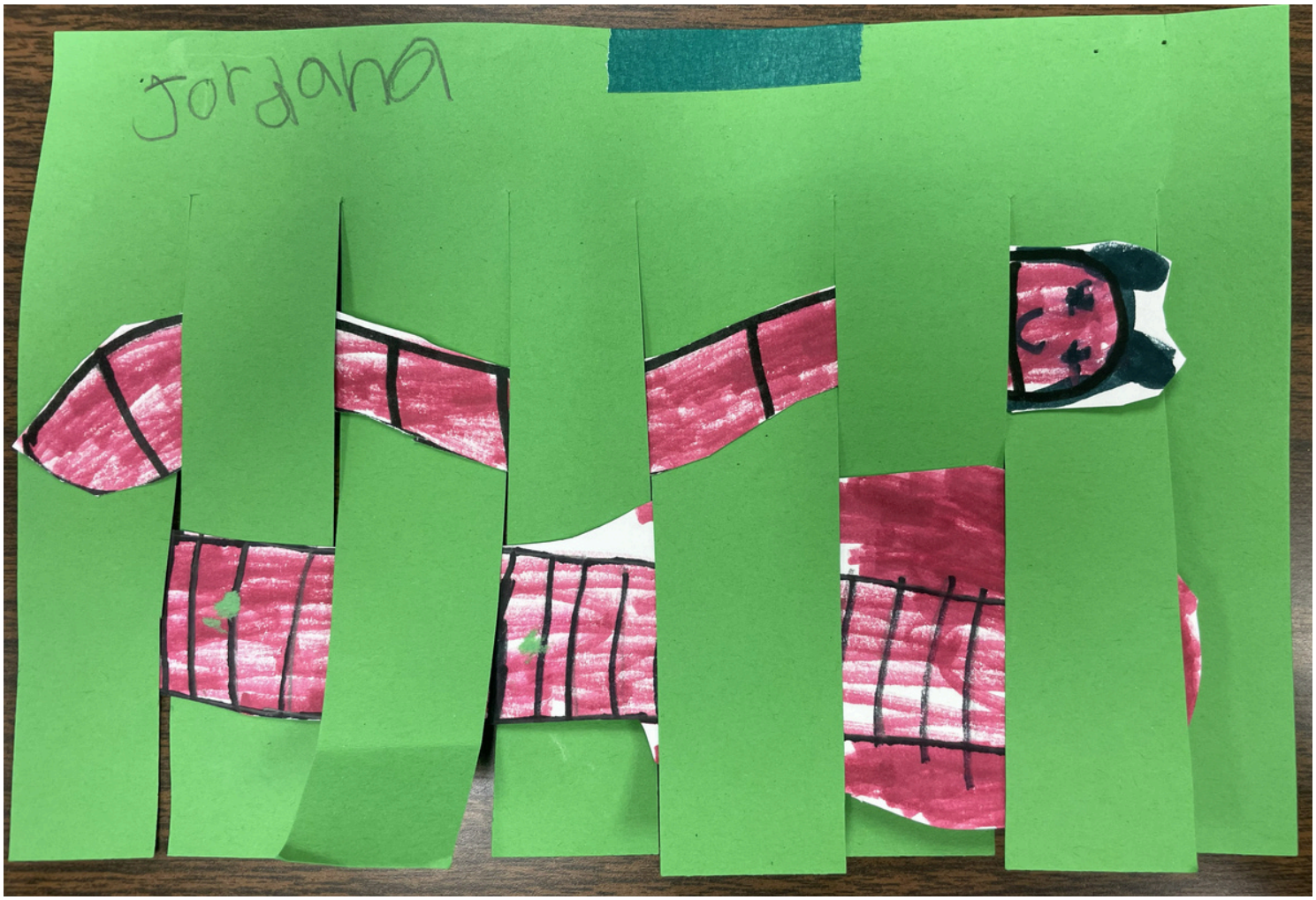


Israel
kindergarten

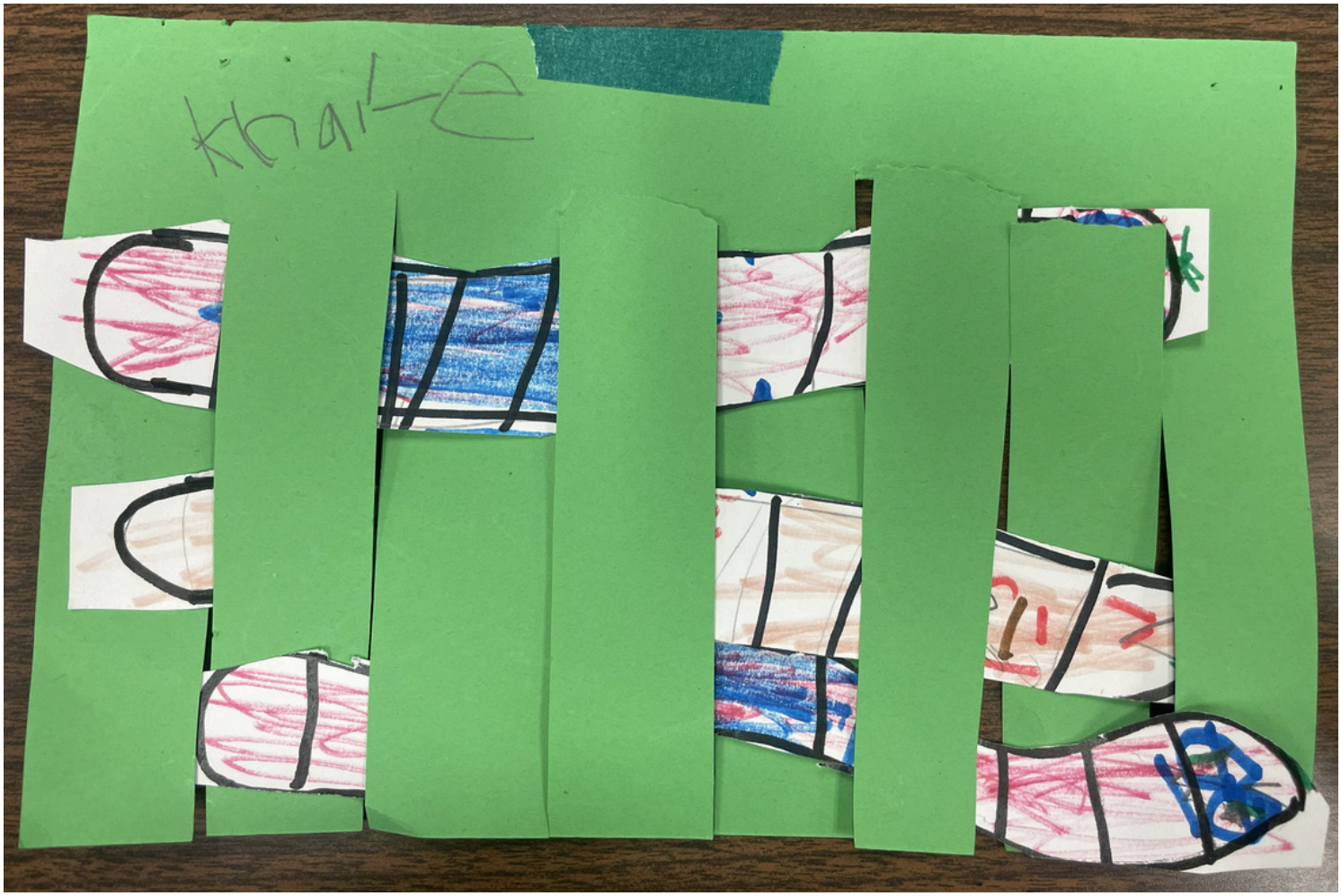


Jade

kindergarten



Jordana
kindergarten



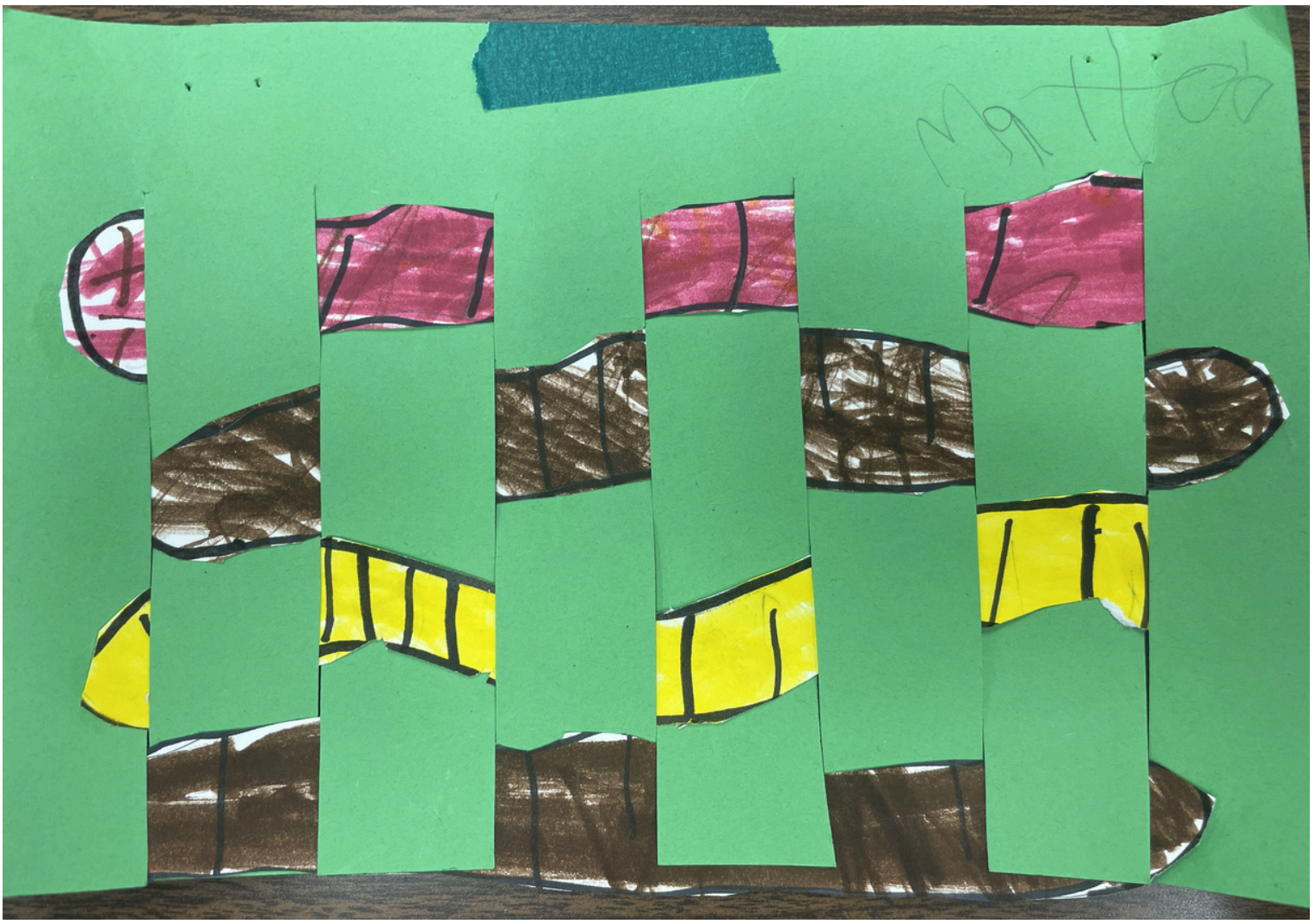
Khai

kindergarten

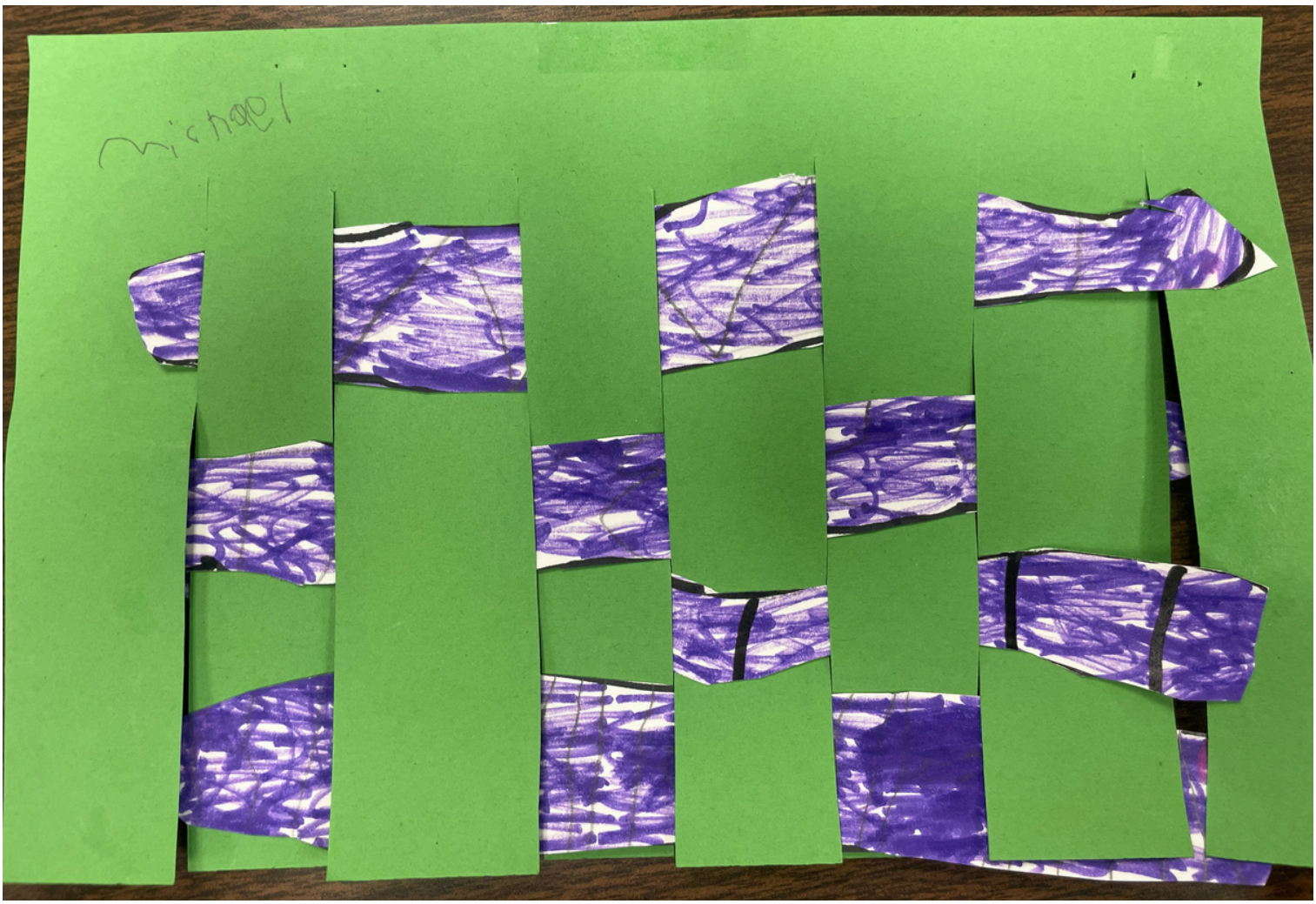


Malik

kindergarten



Matteo
kindergarten

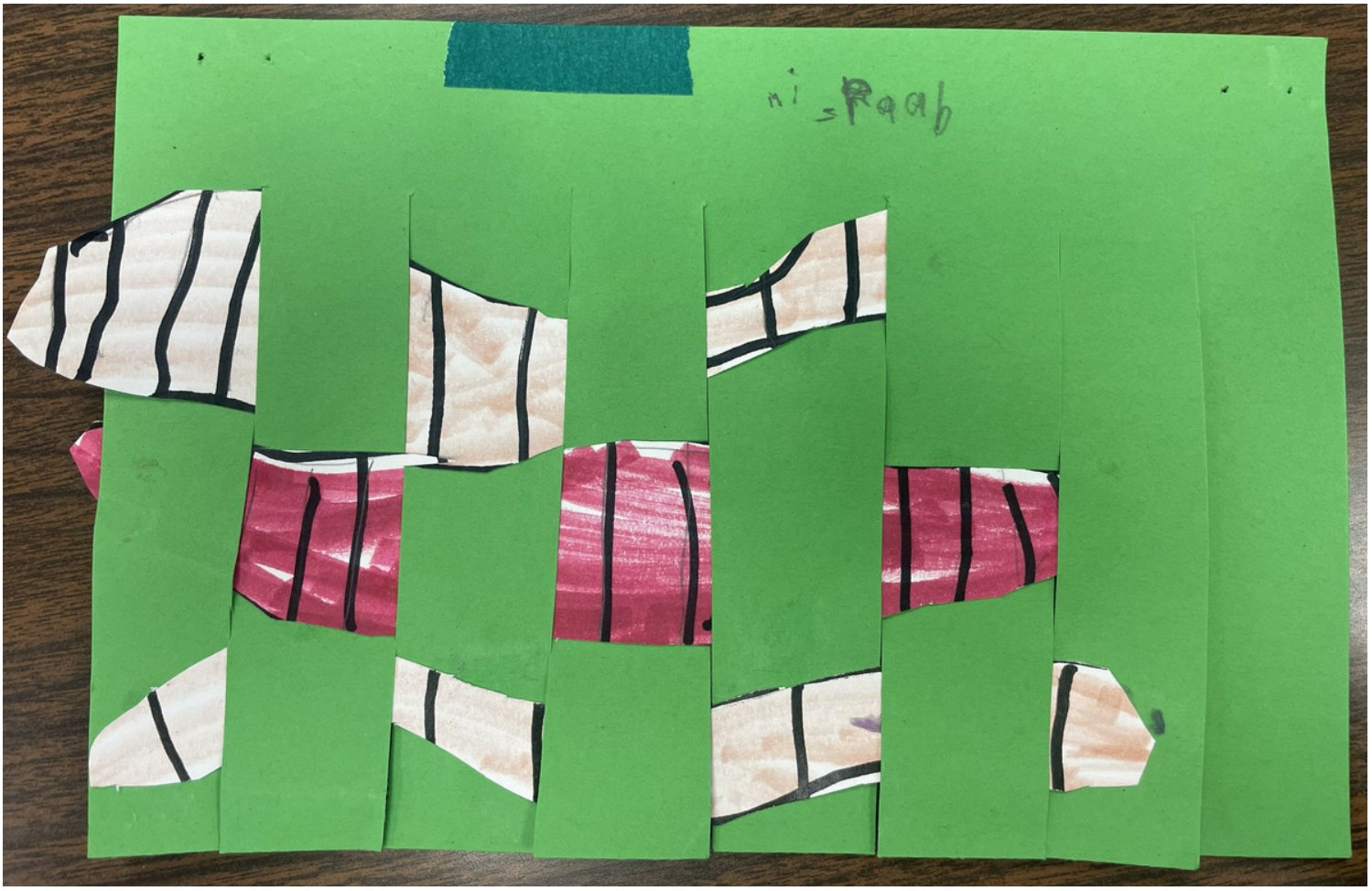


Michael
kindergarten



Miles

kindergarten

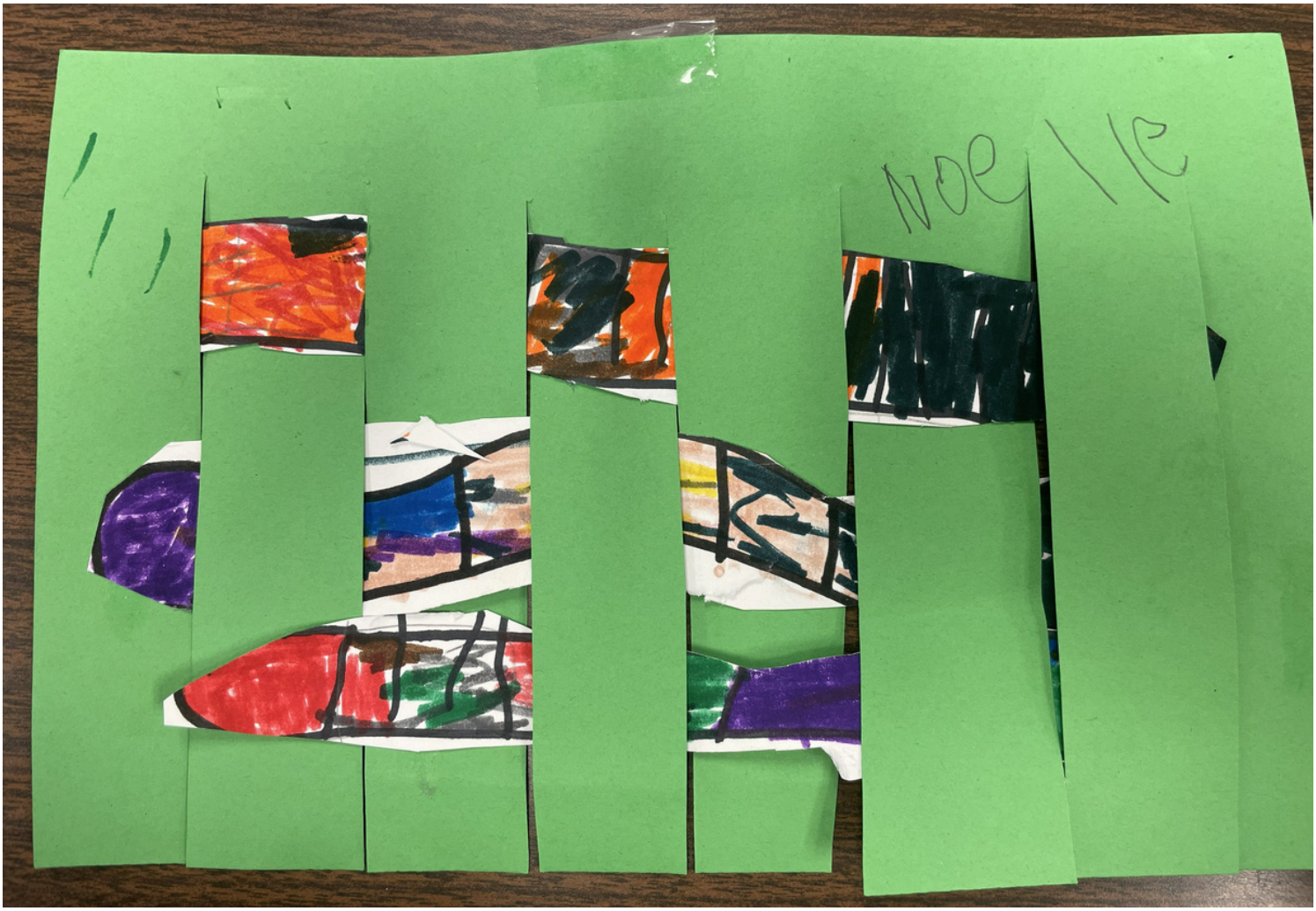


Mizraab
kindergarten



Ni Keer

kindergarten



Noelle

kindergarten



Oscar

kindergarten



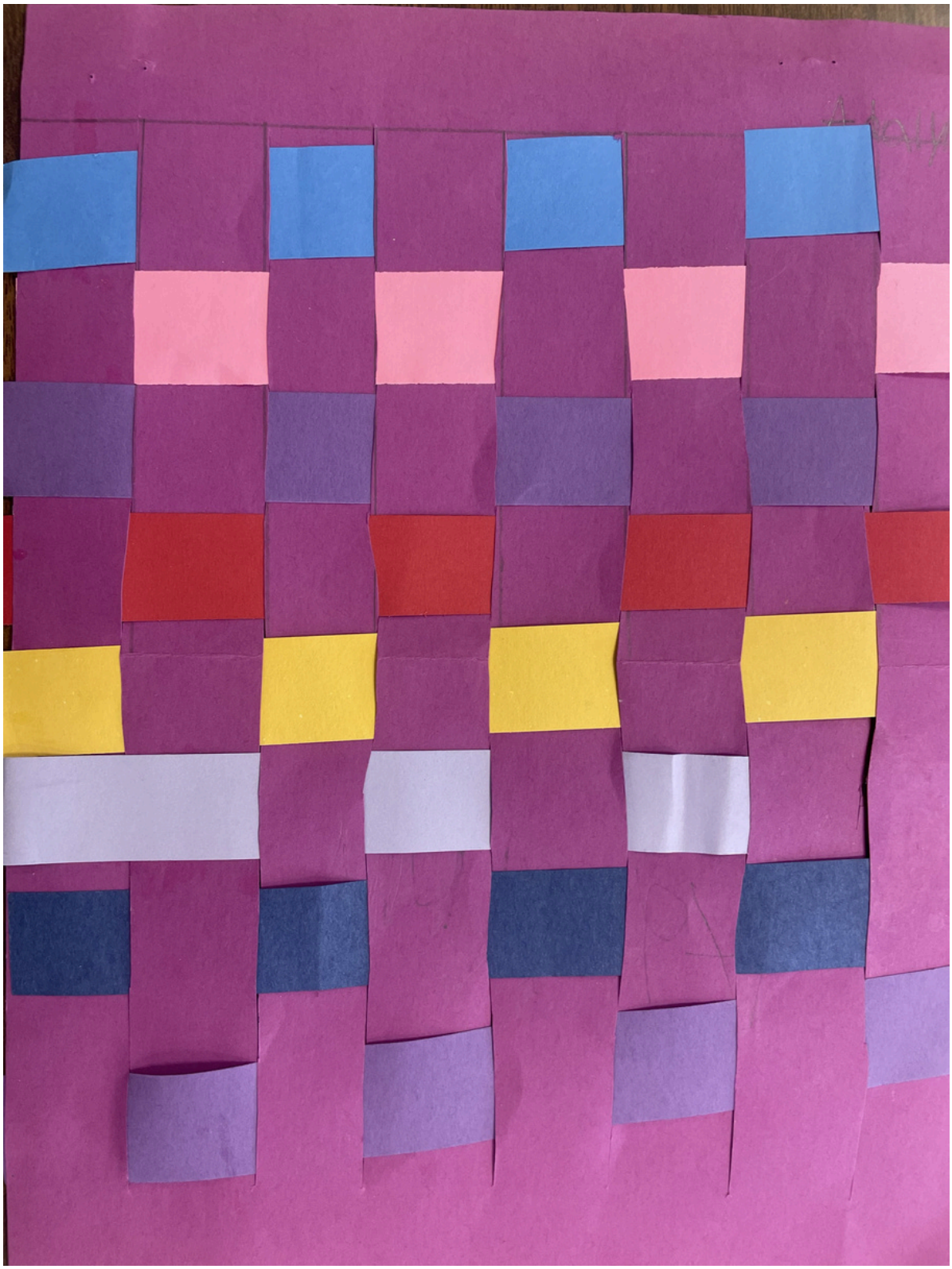
Remy
kindergarten



Ridaan
kindergarten

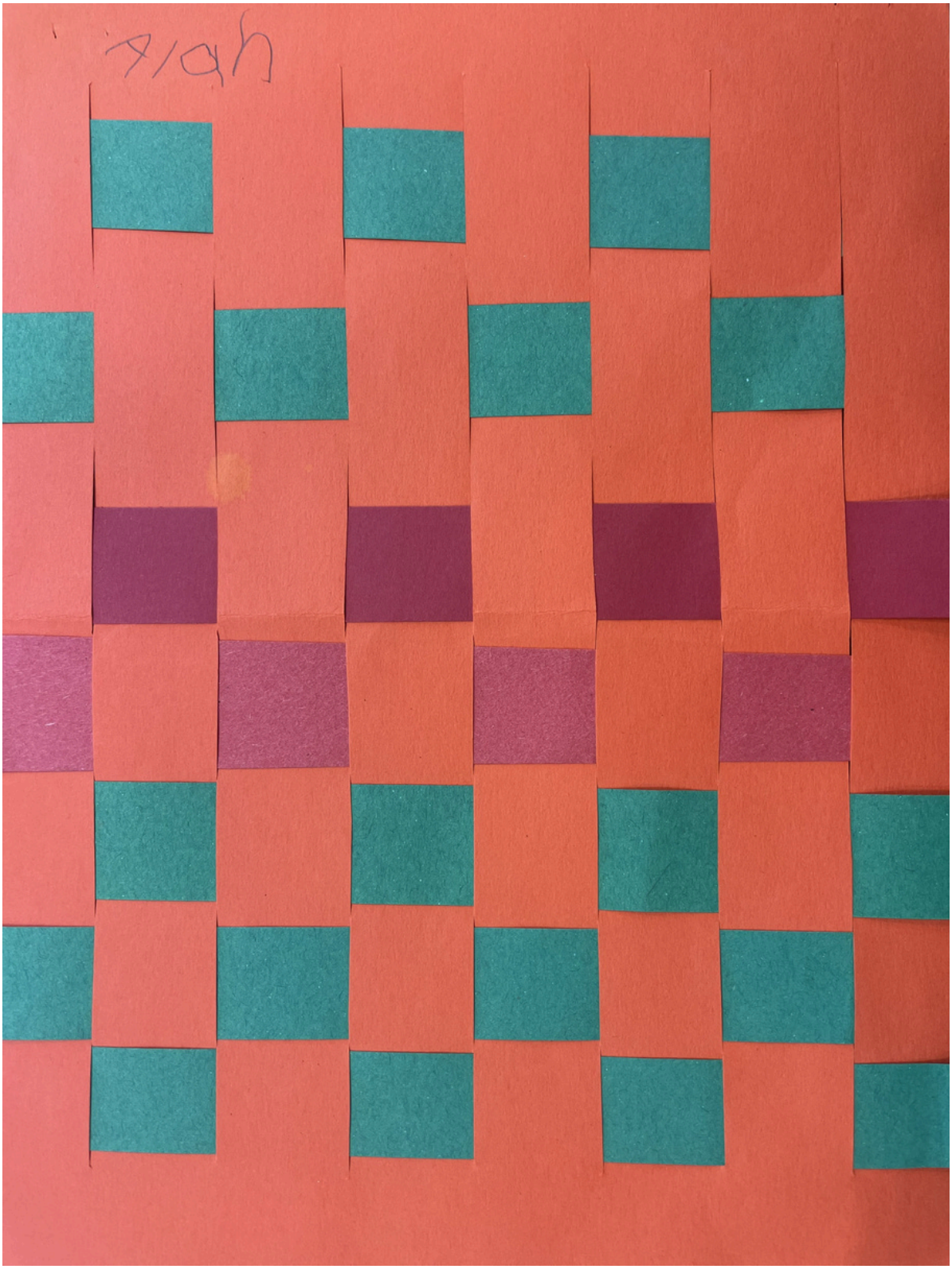


Vivian
kindergarten



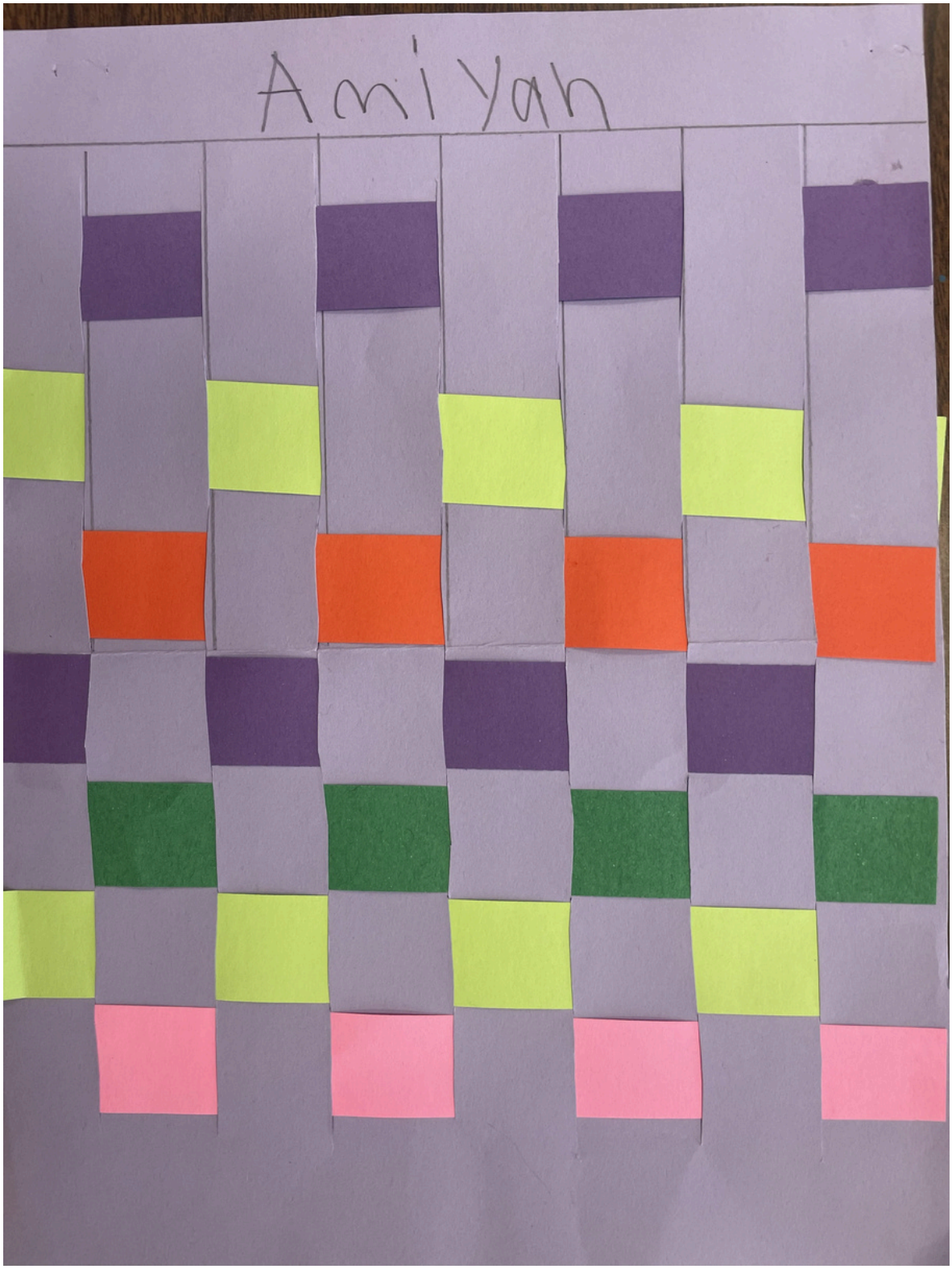
Adalyn

first grade



Alan

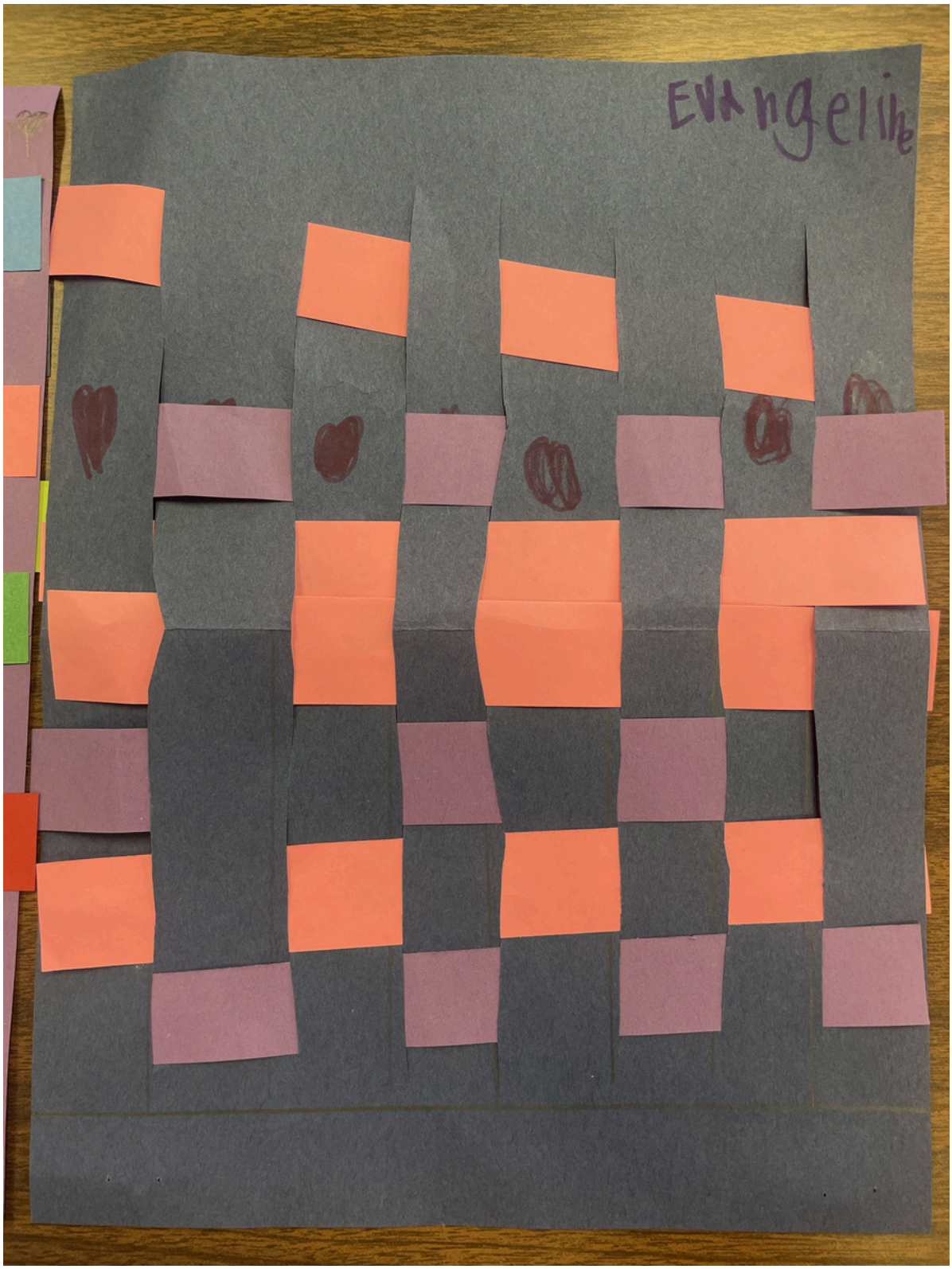
first grade



Amiyah
first grade



Aybuke
first grade

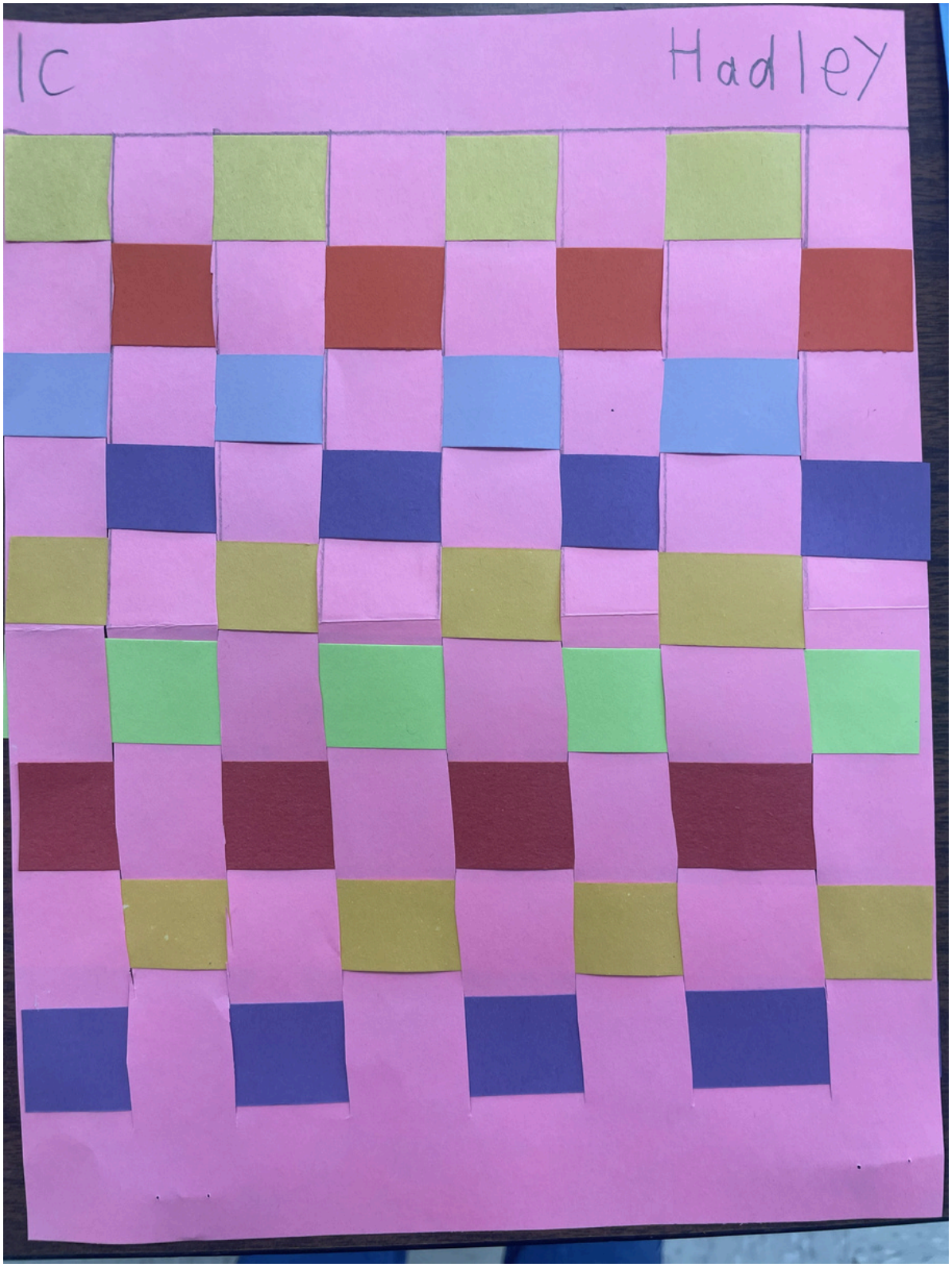


Evangeline
first grade

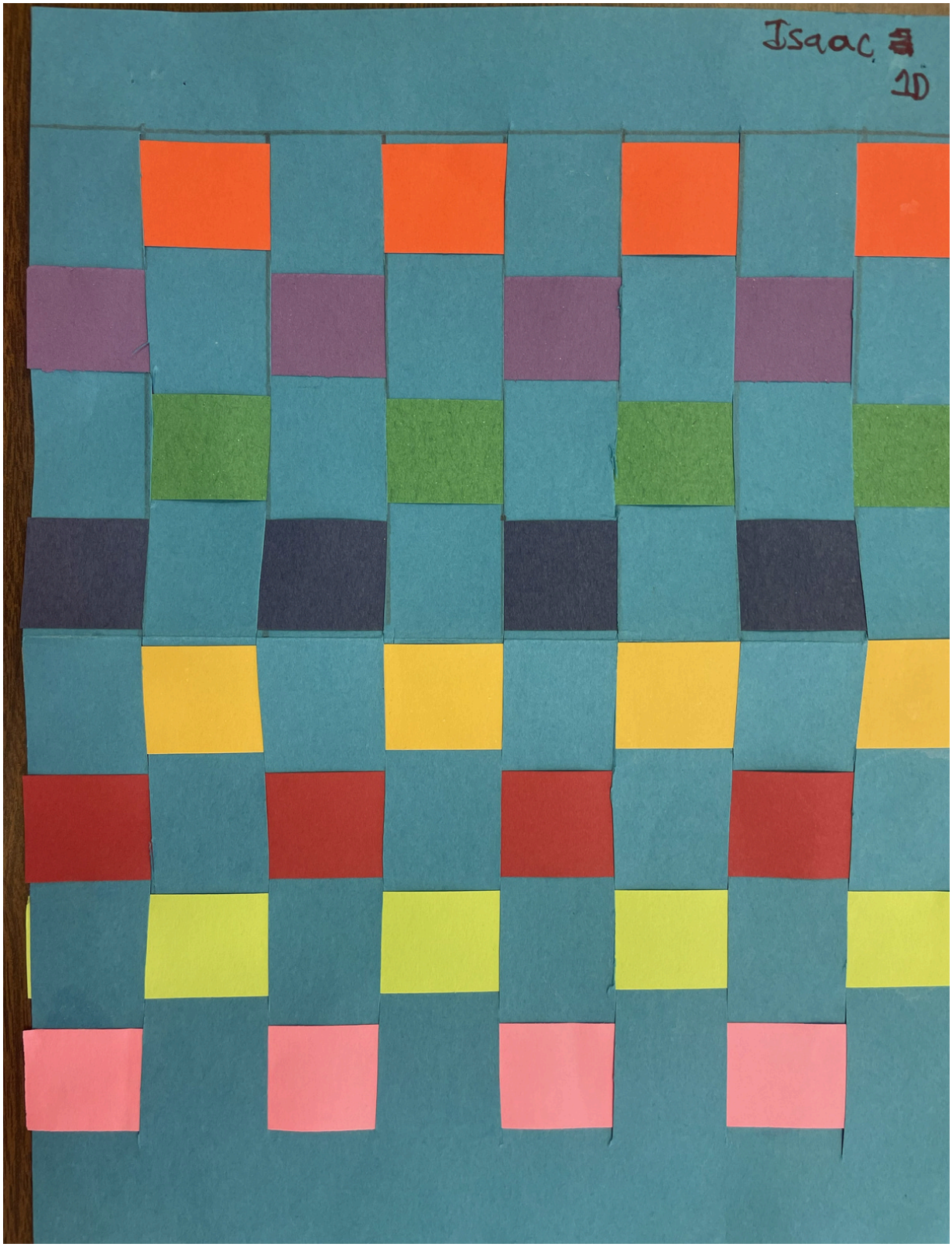


Freedom

first grade



Hadley
first grade



Isaac

first grade



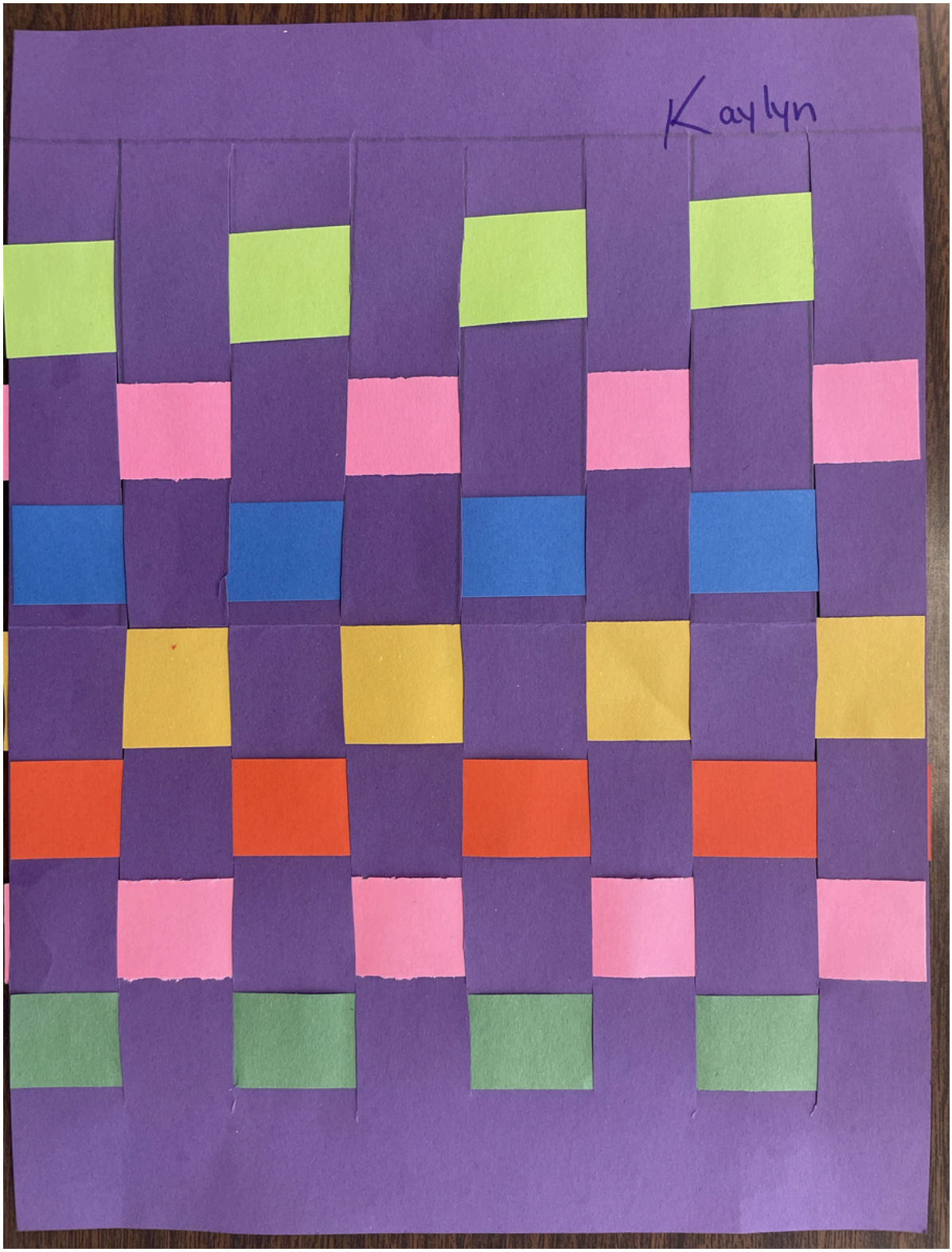
Isabella

first grade

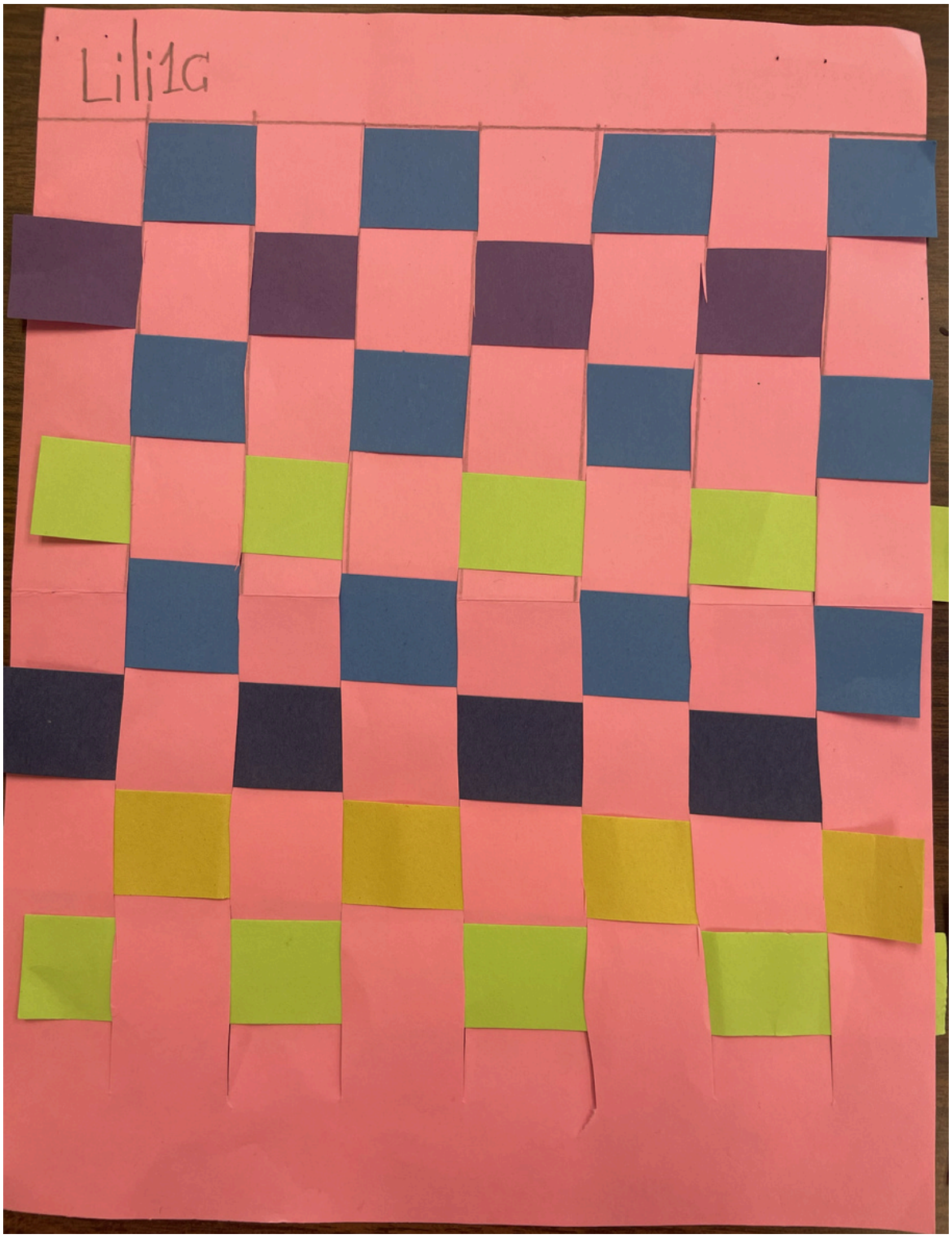


Kash

first grade

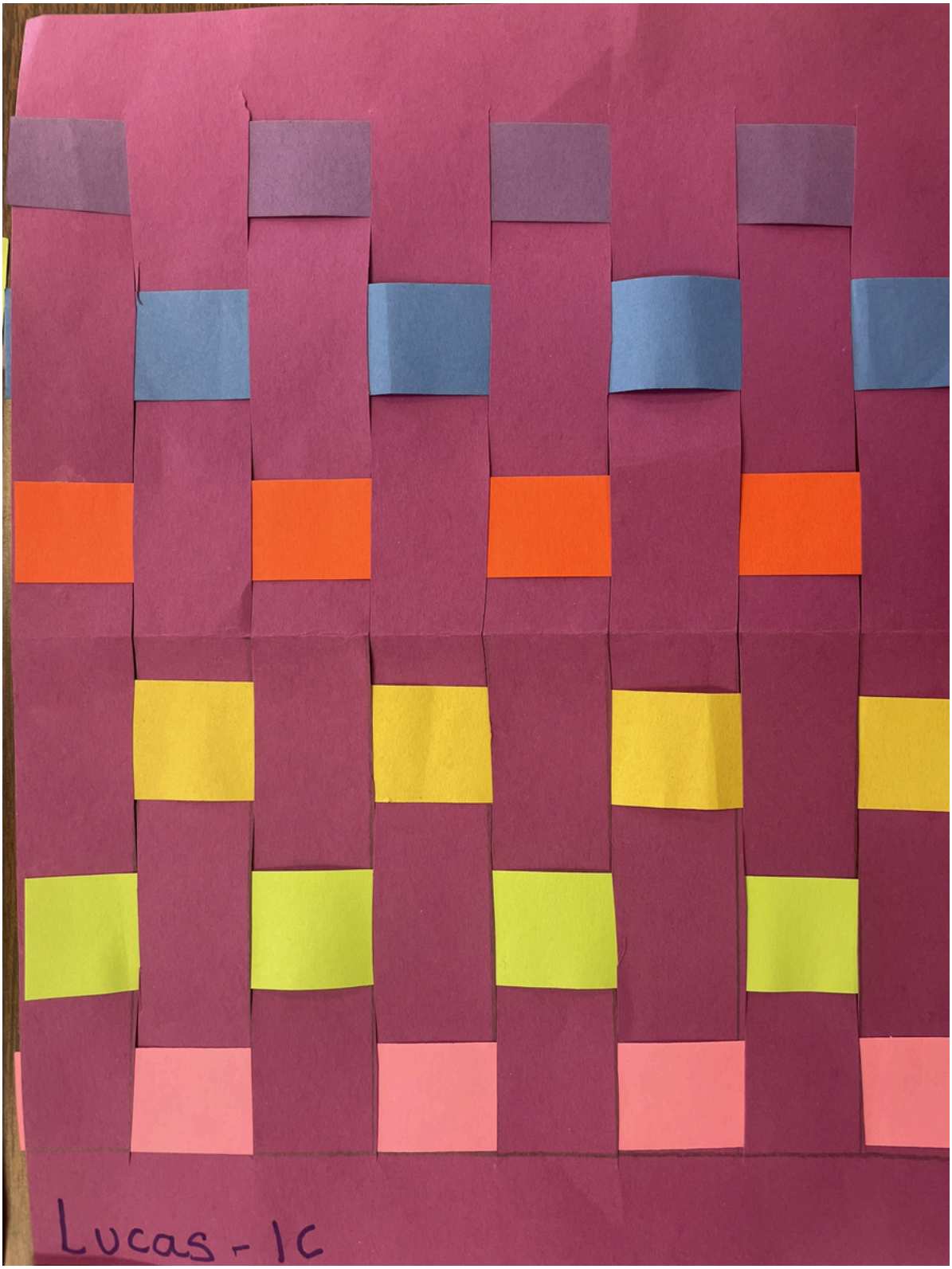


Kaylyn
first grade



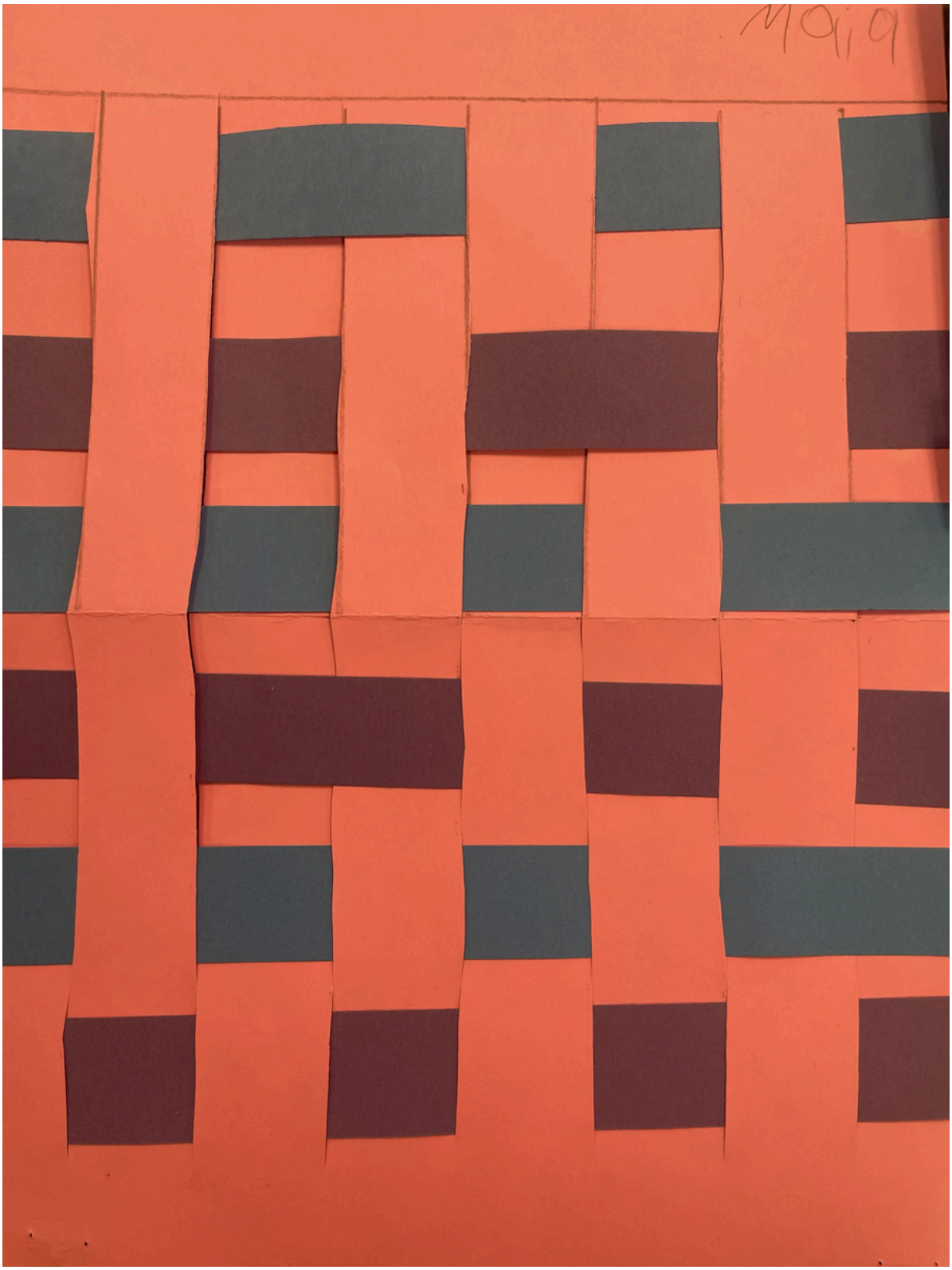
Lili

first grade



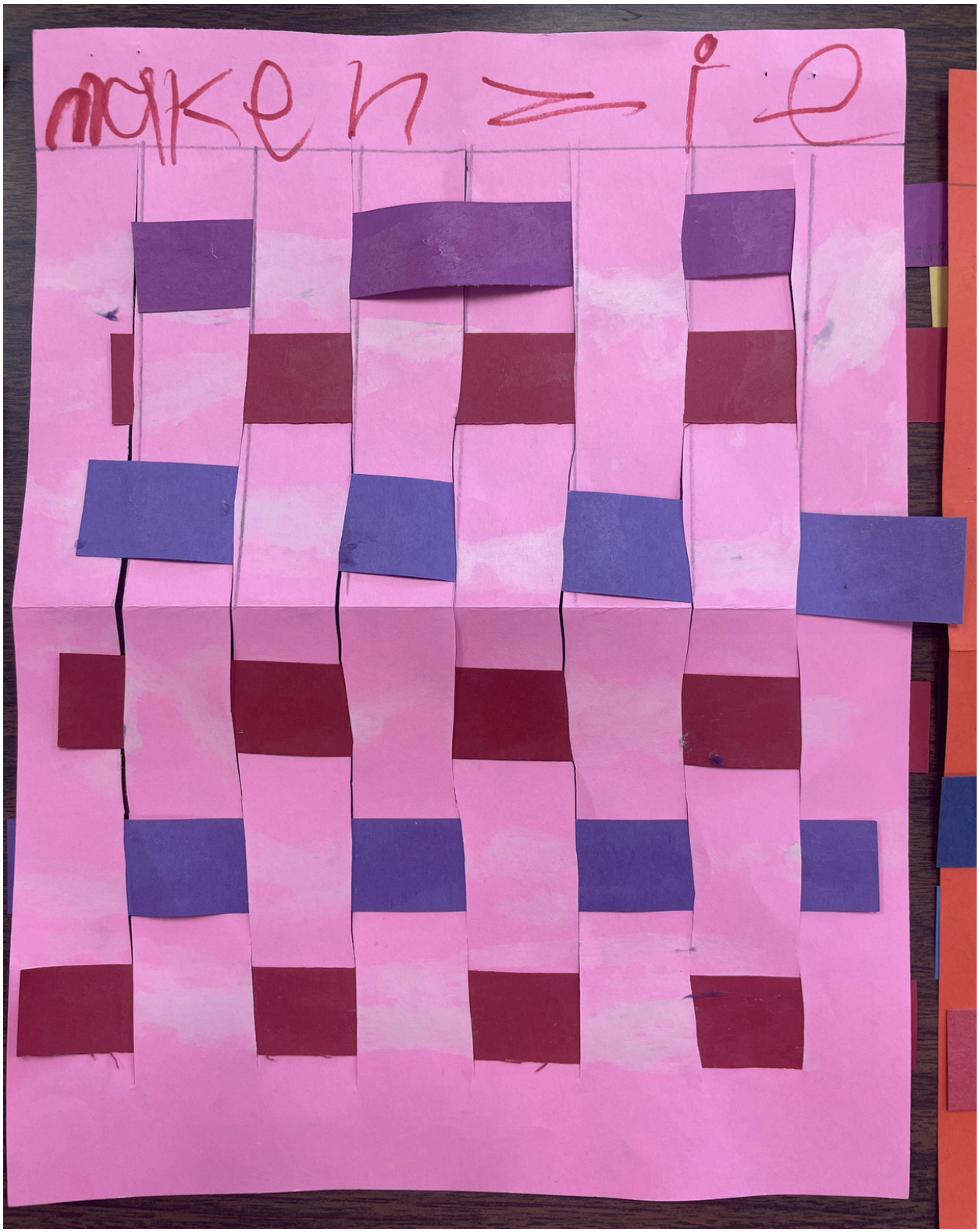
Lucas

first grade



Maia

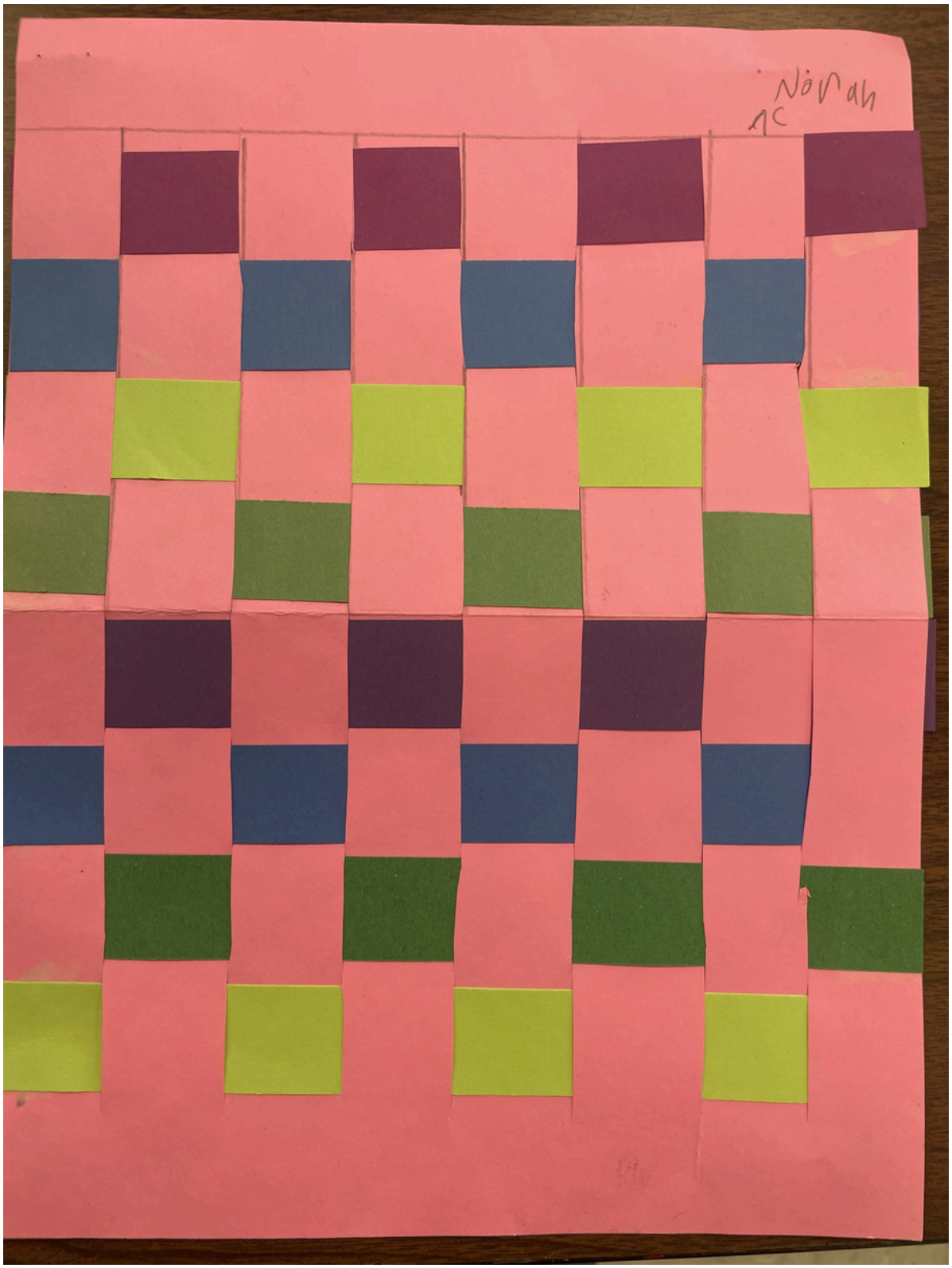
first grade



Makenzie
first grade

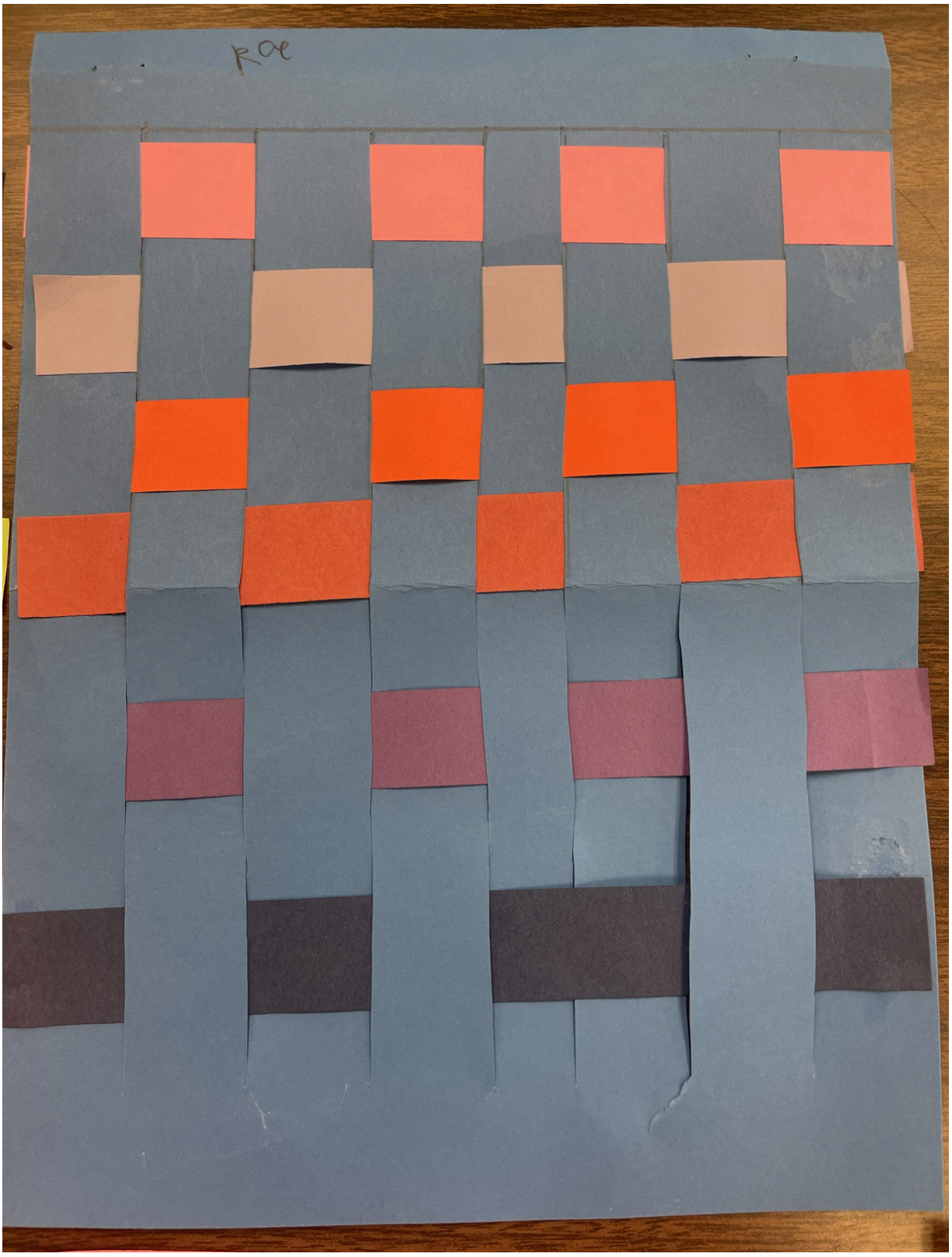


Margaret
first grade



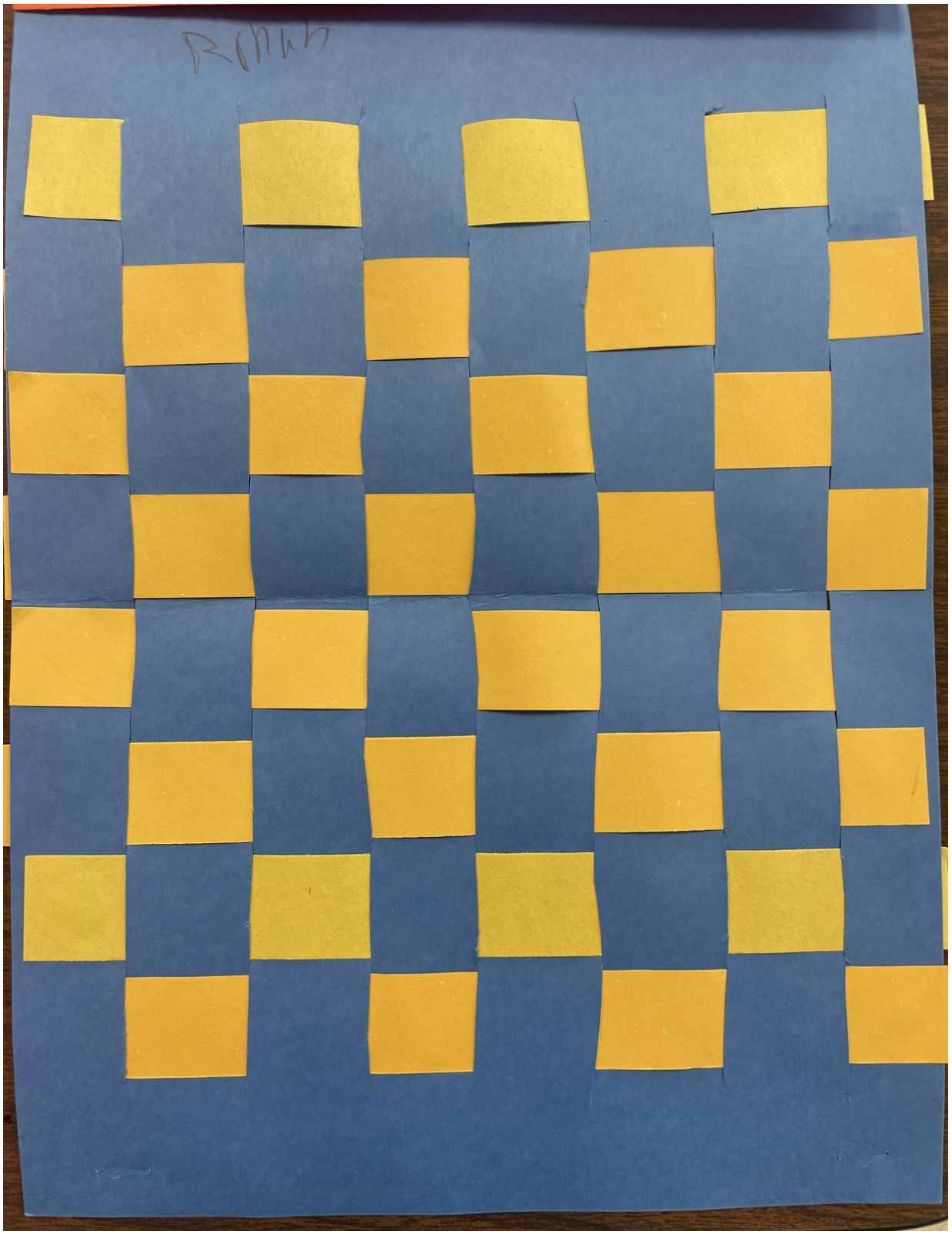
Norah

first grade



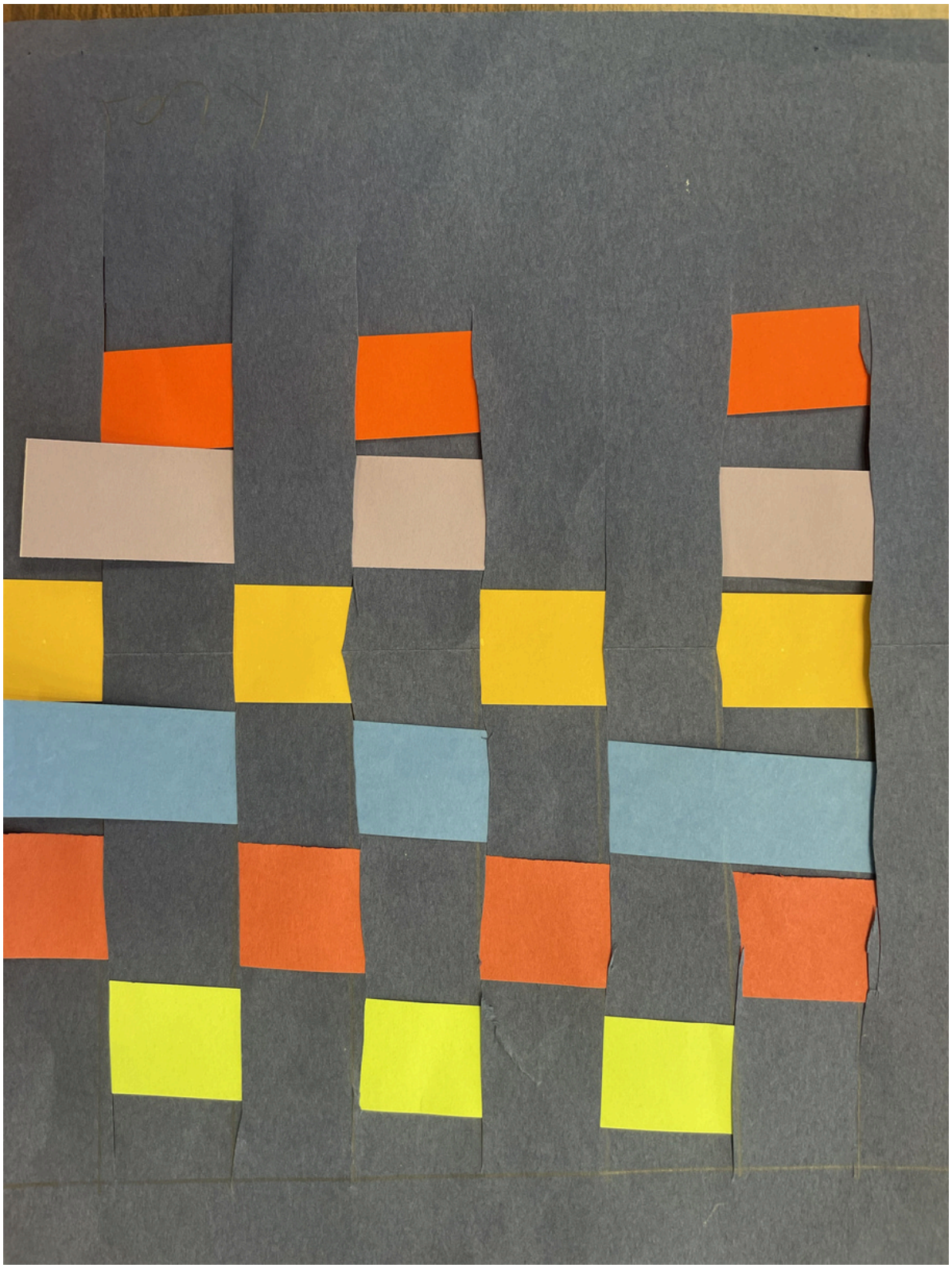
Roe

first grade

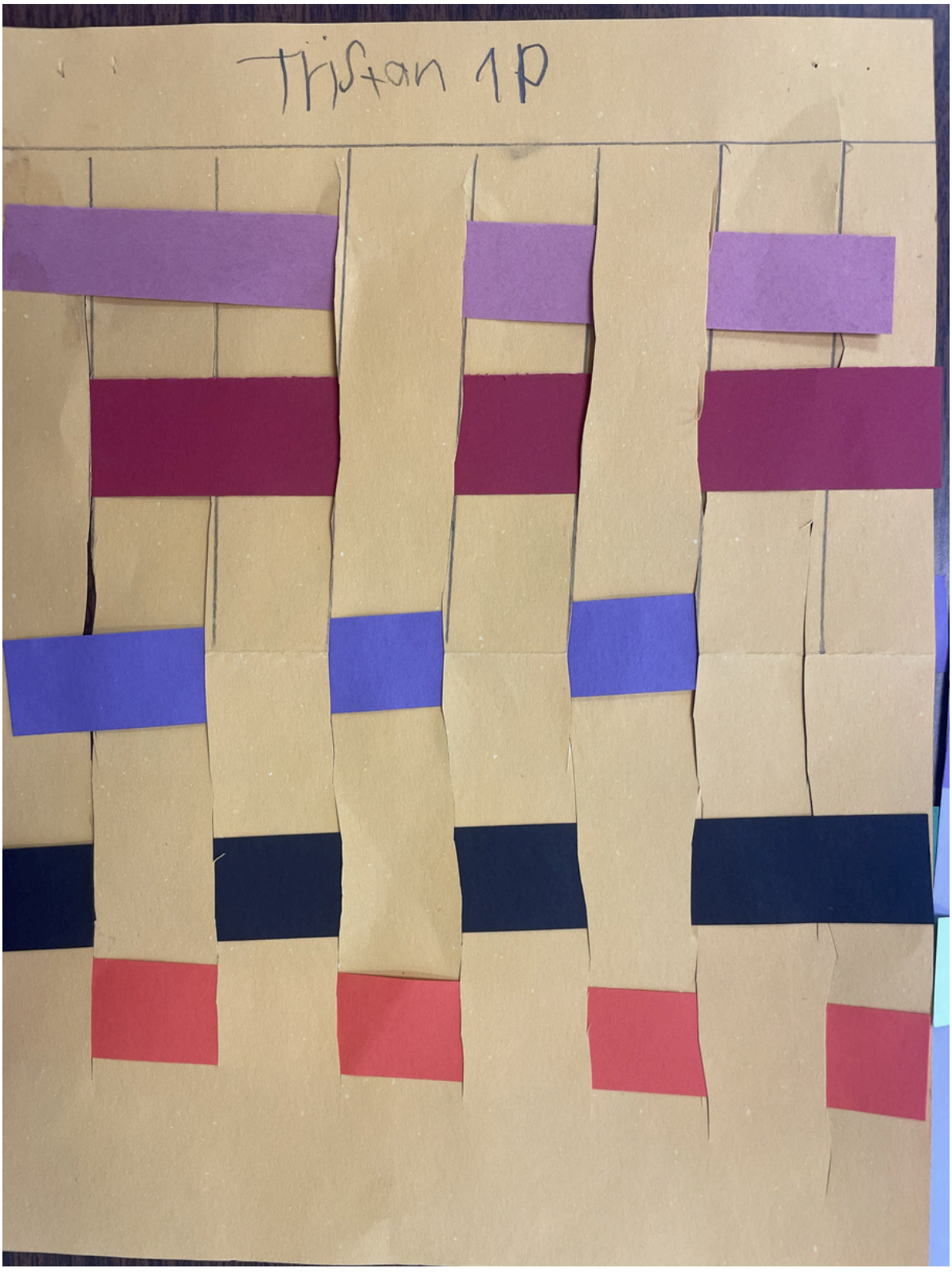


Rohan

first grade

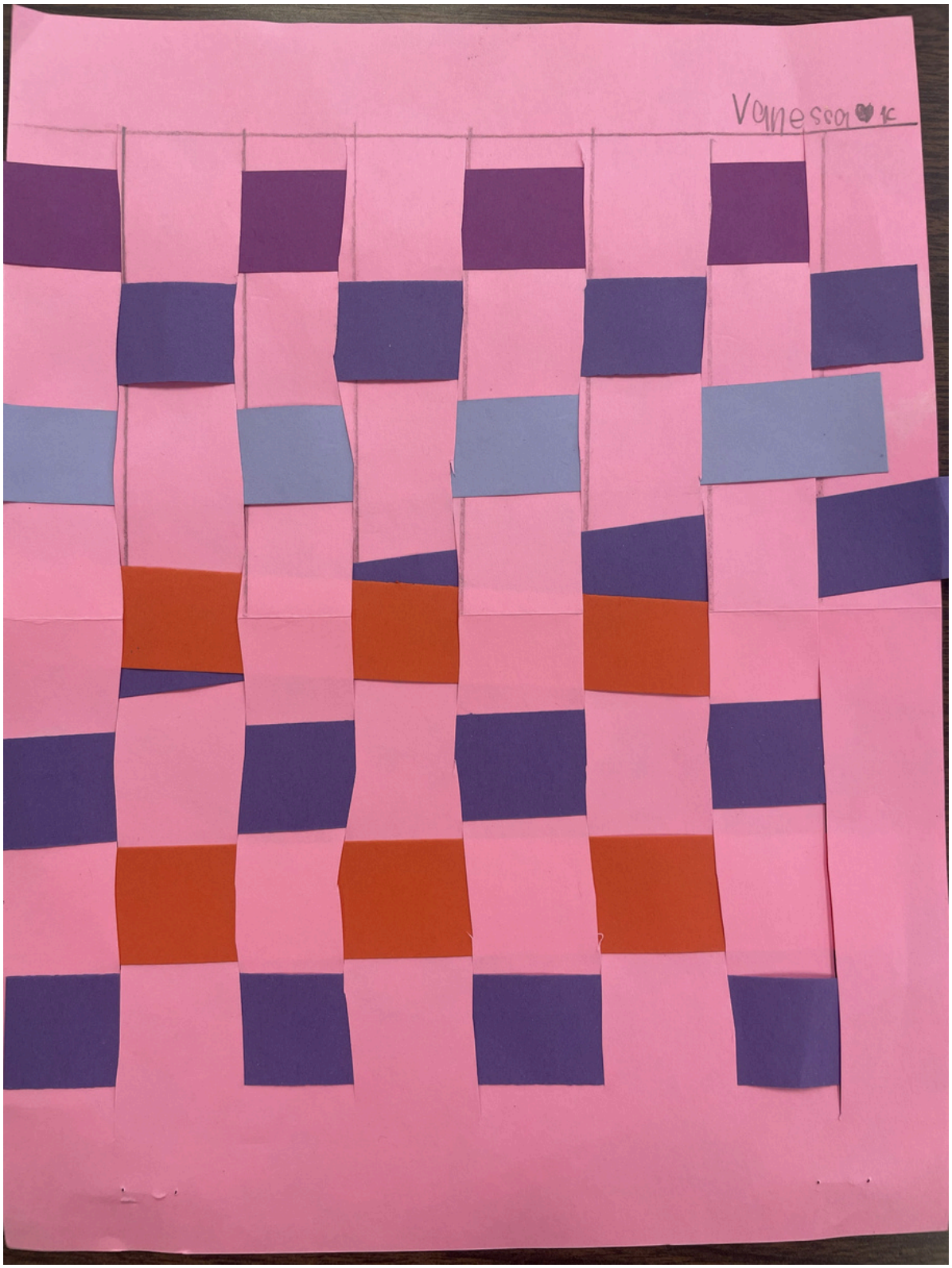


Tony
first grade



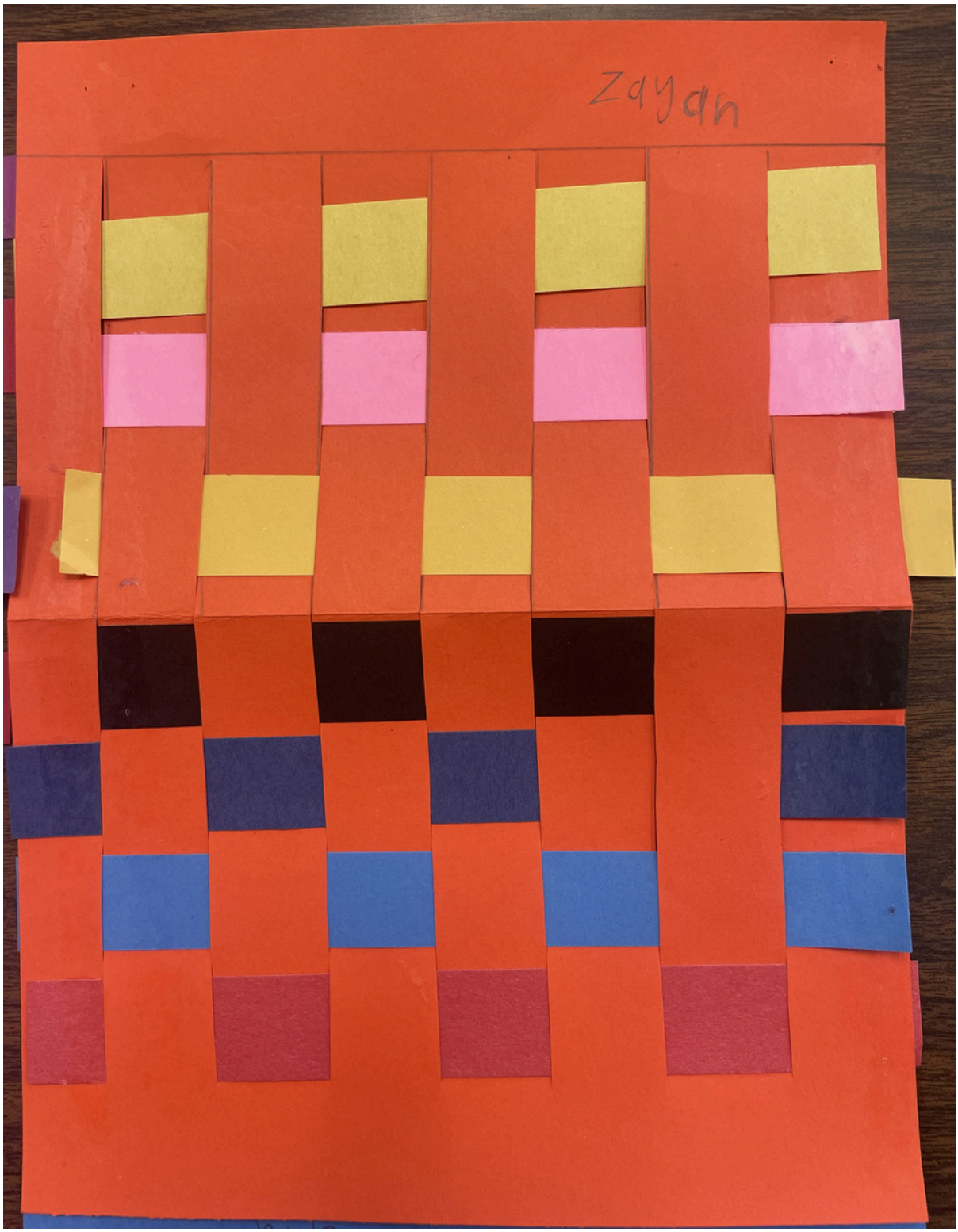
Tristan

first grade



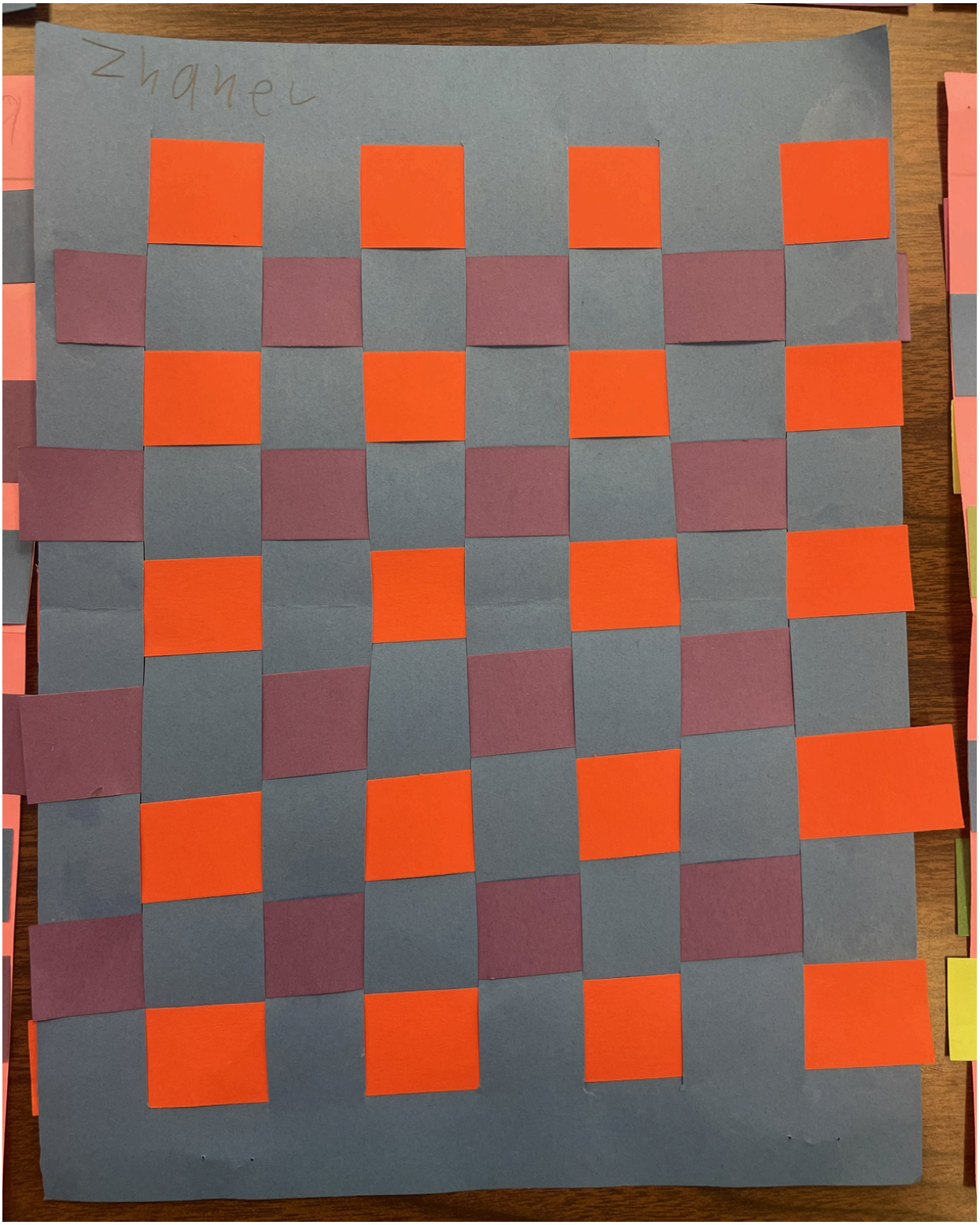
Vanessa

first grade



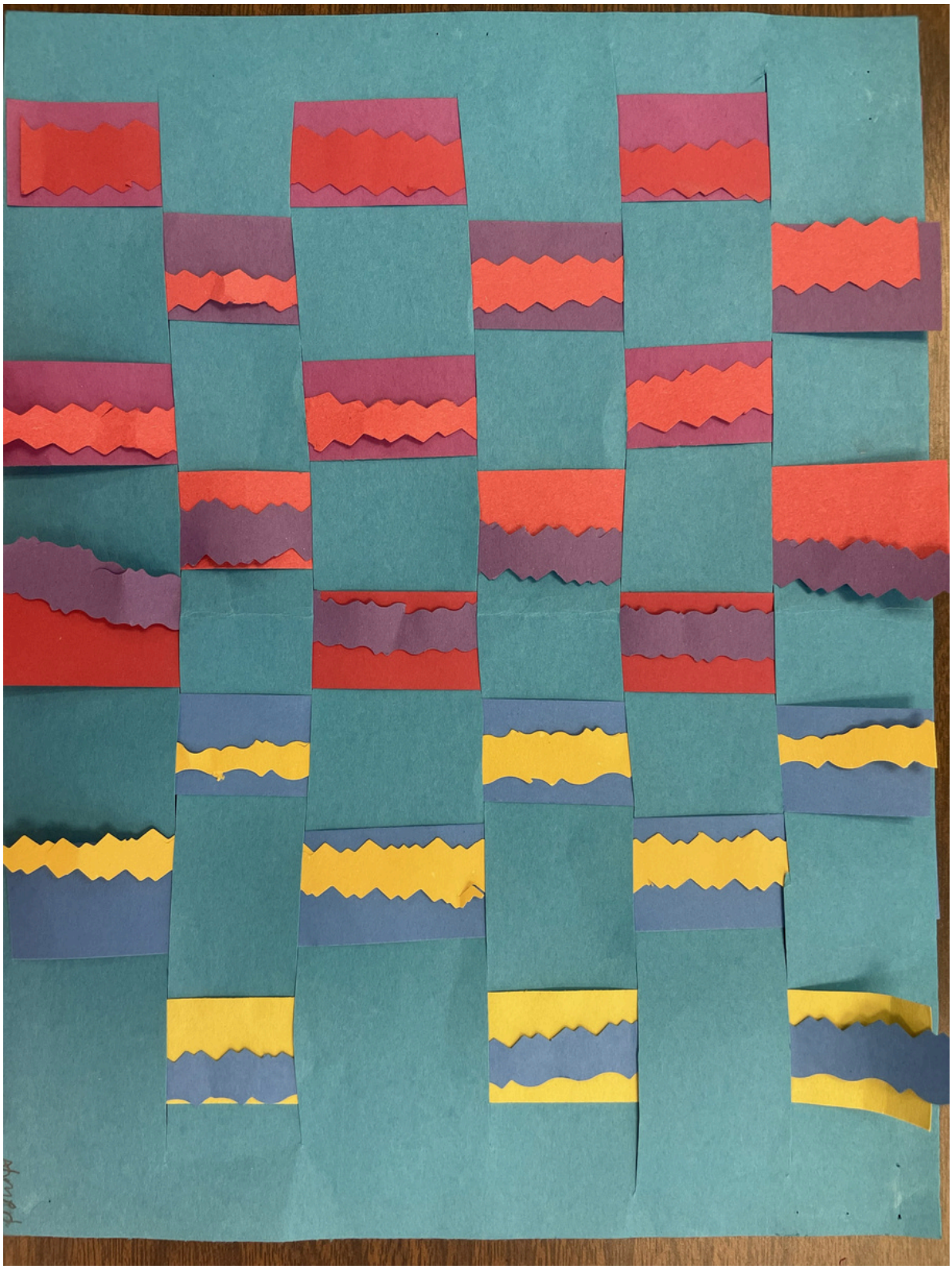
Zayan

first grade



Zhanel

first grade



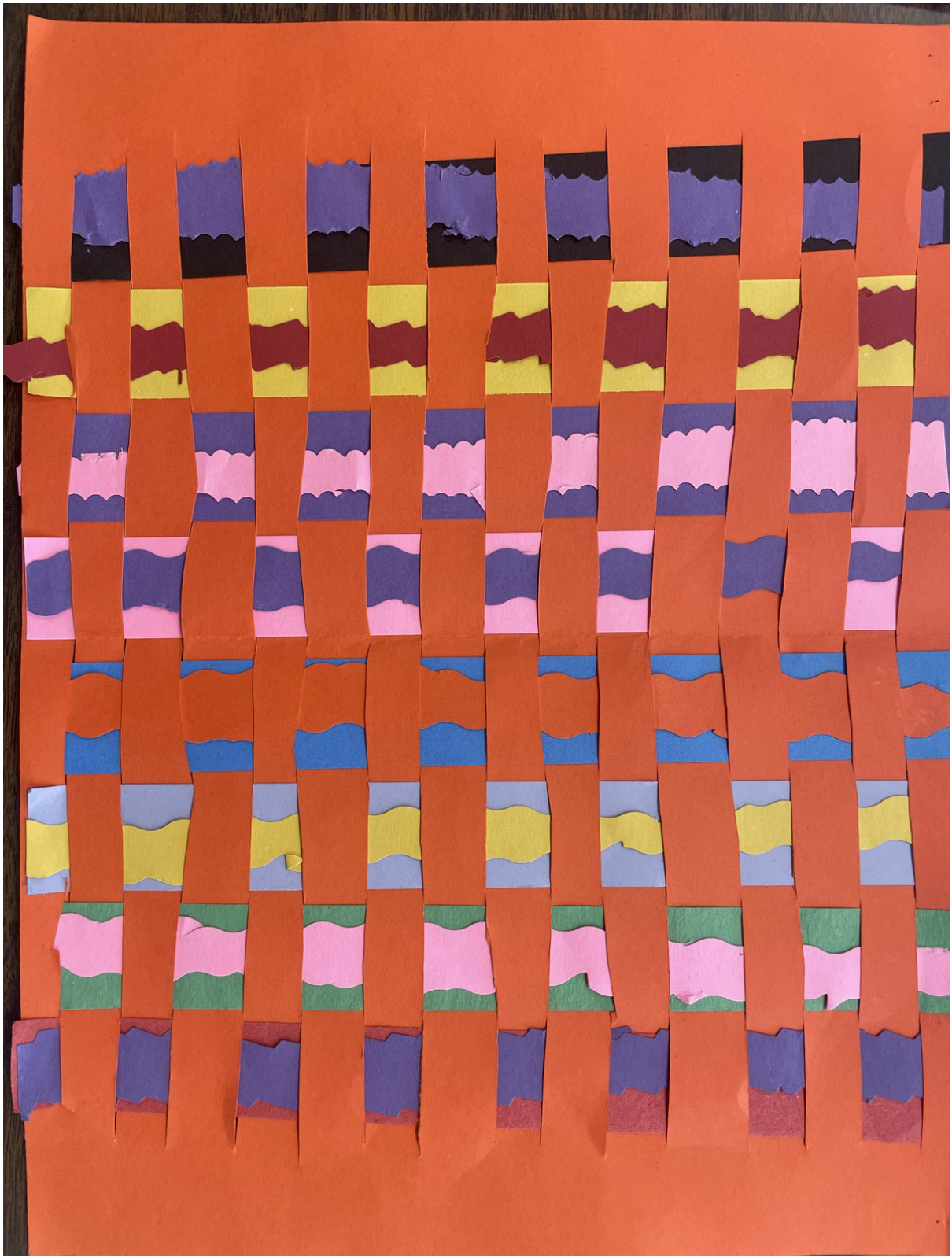
Ahmed

second grade



Athena

second grade

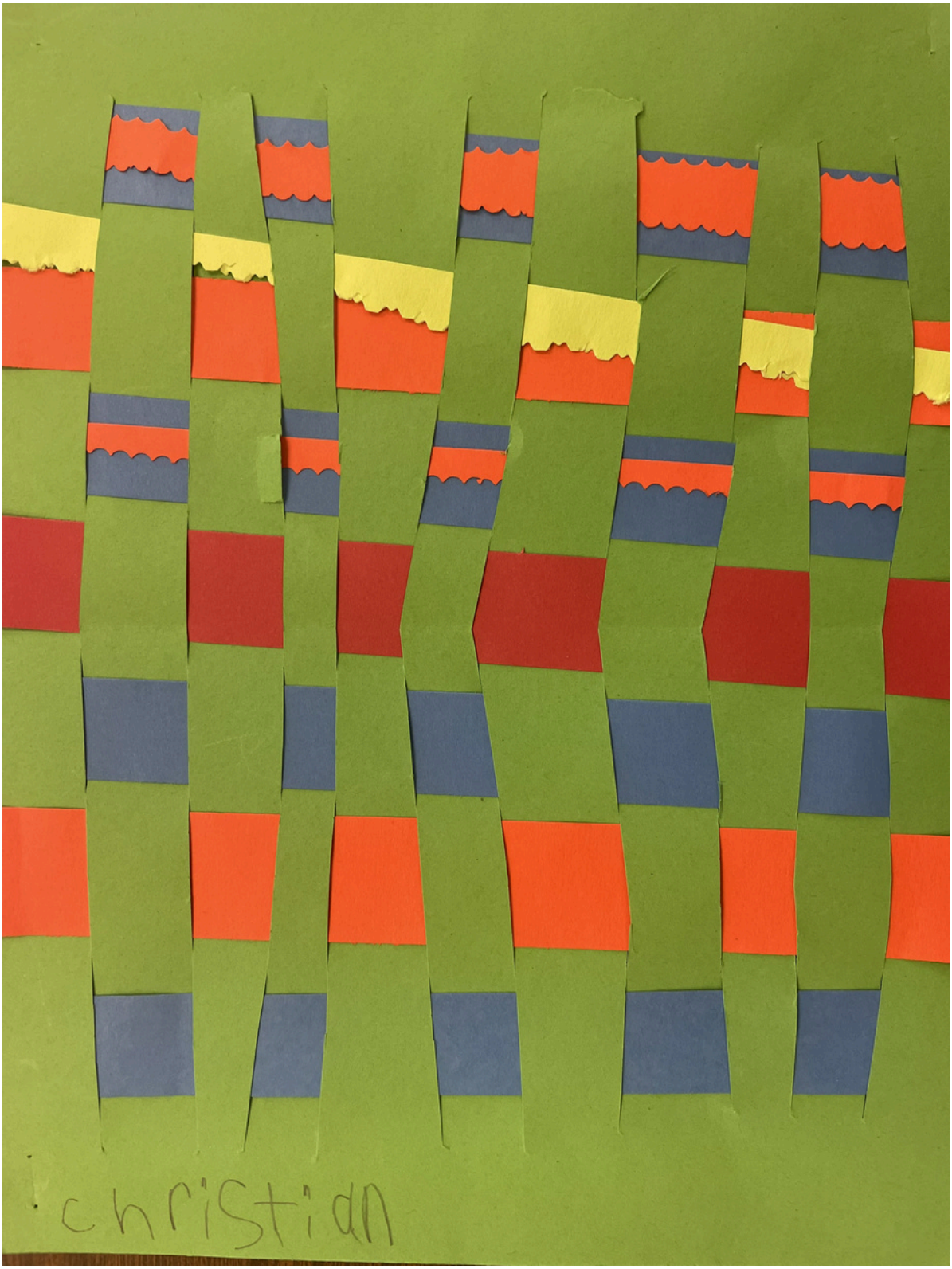


August
second grade



Carter

second grade



Christian
second grade

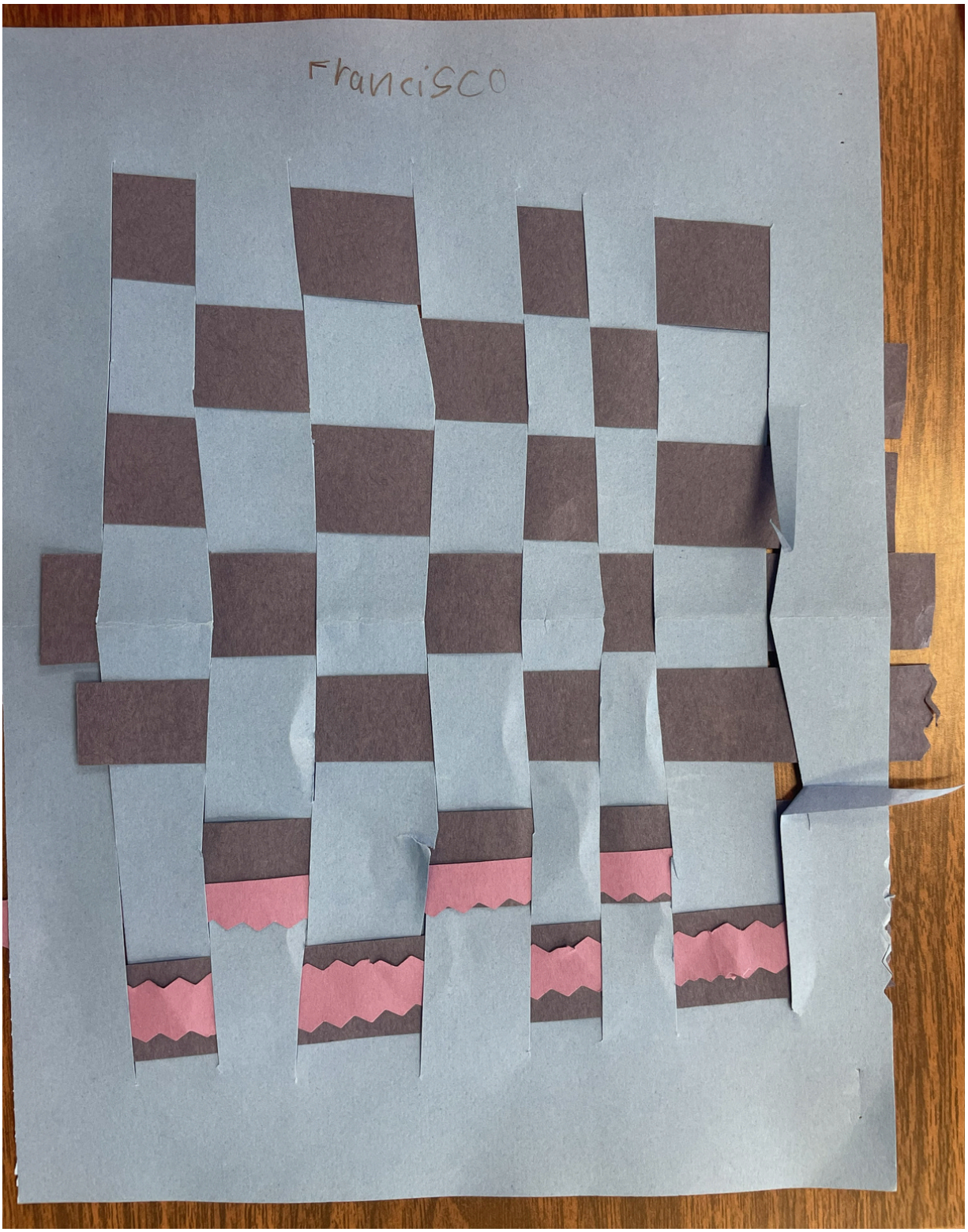


Darshik
second grade



Desiree

second grade



Fransisco
second grade

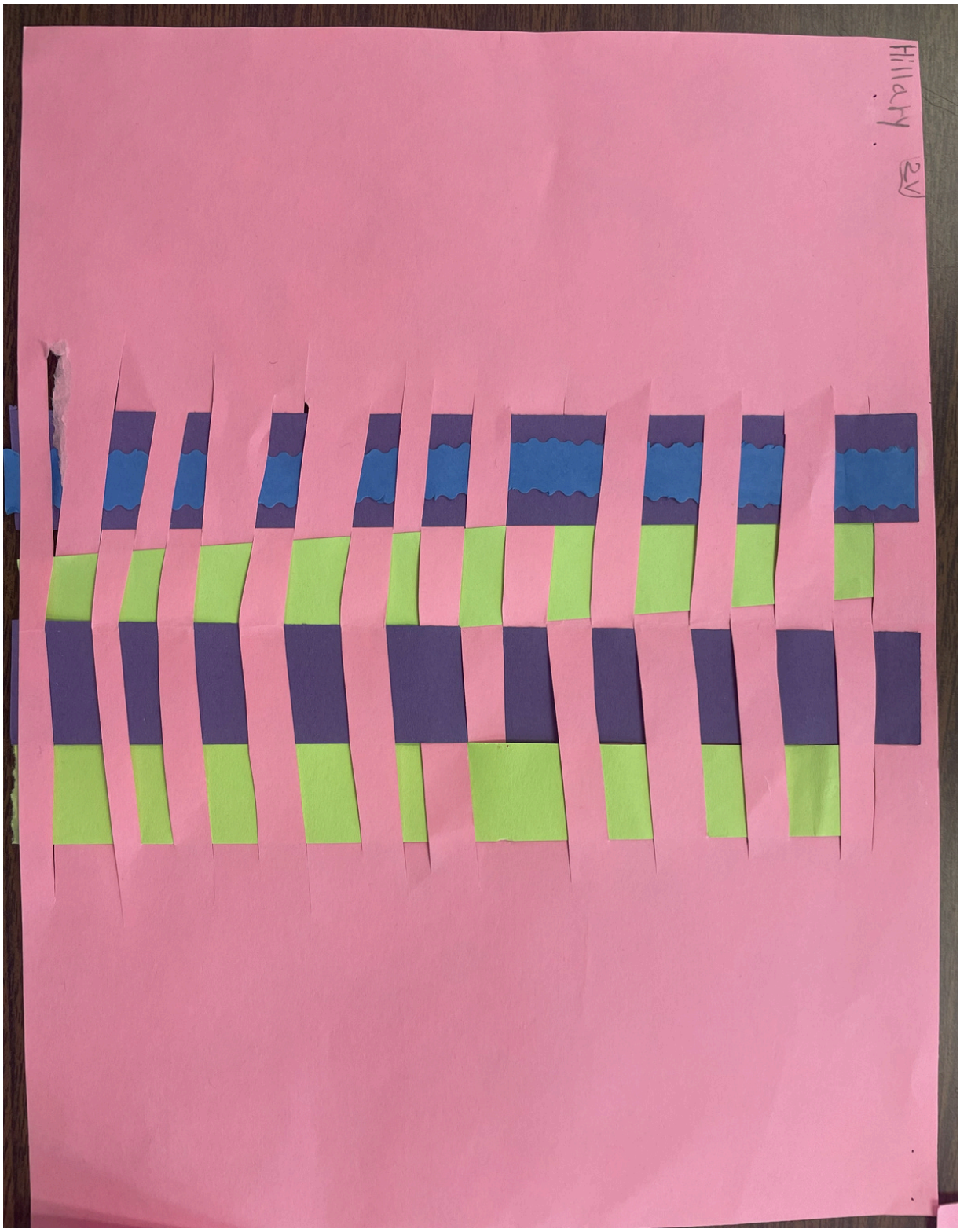


Gunner

second grade



Heathcliff
second grade



Hillary
second grade



James

second grade



Jaxxon

second grade



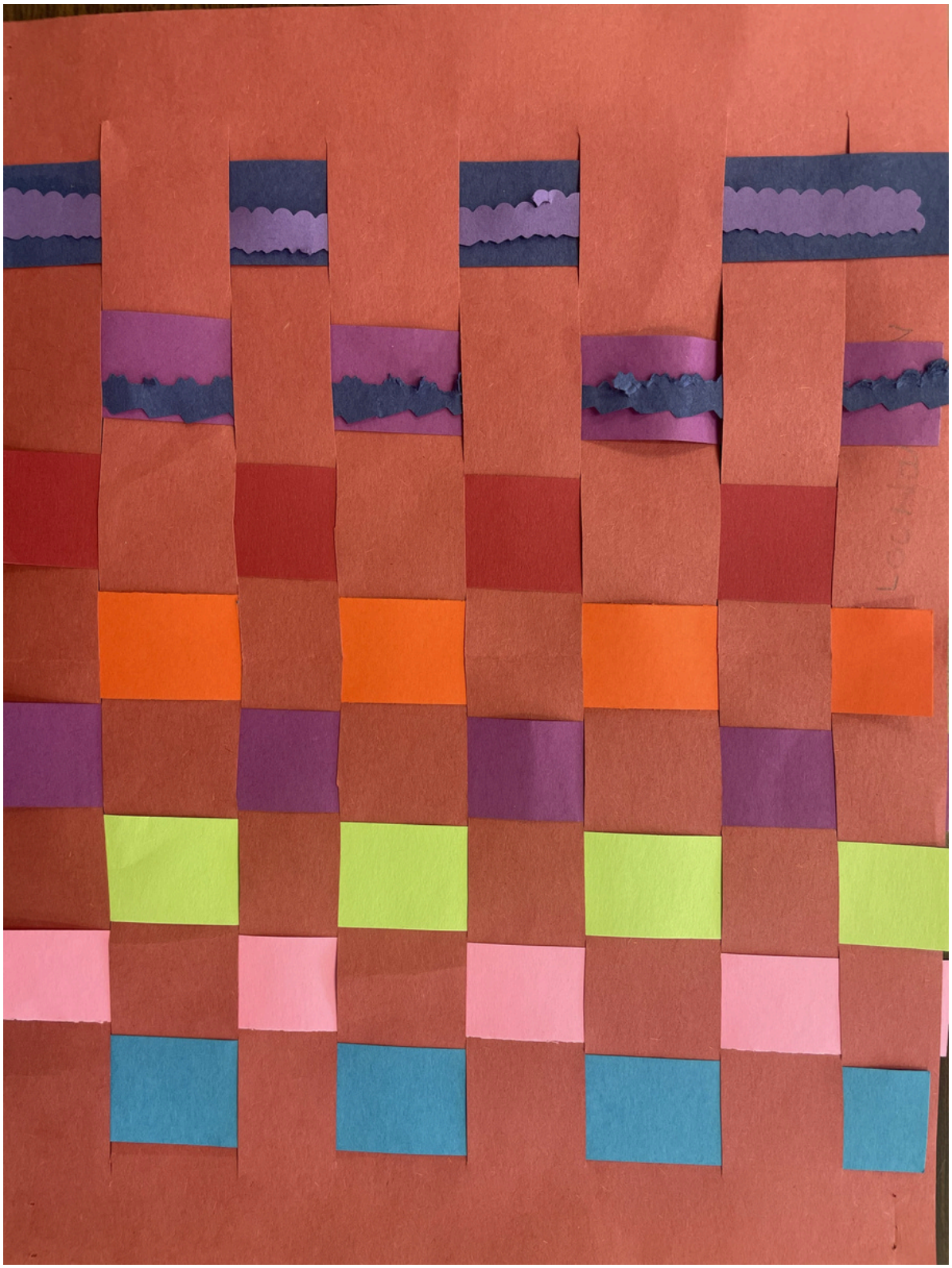
Kimberly
second grade



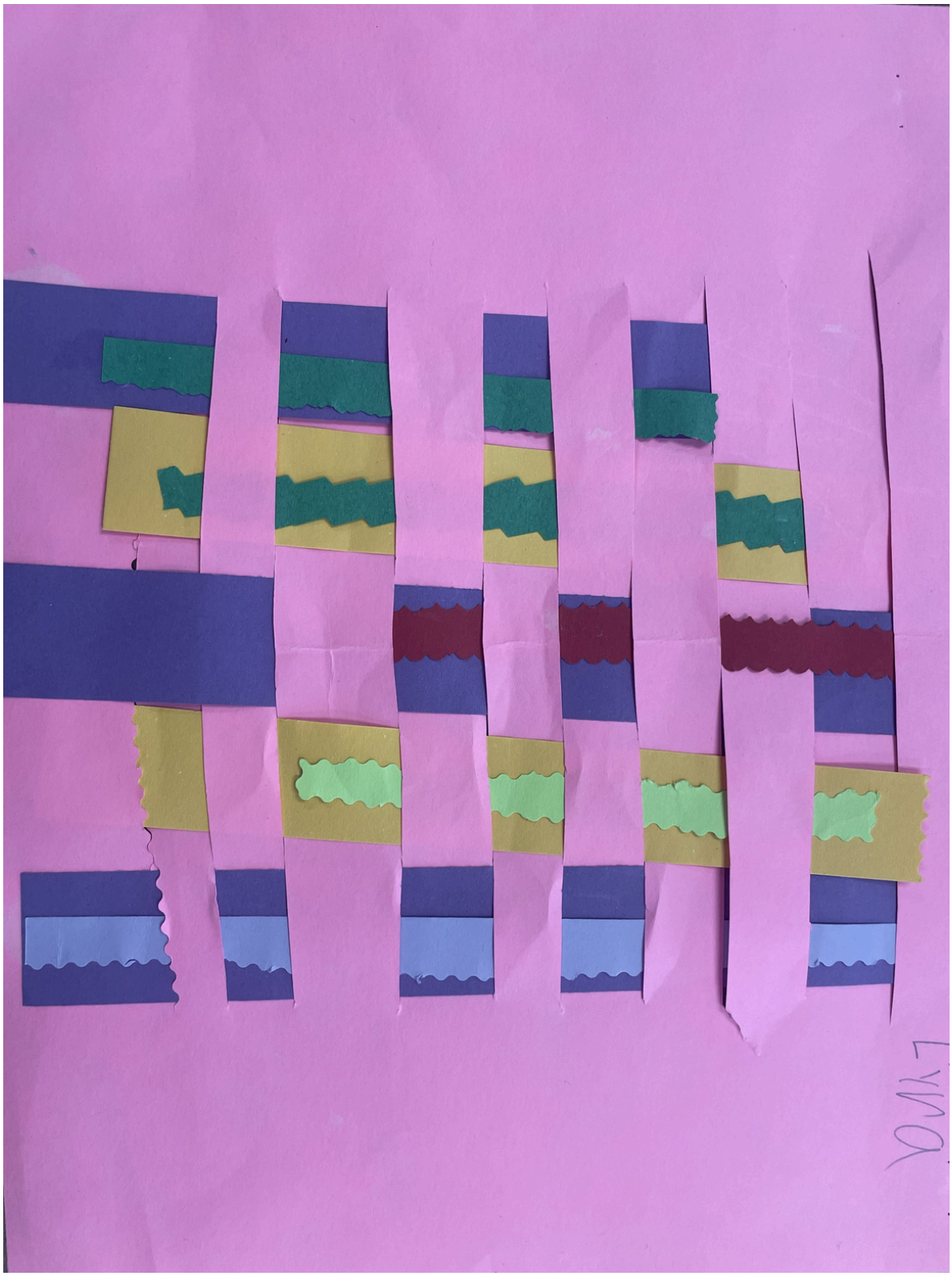
Kinleigh
second grade



Kiya
second grade



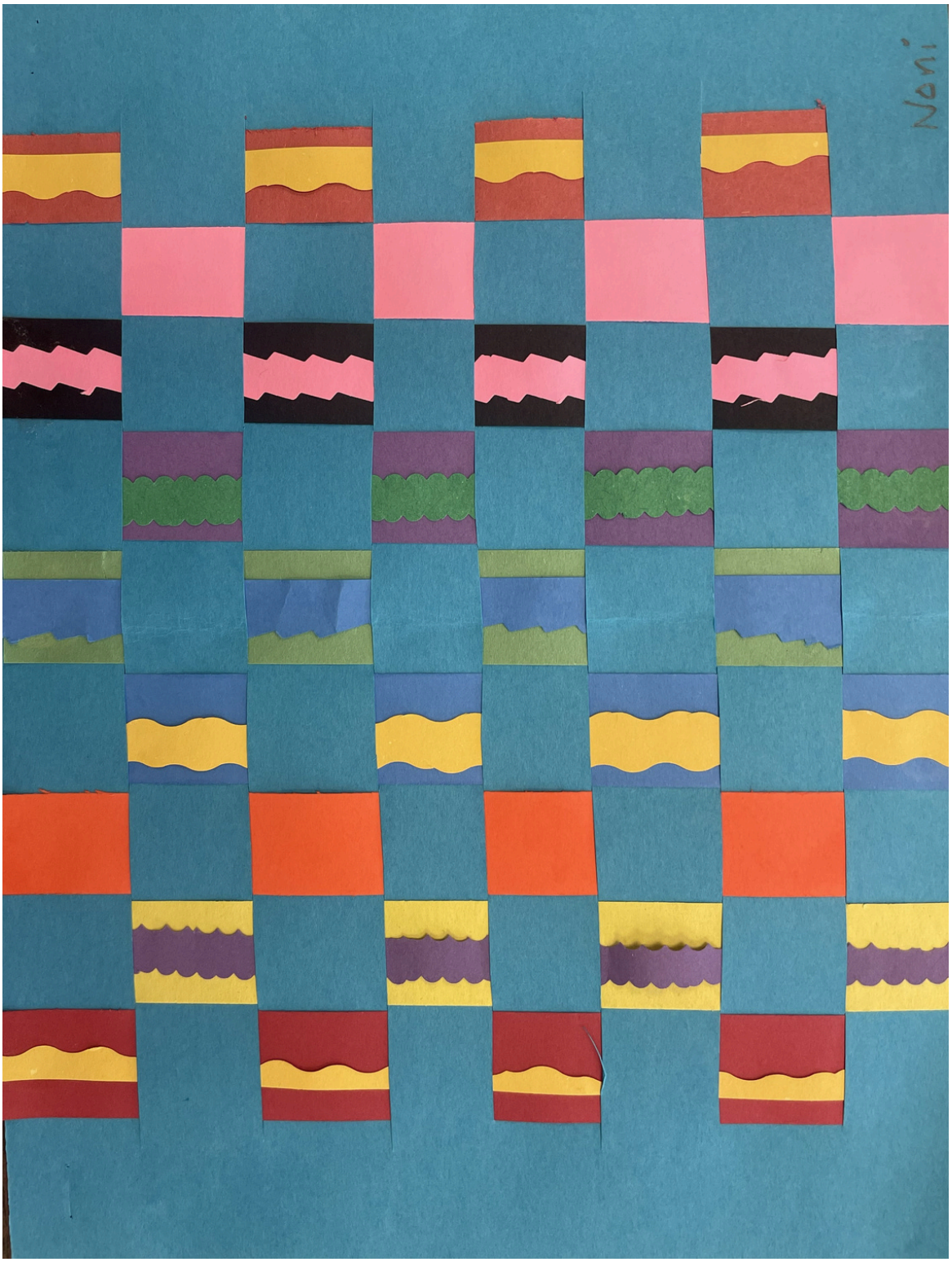
Lochlan
second grade



Lyra
second grade



Madison
second grade

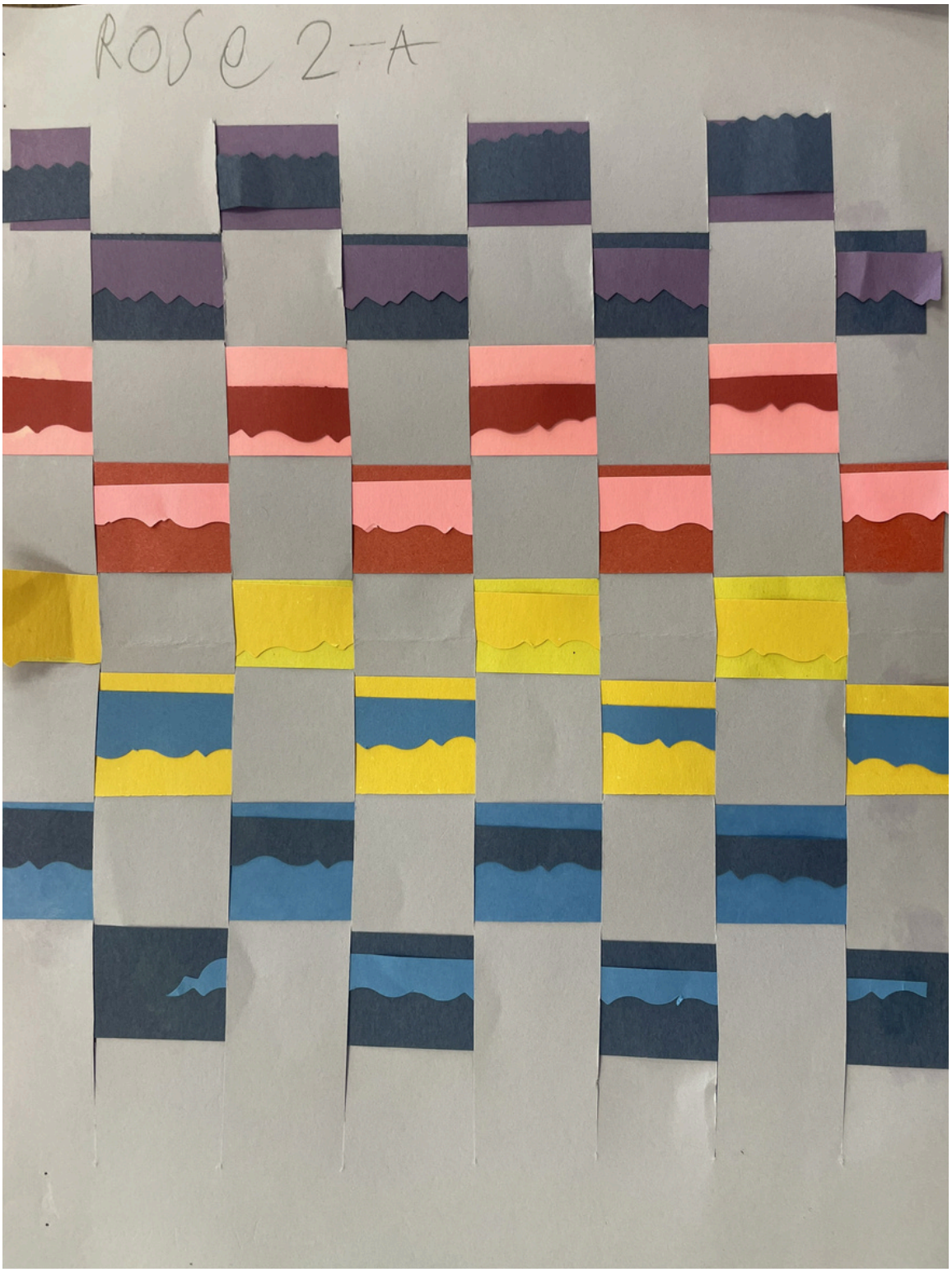


Noni

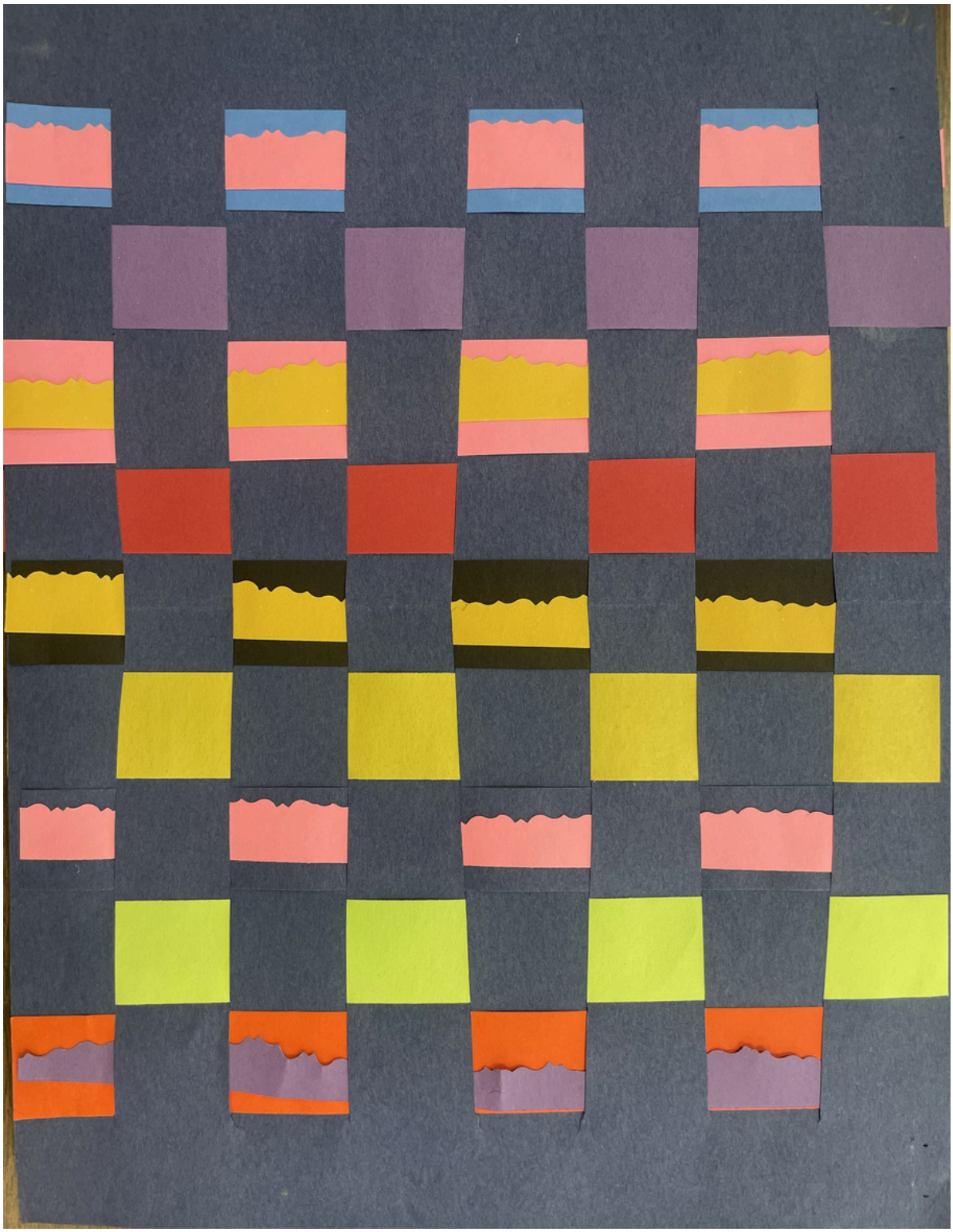
second grade



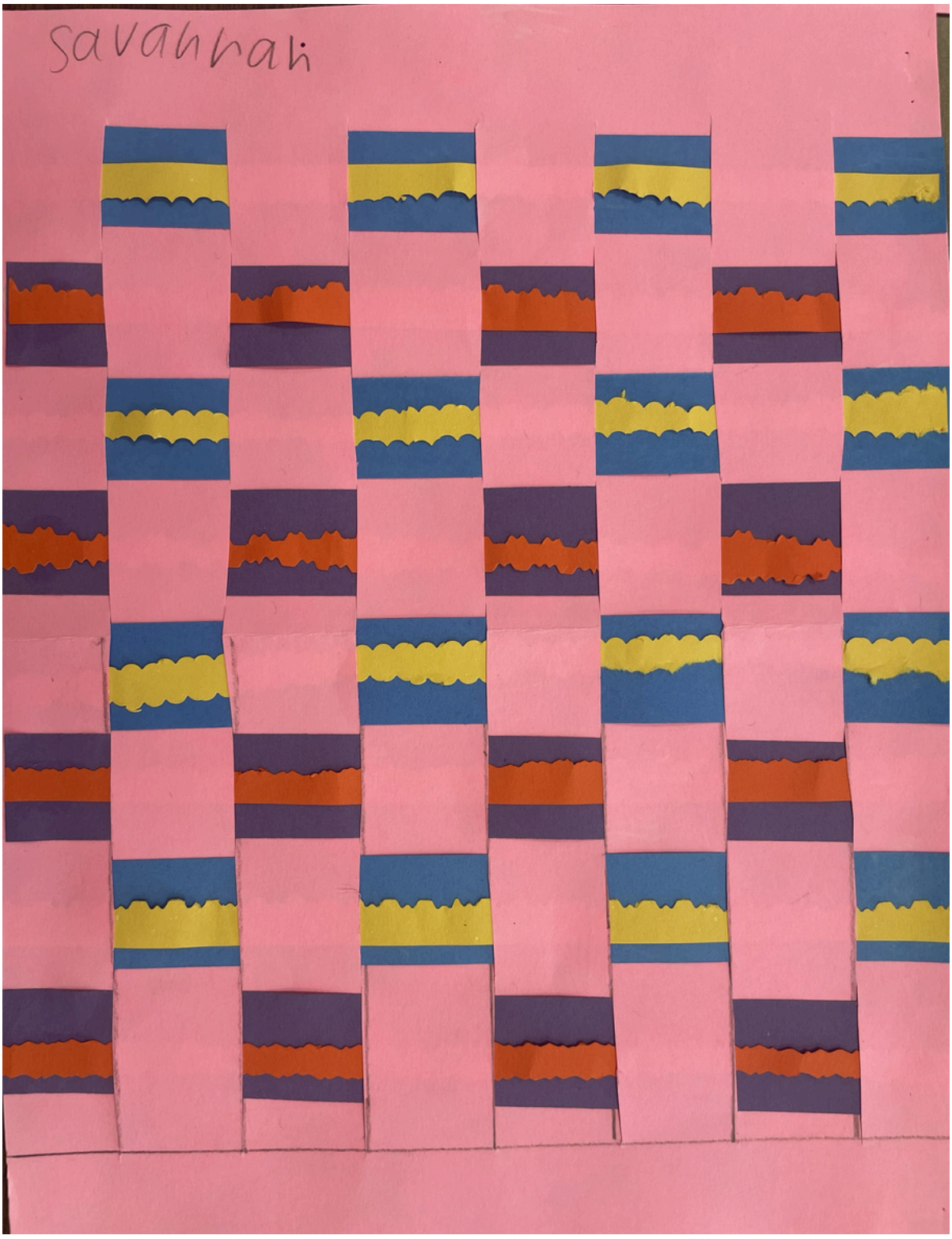
Rosabel
second grade



Rose
second grade

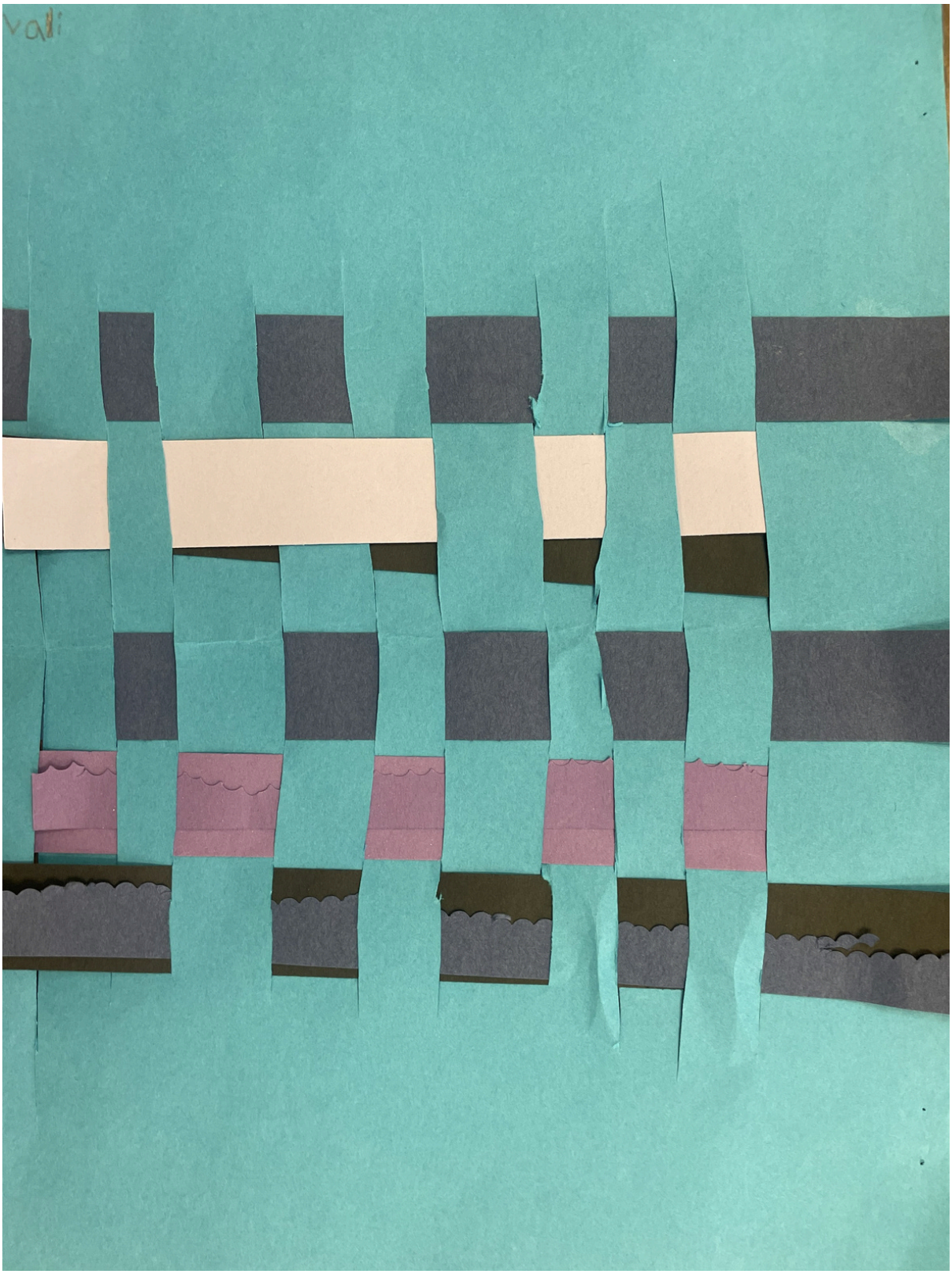


Royal
second grade



Savannah

second grade



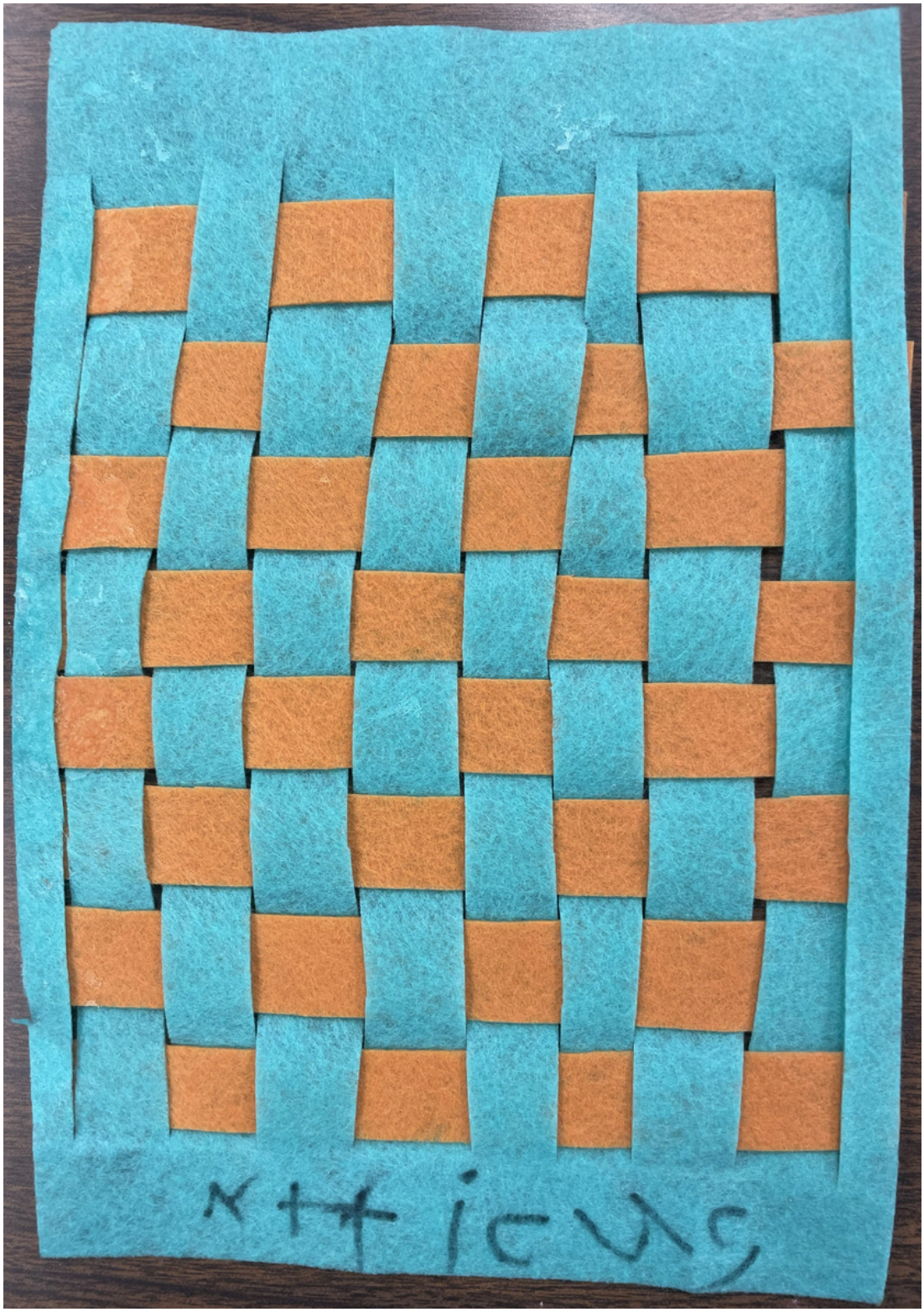
Vali

second grade

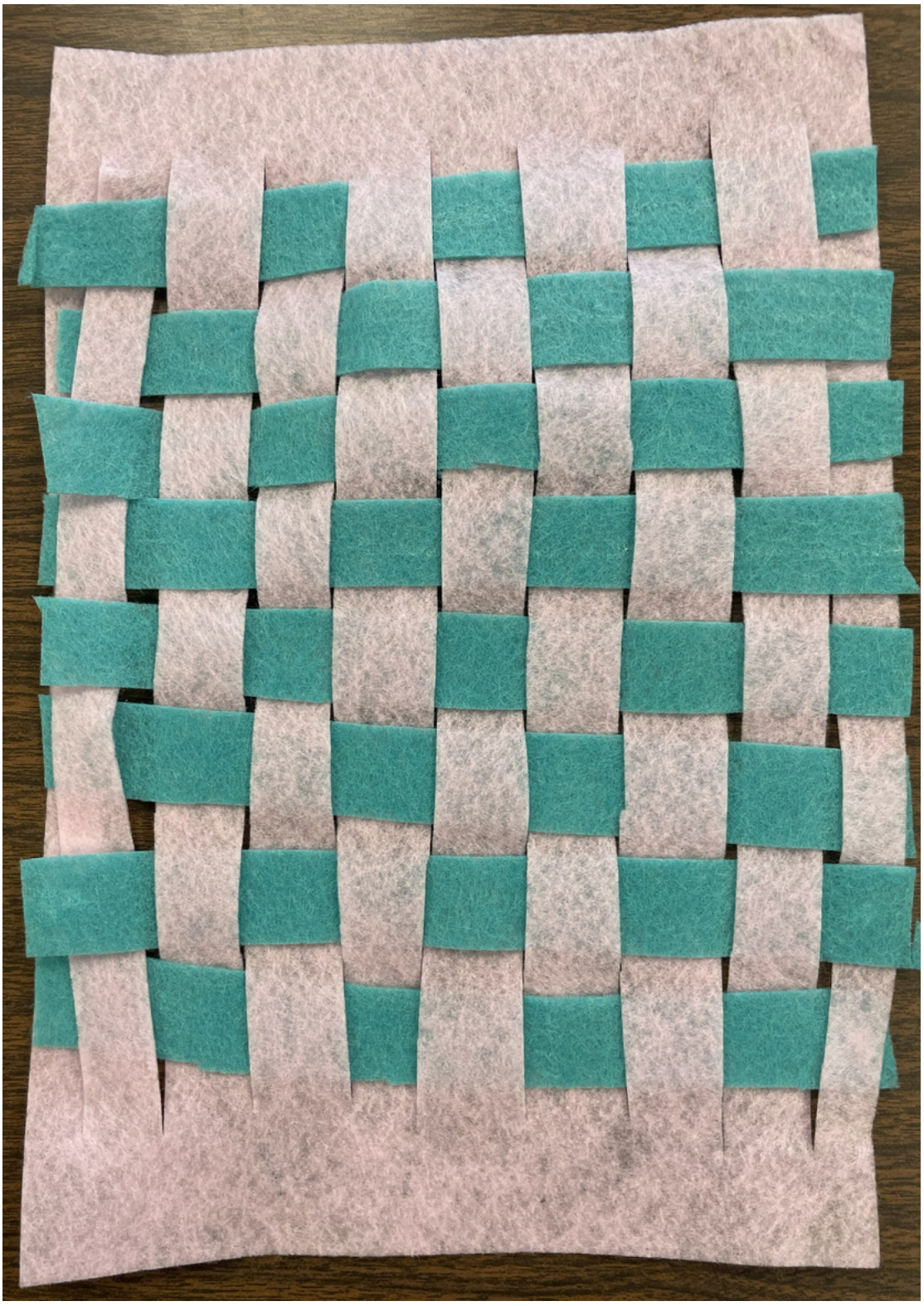


Zoe

second grade

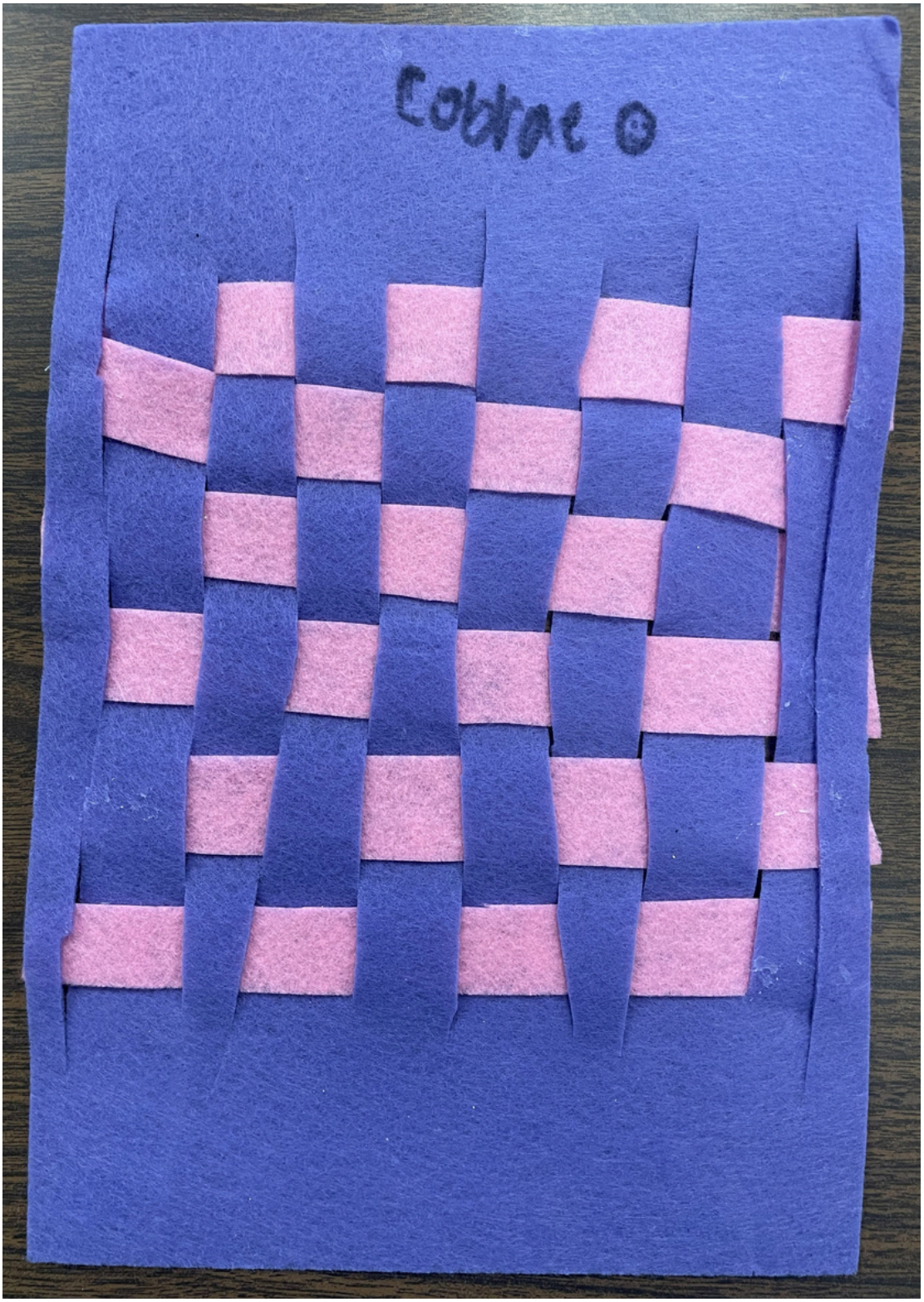


Atticus
third grade



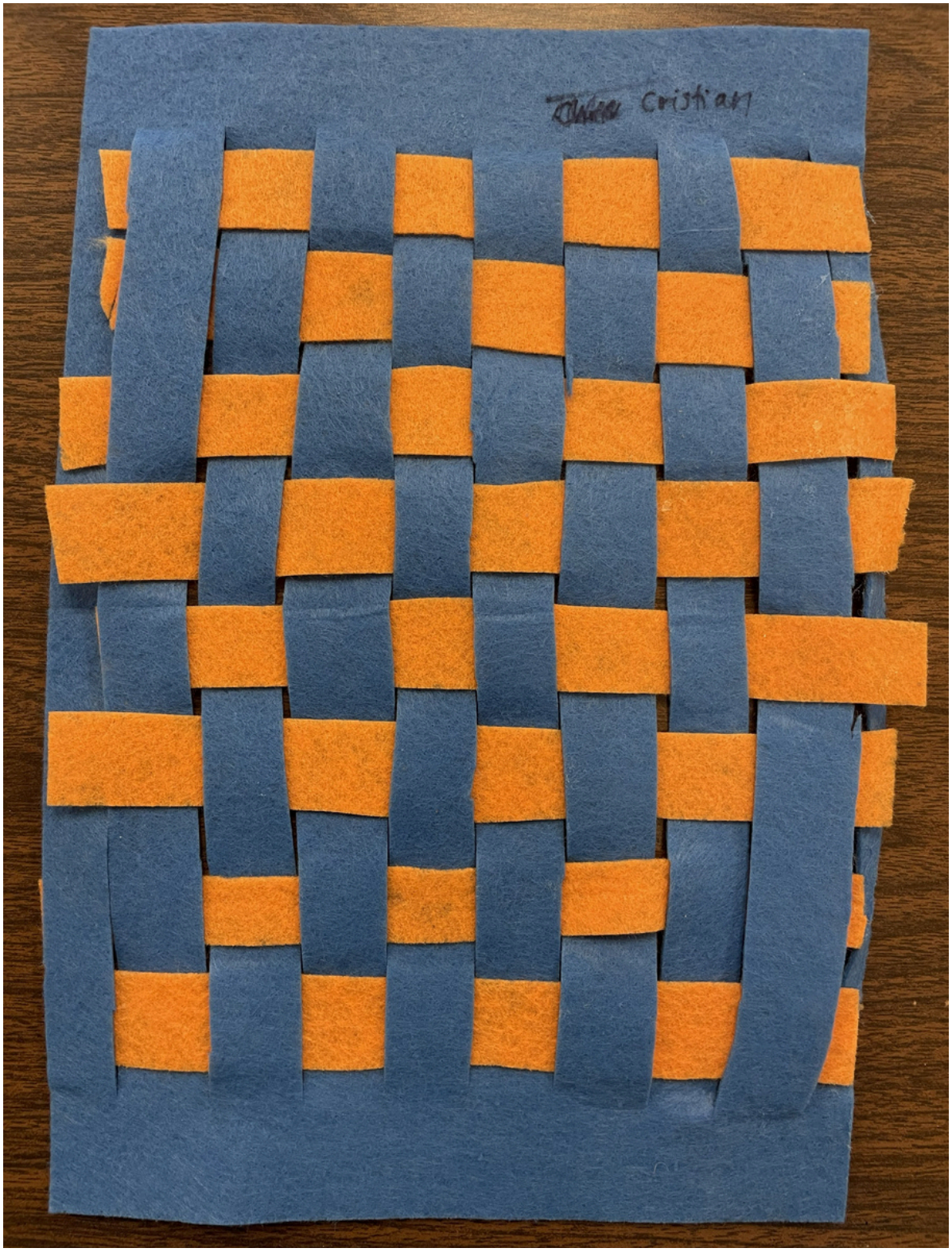
Baillah

third grade



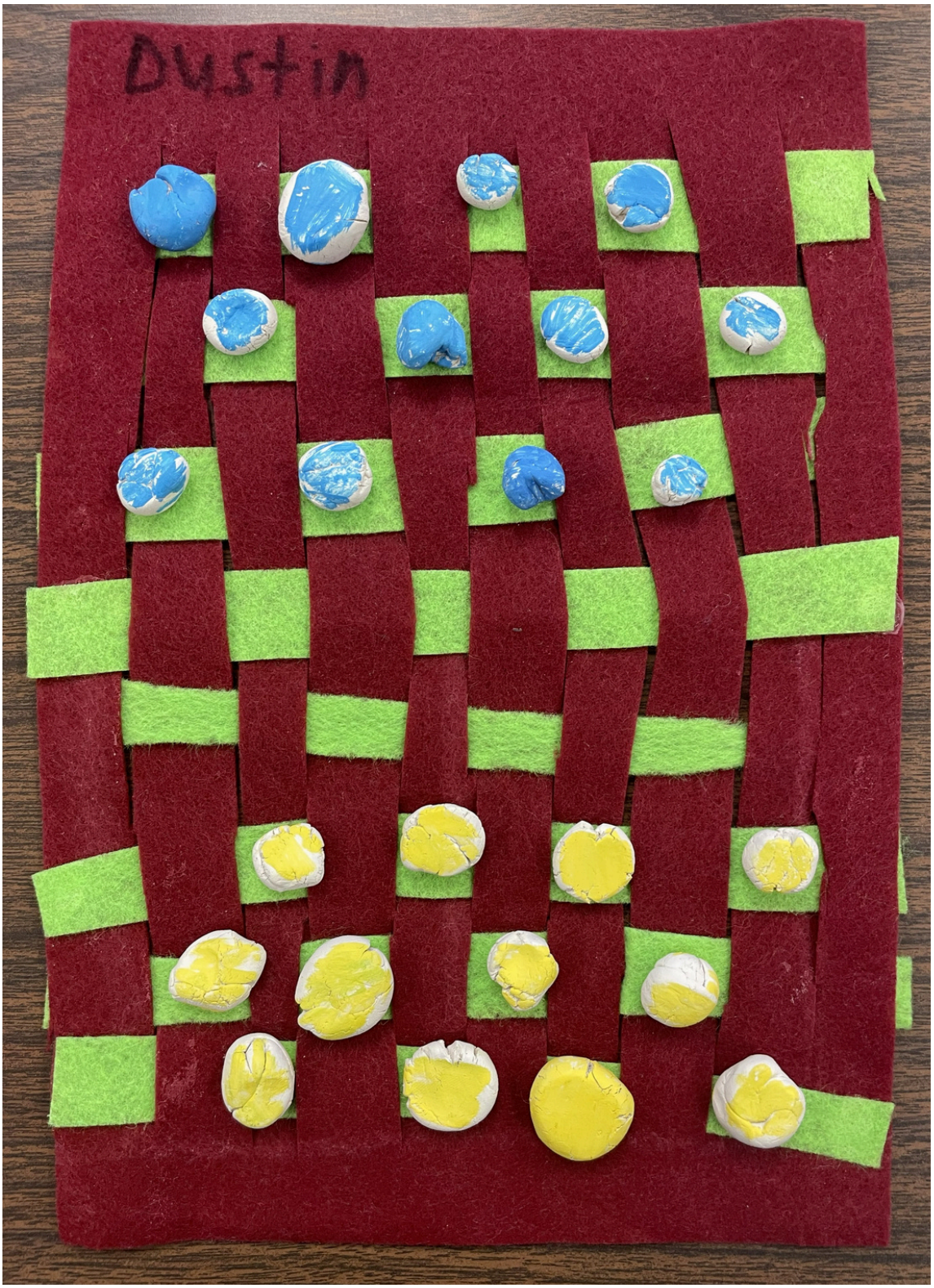
Cobrae

third grade



Cristian

third grade



Dustin

third grade



Emeric
third grade



Ethan

third grade

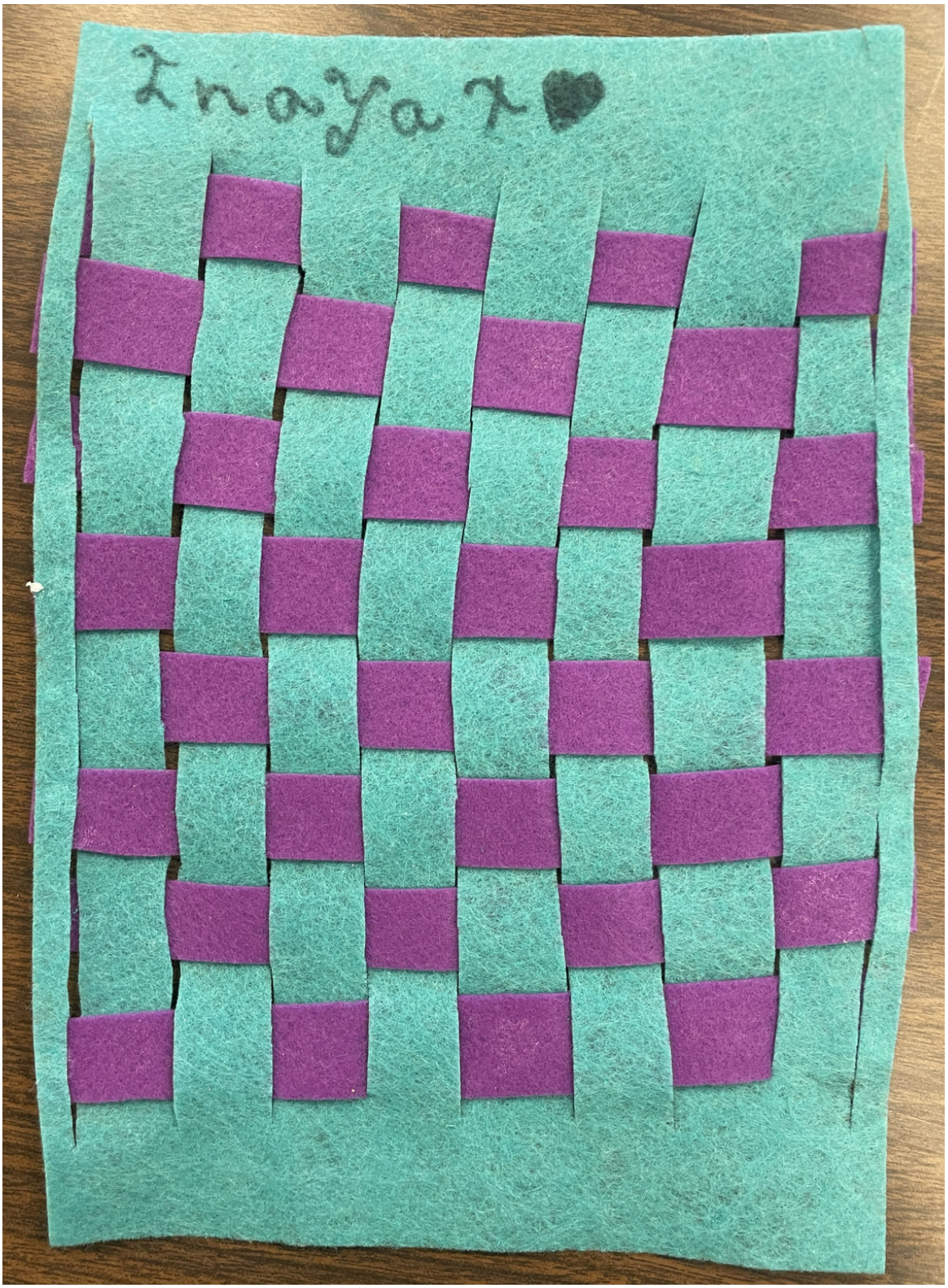


Helaina

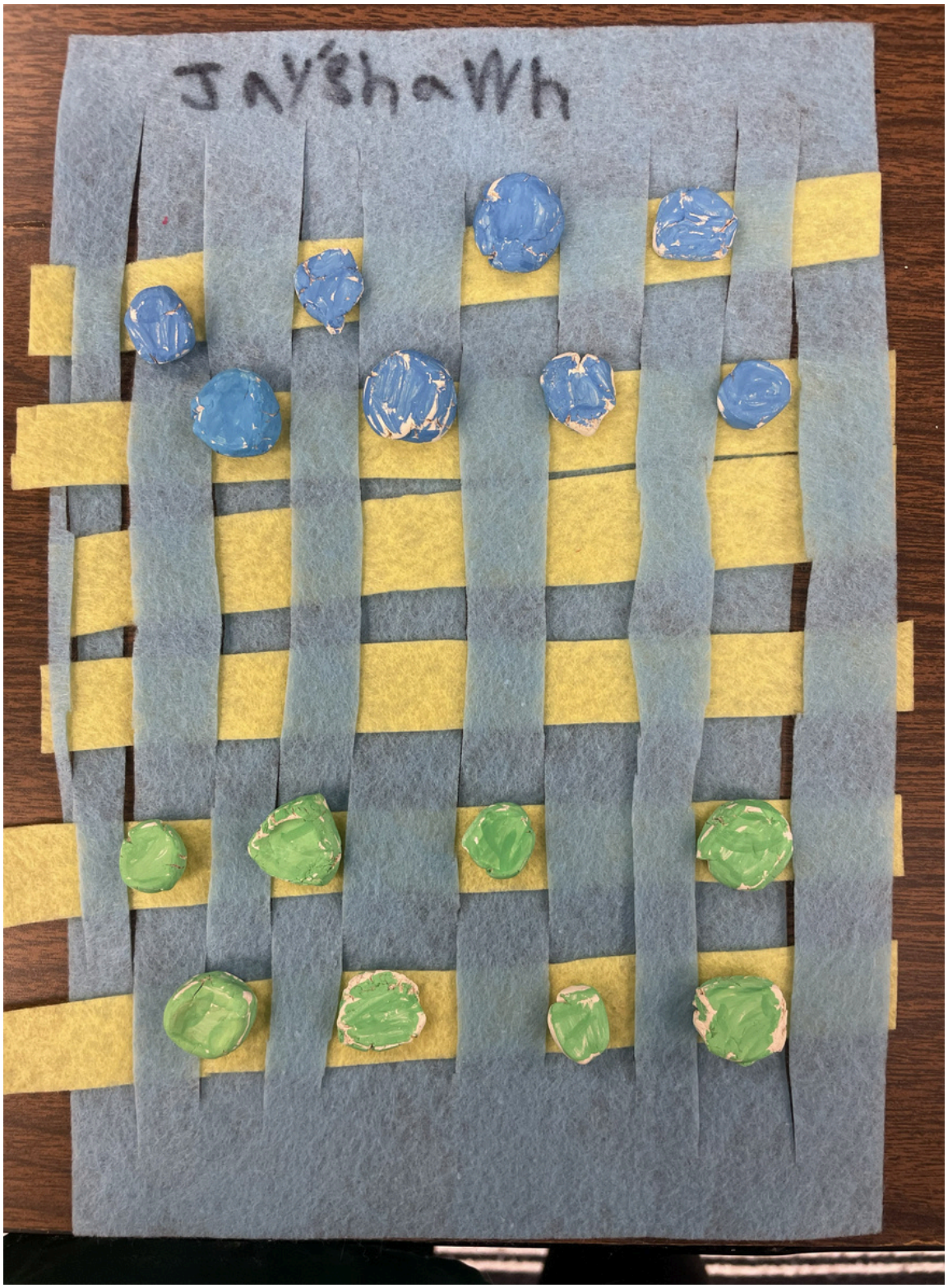
third grade



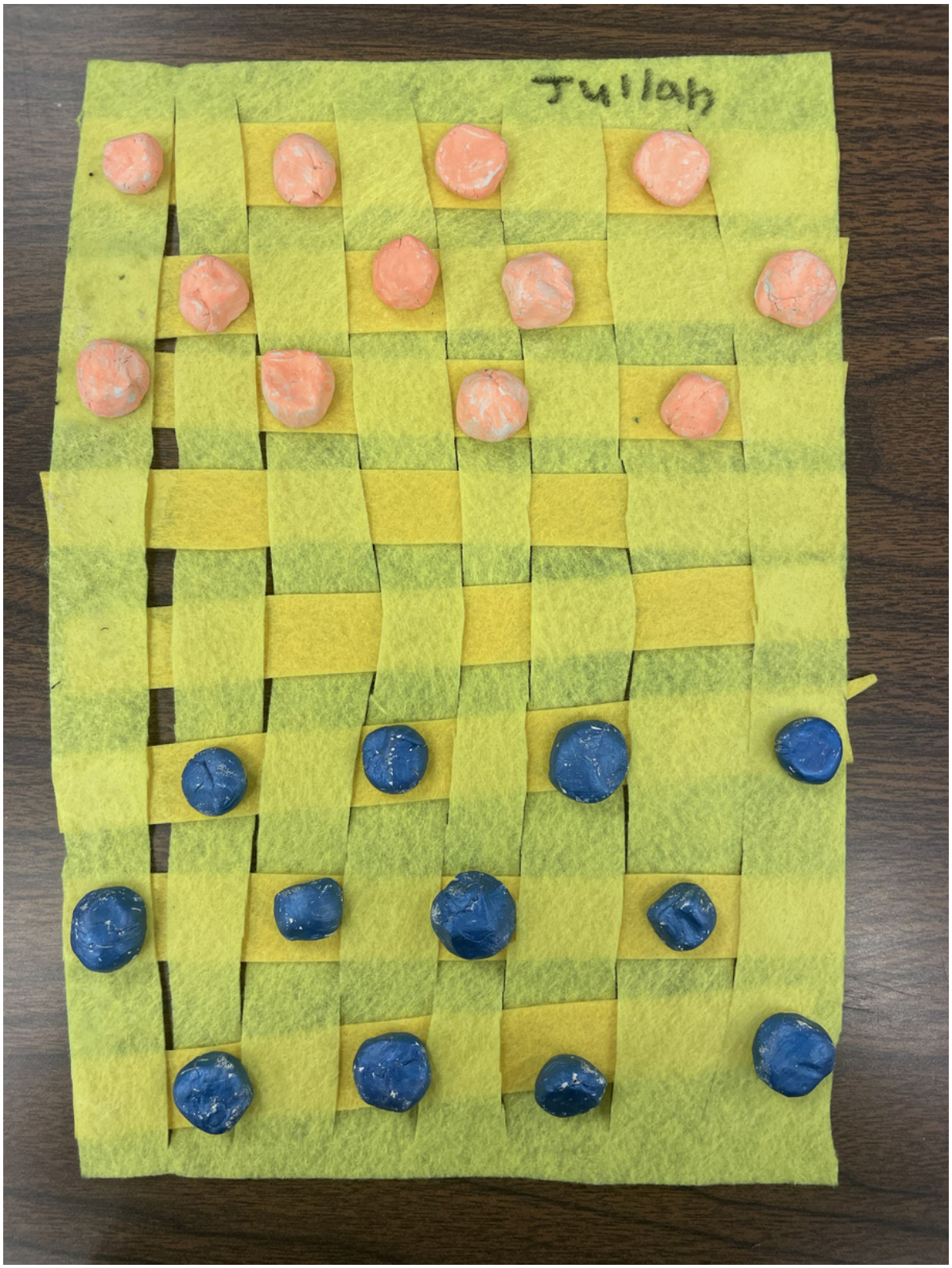
Hephzi
third grade



Inaya
third grade

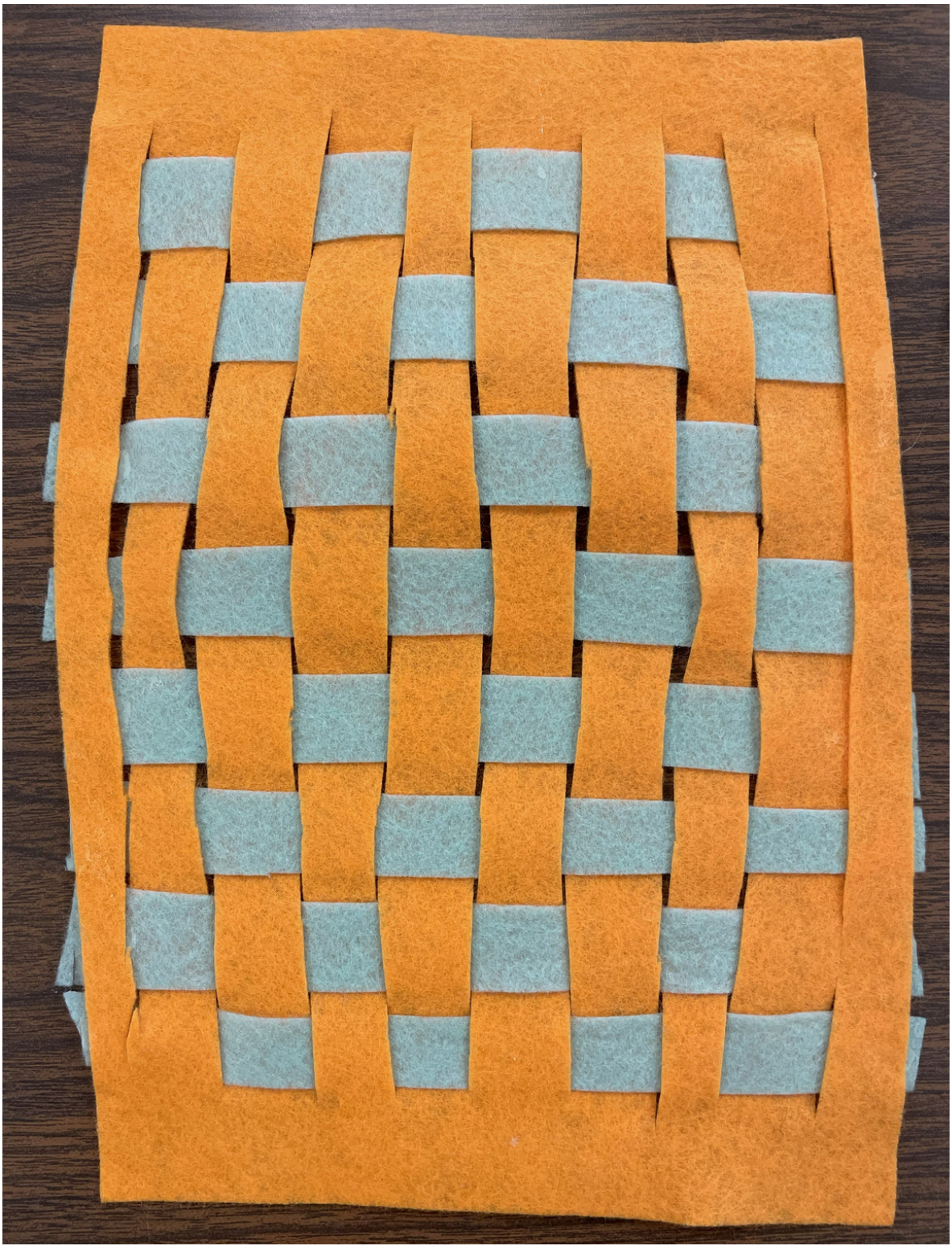


Jay’Shawn
third grade



Julian

third grade



Legend
third grade



Maria

third grade

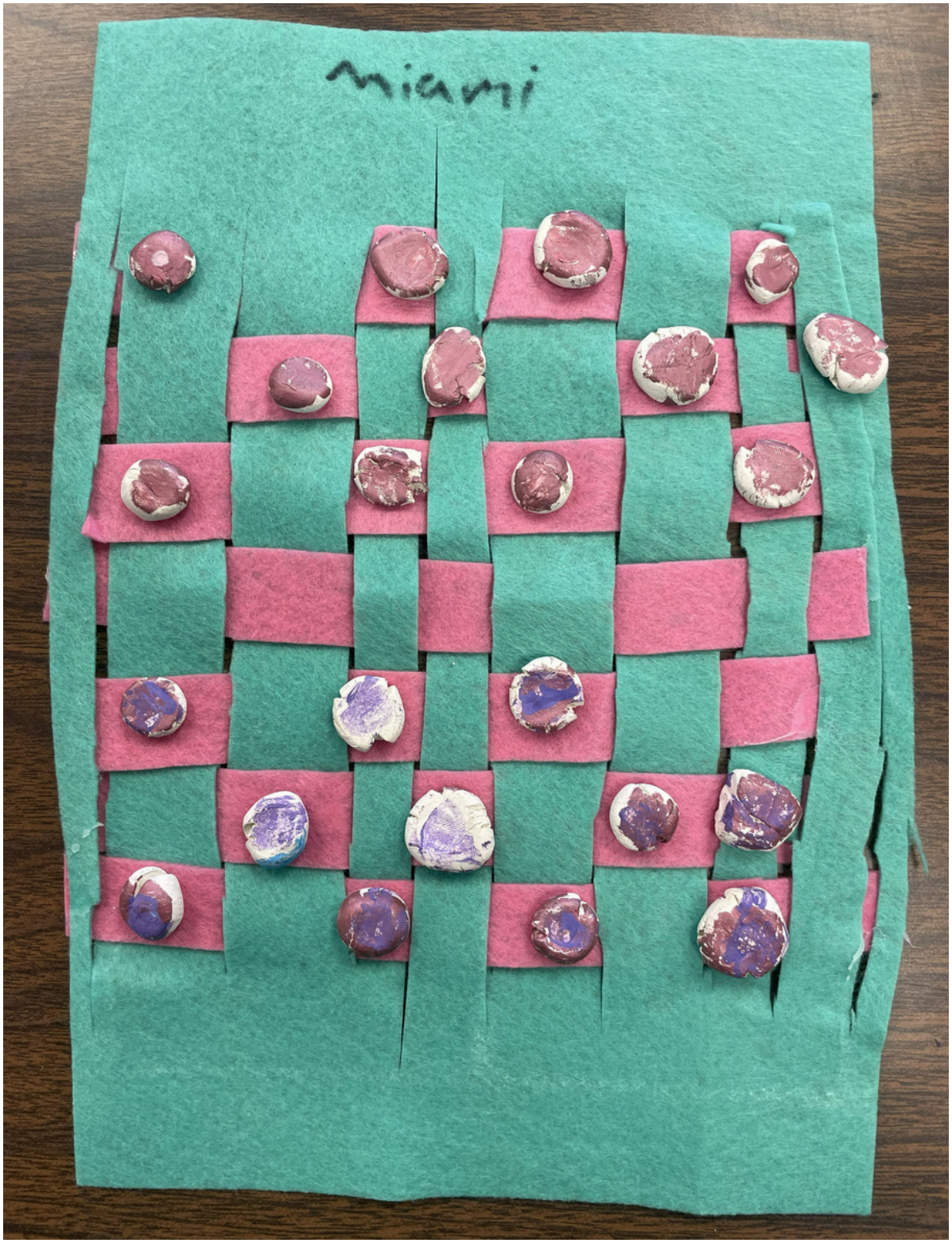


Mariah

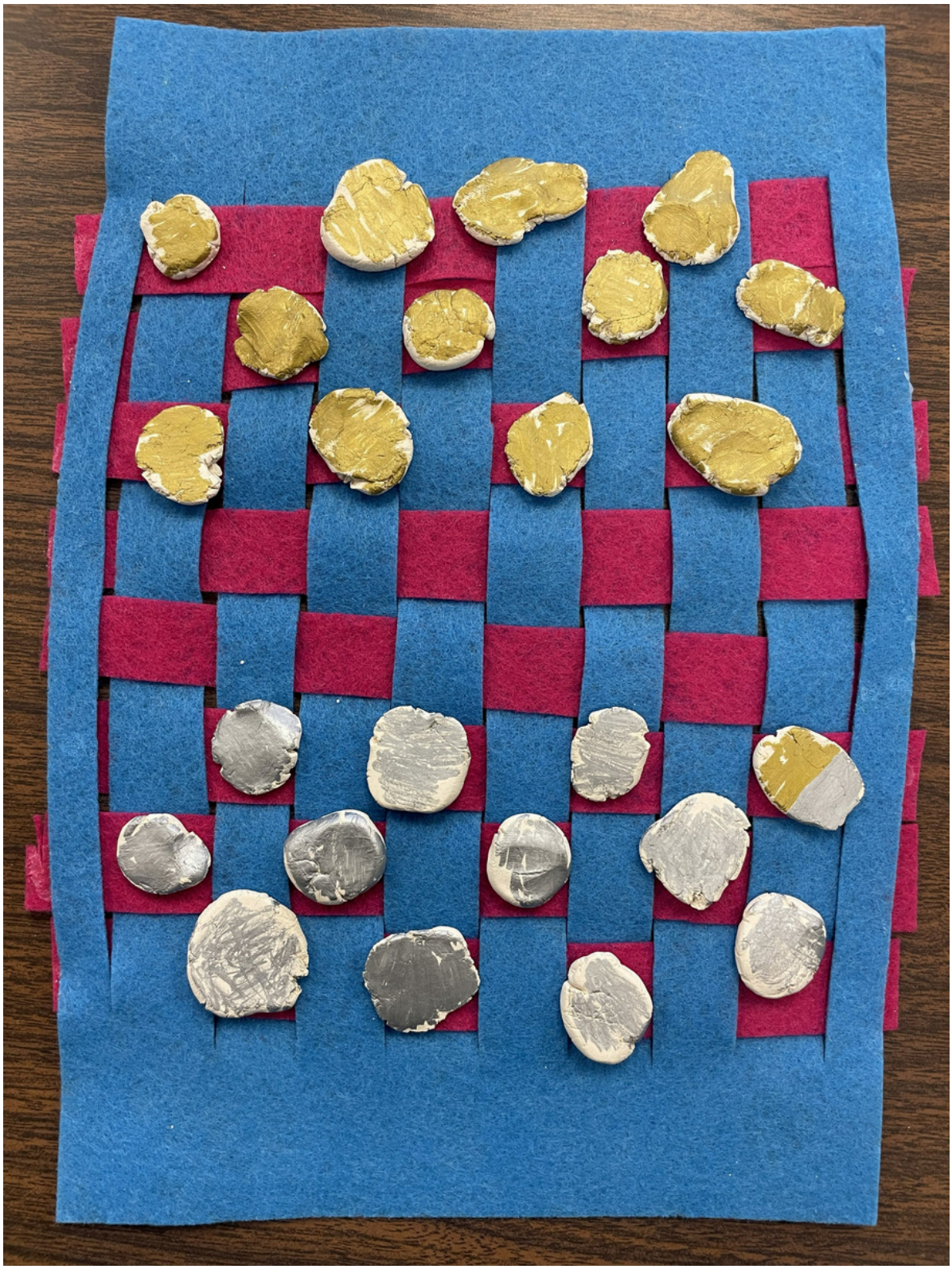
third grade



Martha
third grade

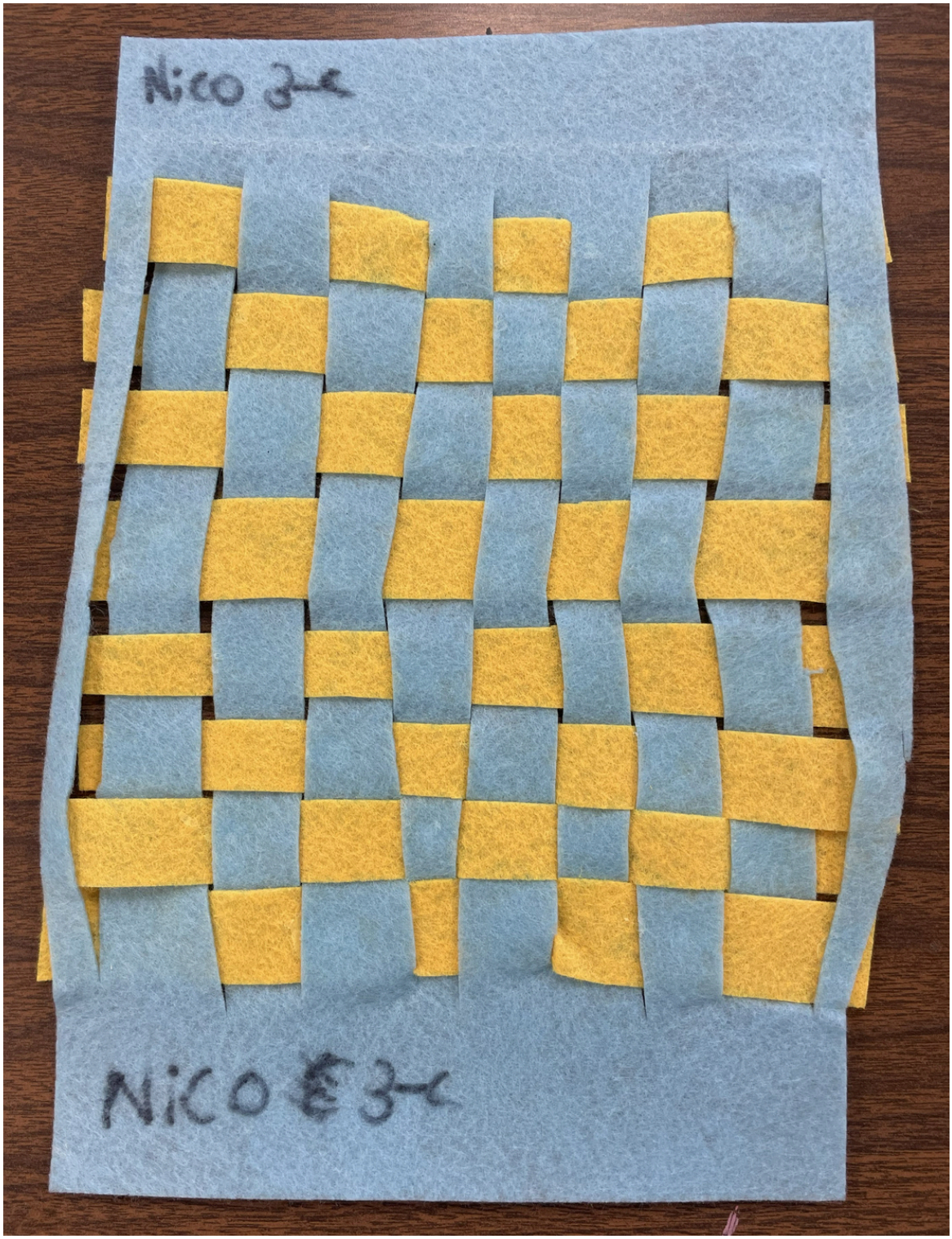


Miami
third grade

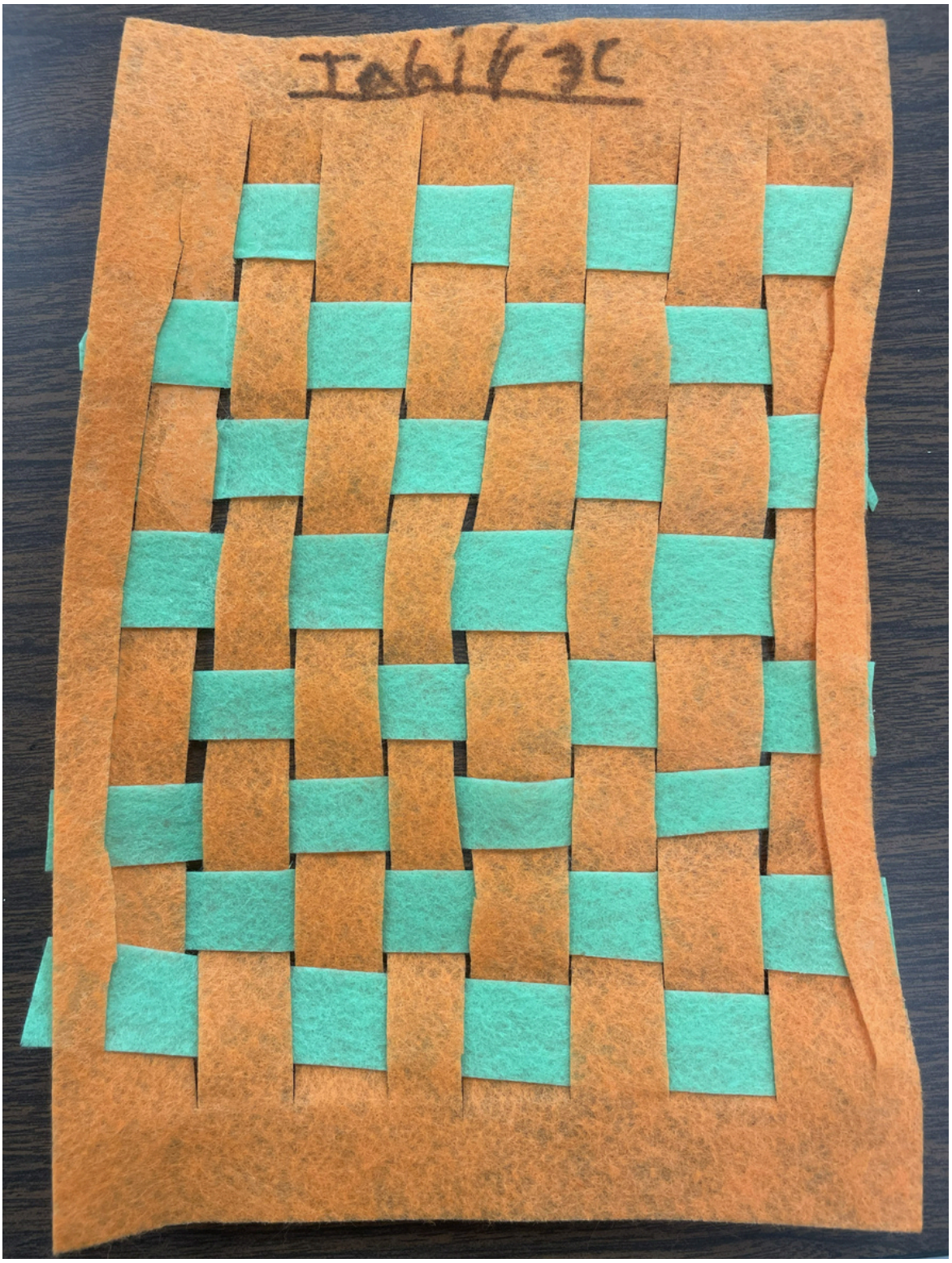


Milan

third grade

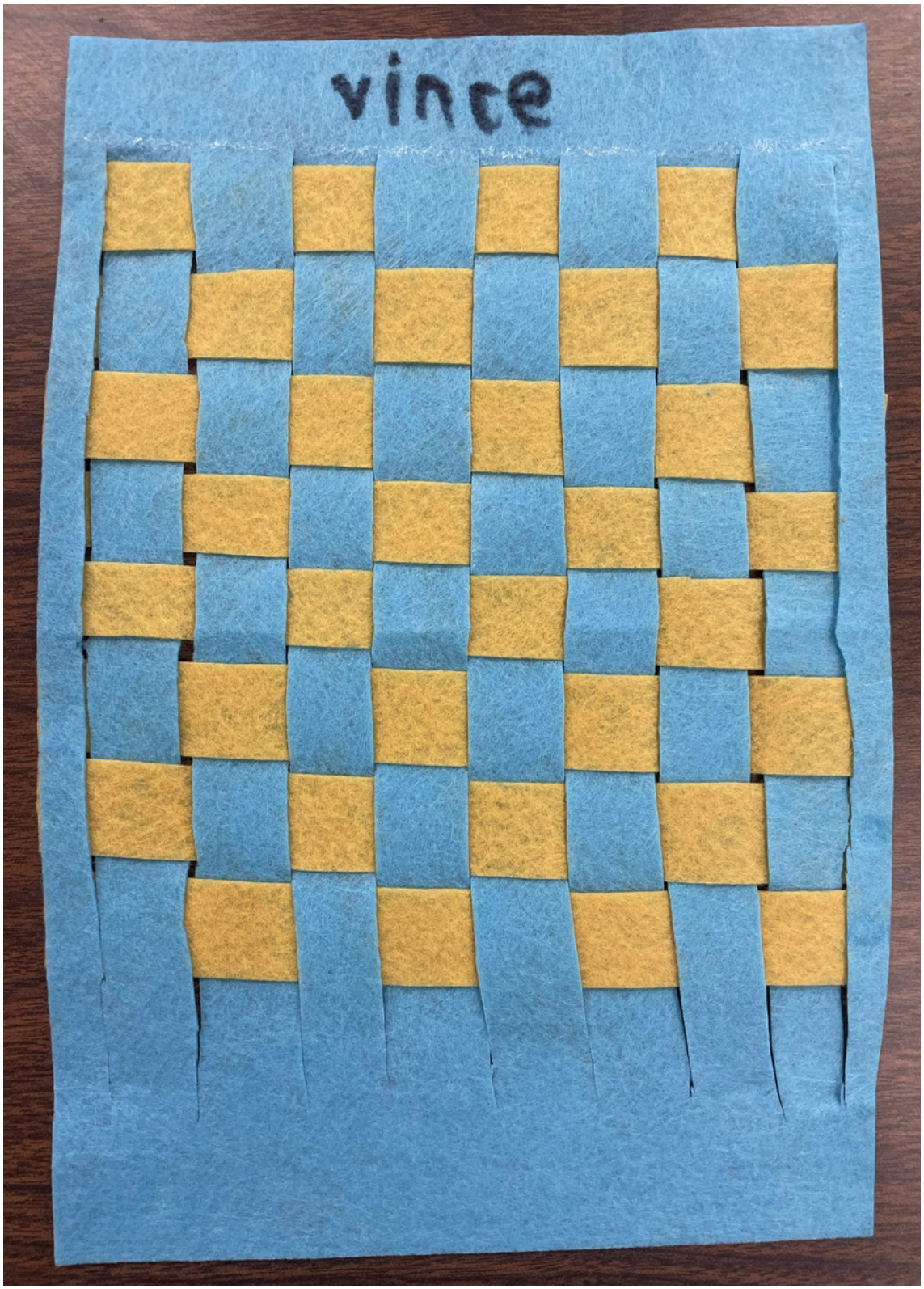


Nico
third grade

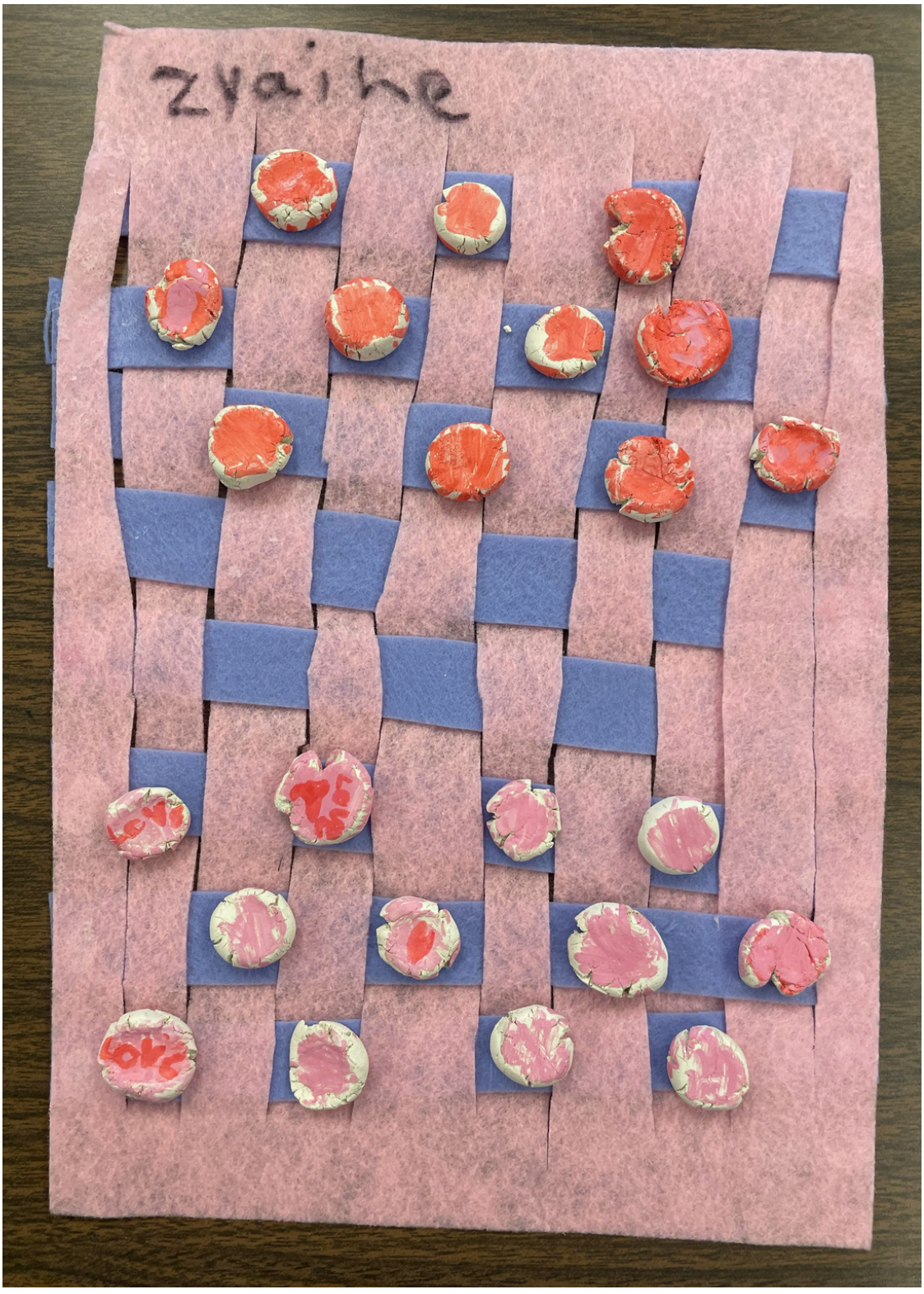


Tahir

third grade



Vince
third grade



Zyaire

third grade



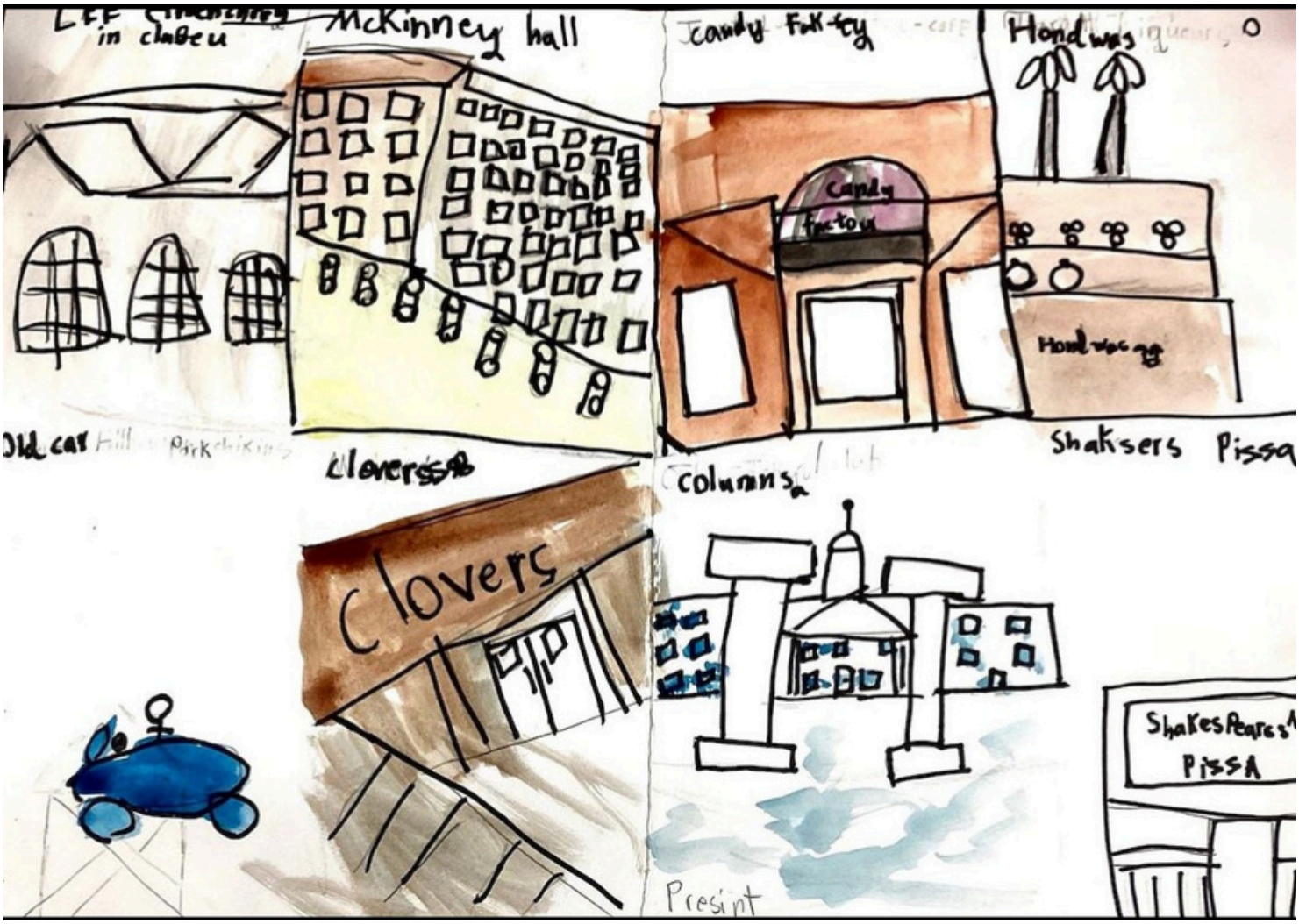
Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary



Lincoln
second grade



Shastra
second grade



Liliana

second grade



Susan
fifth grade



Jefferson Middle School



Alex

seventh grade



Alice

seventh grade



Amel

seventh grade



Cosby

seventh grade



Elizabeth

seventh grade



Euan

seventh grade



Penelope
seventh grade



Penelope
seventh grade



Stella

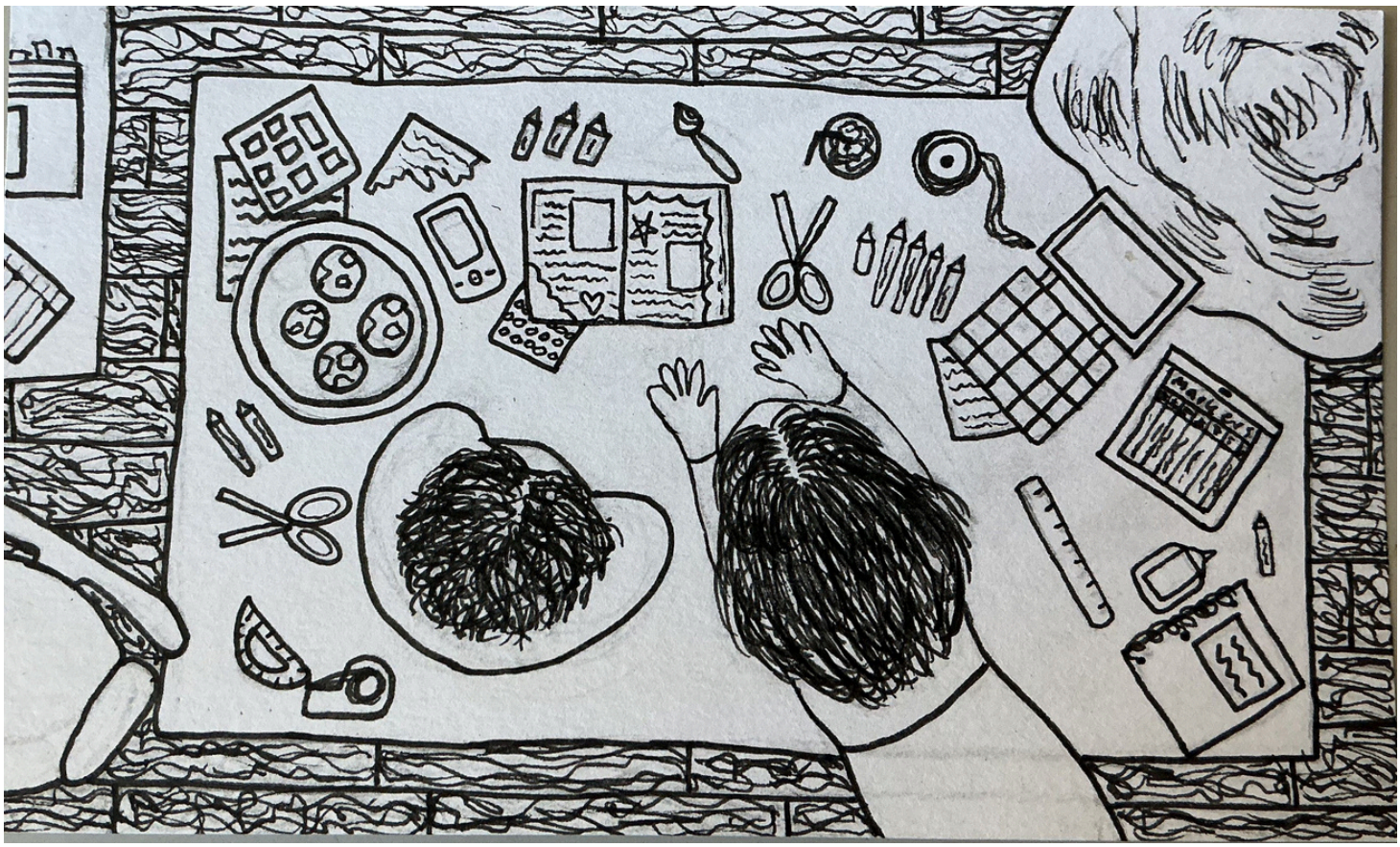
eighth grade



Sylvia
eighth grade



Lynden
eighth grade



Sylvia
eighth grade



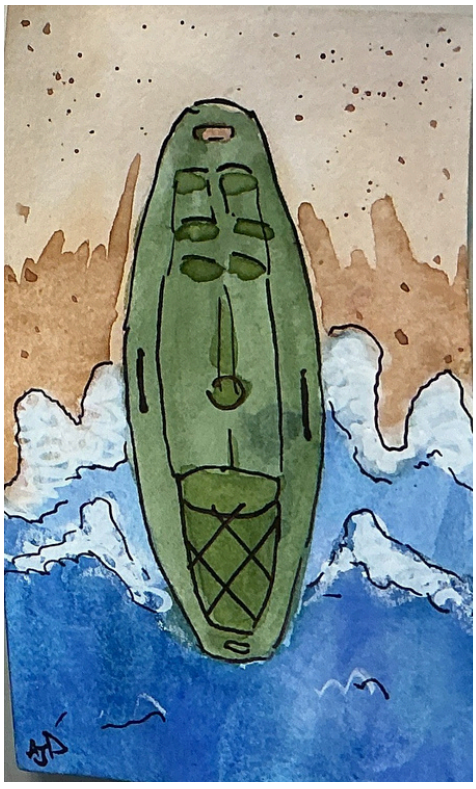
Arlen

eighth grade



Hannah
eighth grade





Anna
eighth grade



Smithton Middle School



Abby

eighth grade



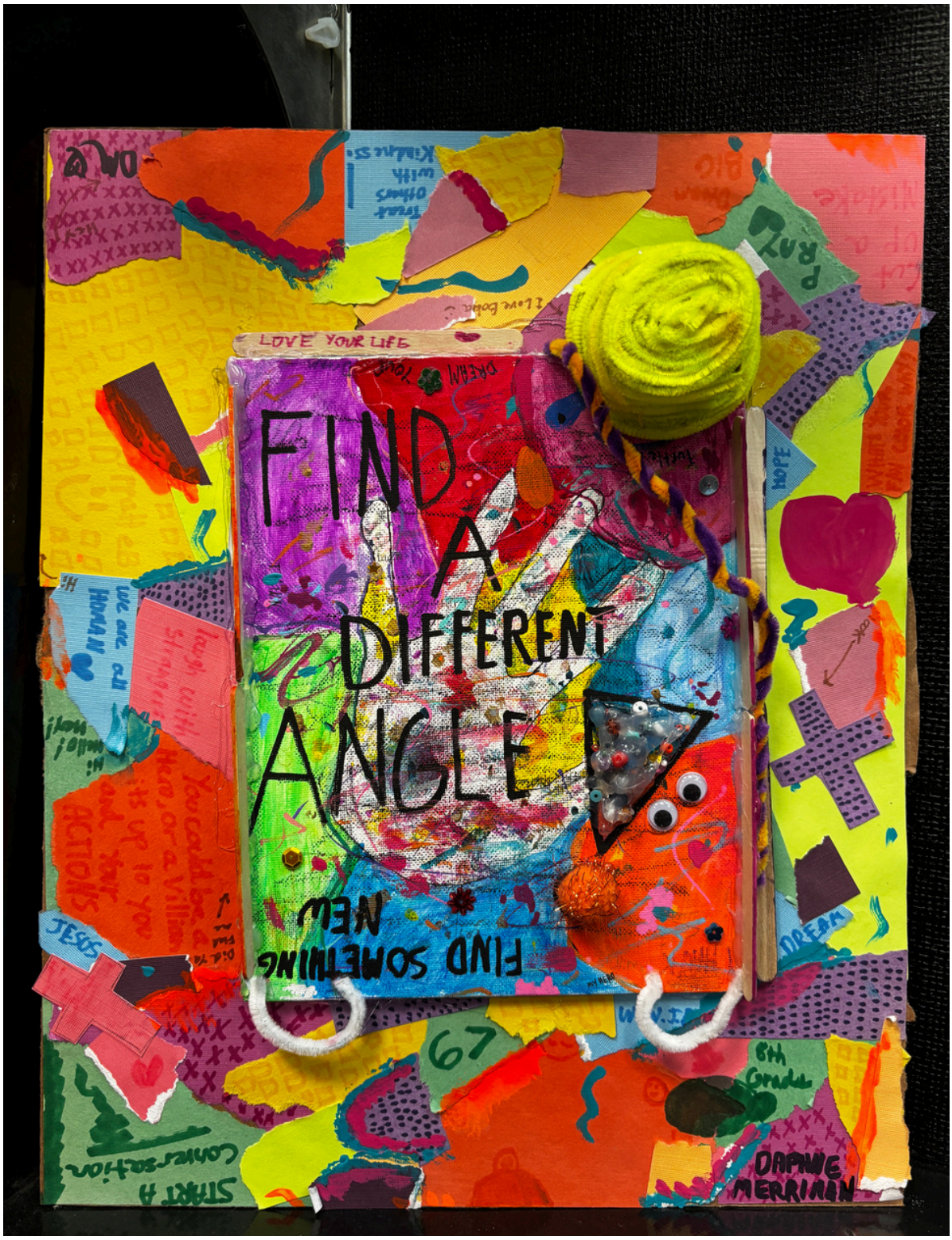
Asher
eighth grade



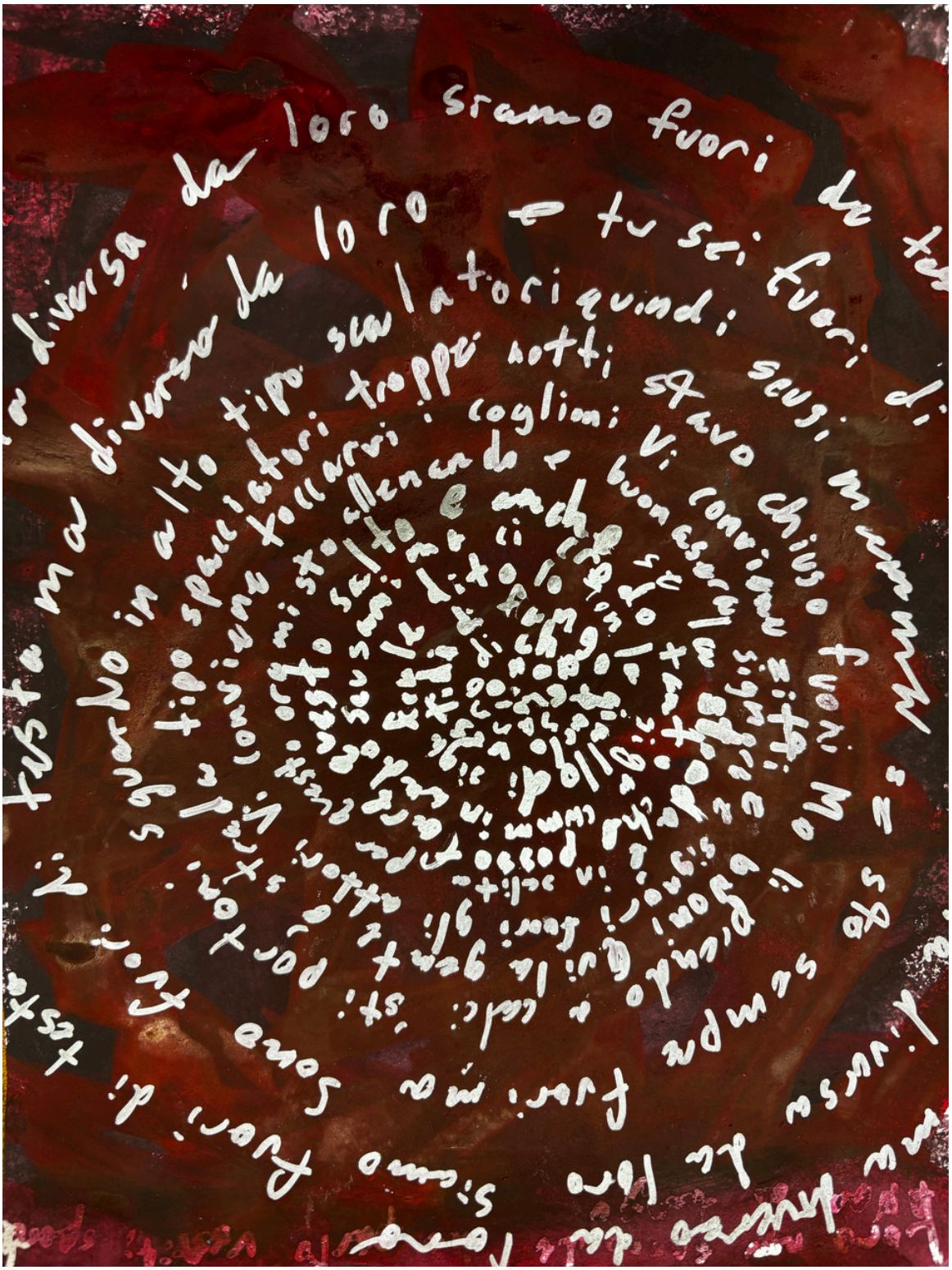
Braelyn and Maggie
eighth grade



Cheyenne
sixth grade



Daphne
eighth grade



Eliot

eighth grade



Ellie

eighth grade



Emelyn
eighth grade



Emelyn
eighth grade



Emelyn
eighth grade



Emelyn
eighth grade



Emelyn
eighth grade



Emma

eighth grade



Emmett

eighth grade



Fatema

eighth grade



Fatema

eighth grade



Gabe

seventh grade



Grayson
seventh grade



Henry
eighth grade

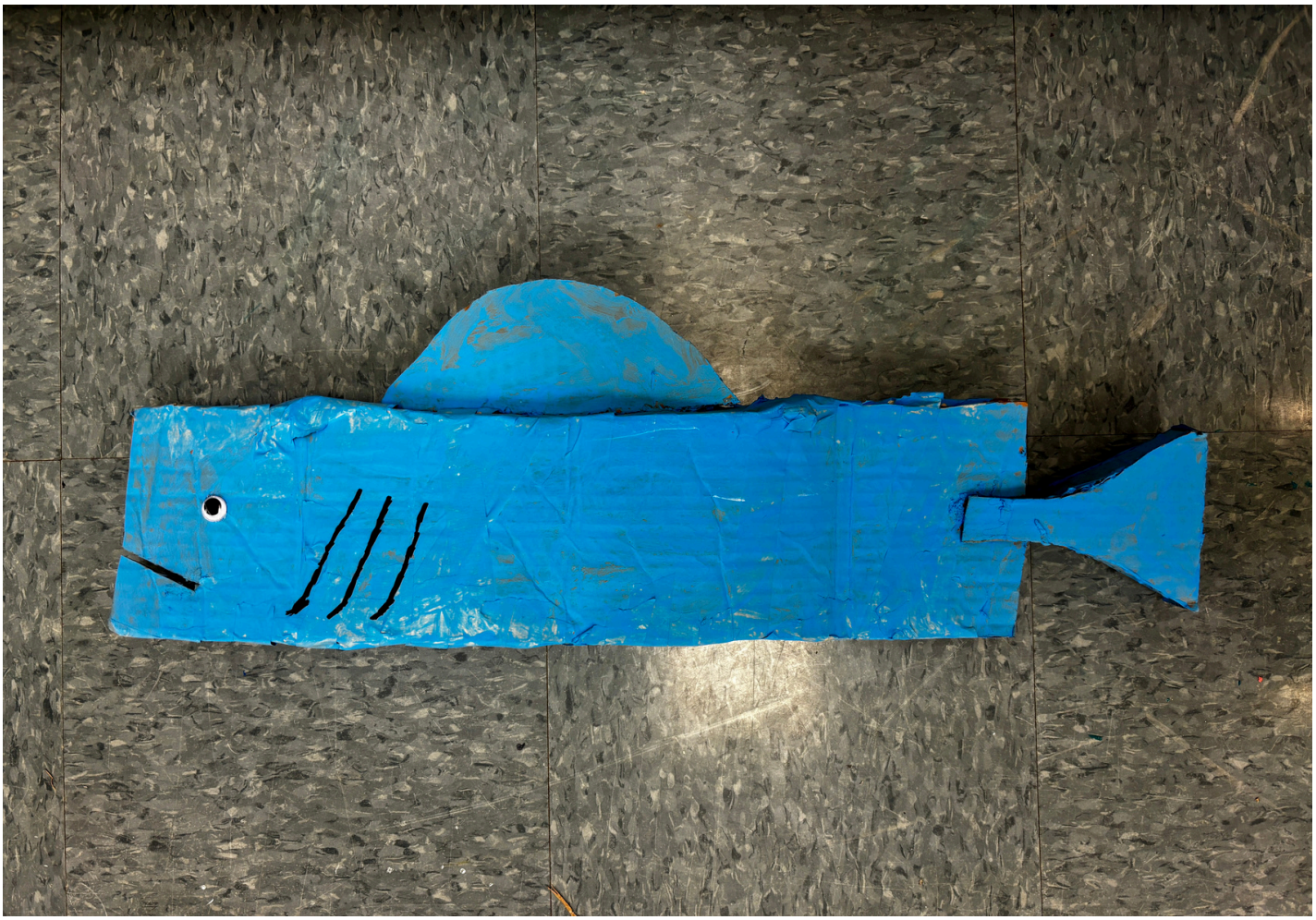


Isabella and Kylie
eighth grade



Isabelle

seventh grade



Isaiah

eighth grade



Josephine

eighth grade



Katarina

seventh grade



Laine

seventh grade



Lanikai

eighth grade



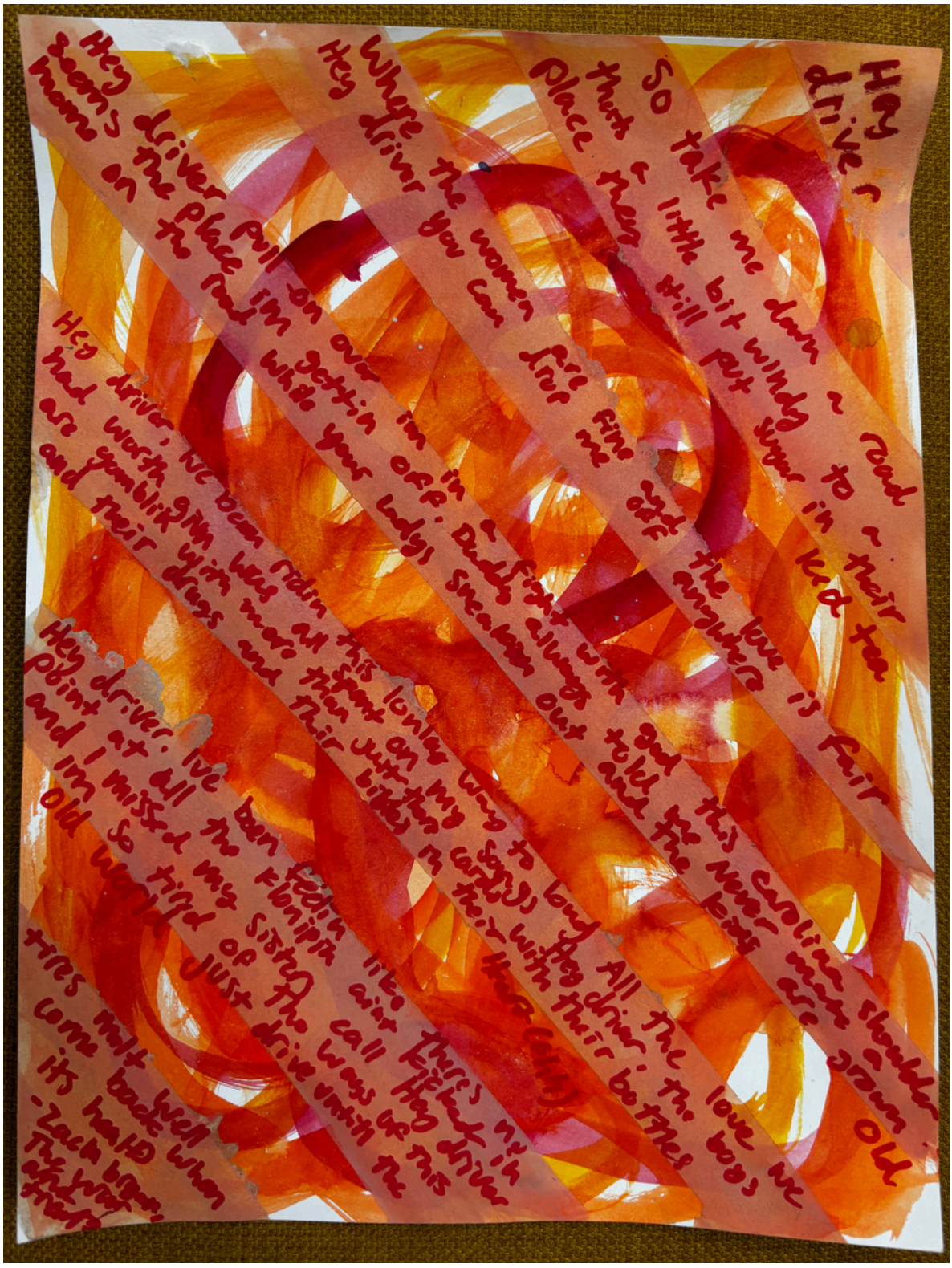
Lochlan

seventh grade



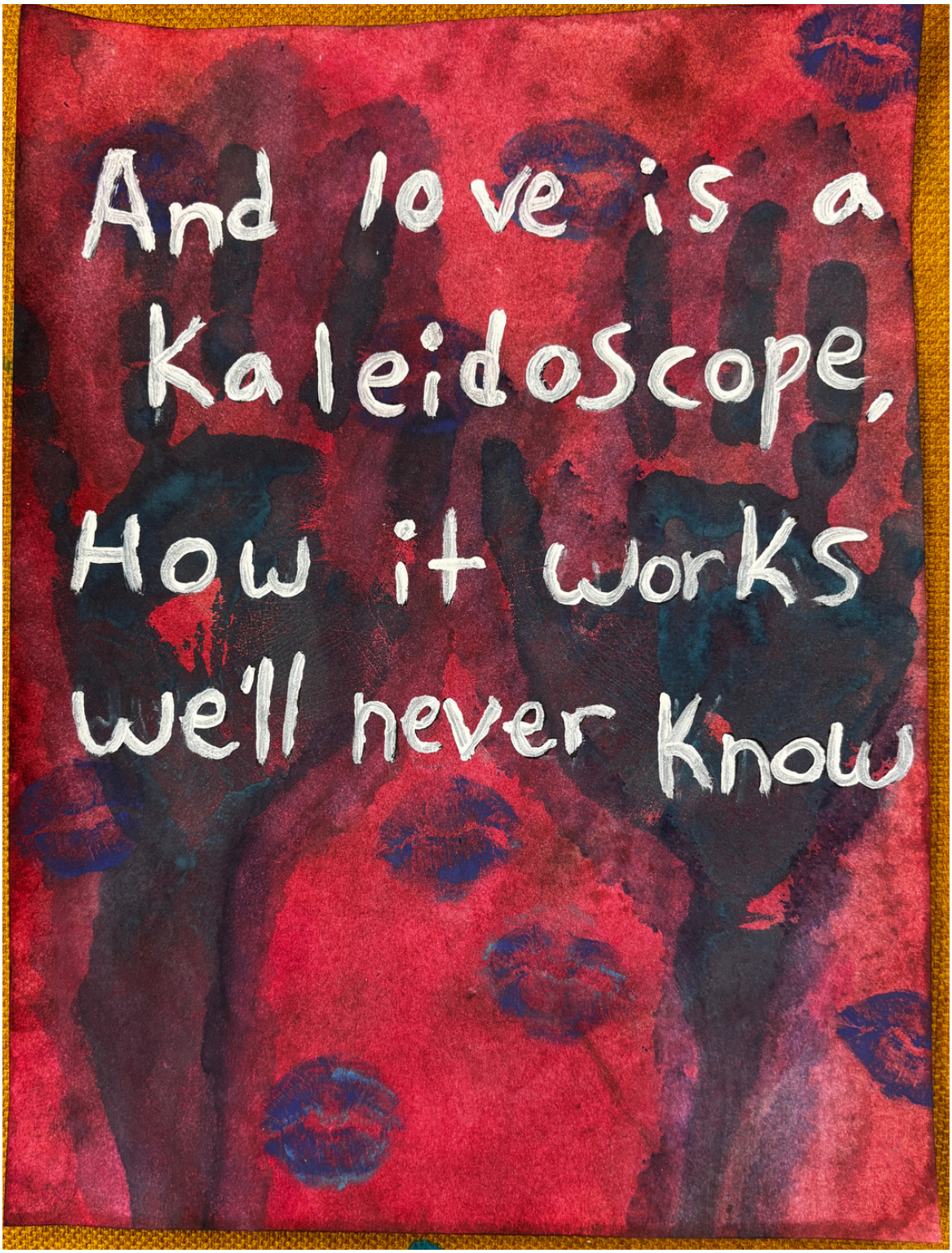
Lucy

sixth grade



Luke

eighth grade



Mila
eighth grade



Nix

eighth grade



West
Middle School



Anjila
seventh grade



Asher

sixth grade

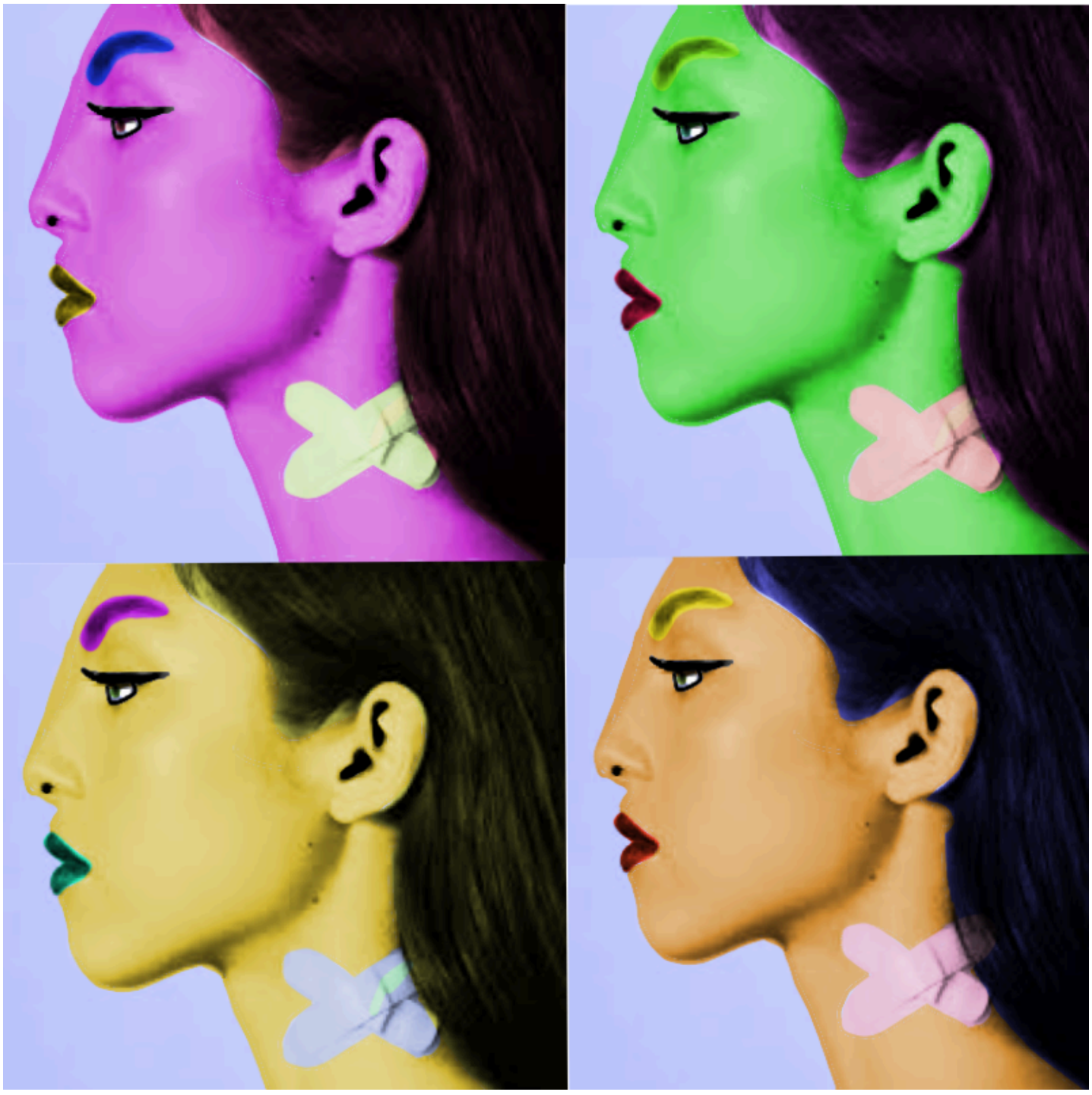


Axel

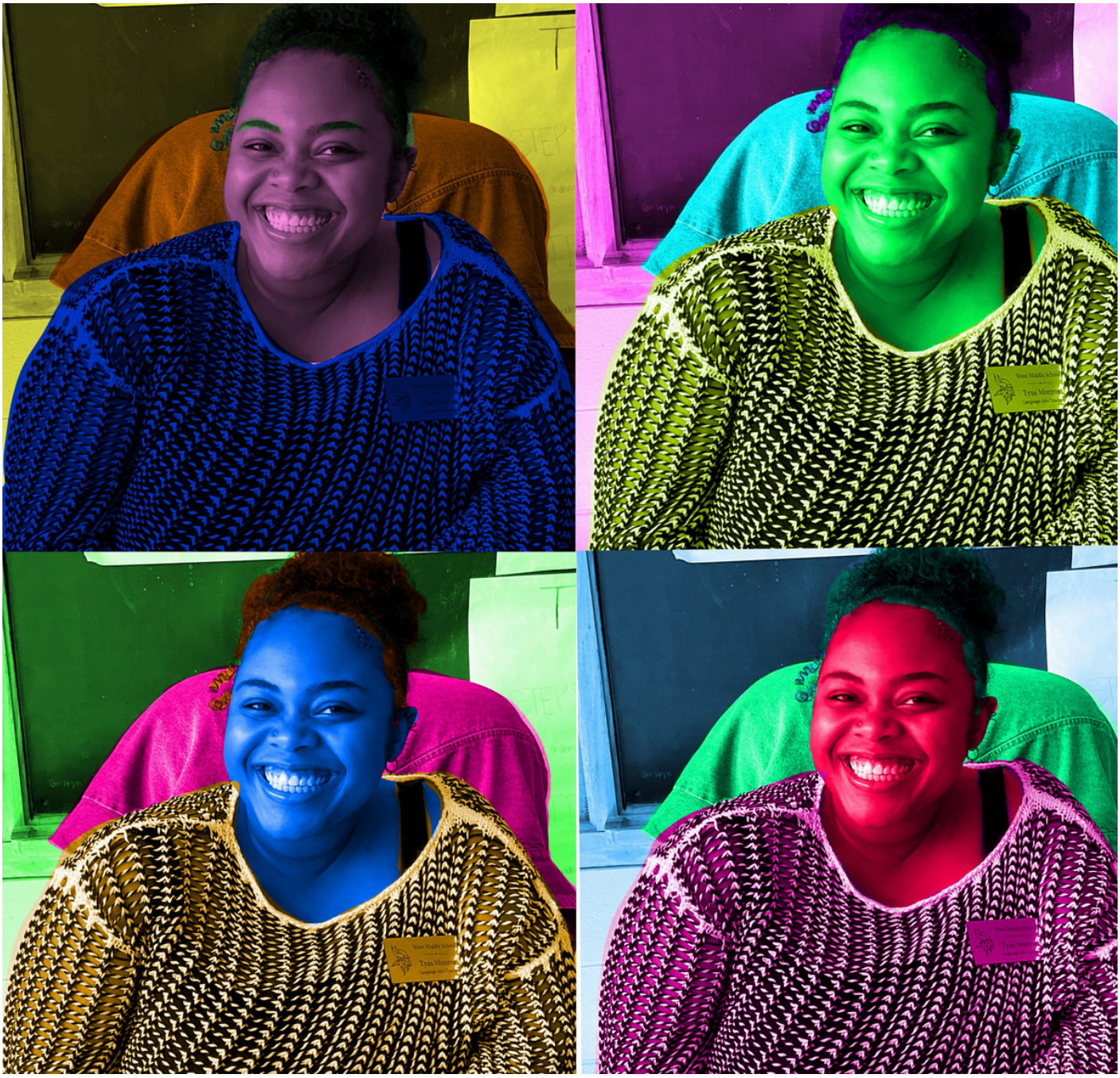
eighth grade



Braidyn
seventh grade



Brooklynn
sixth grade



Brooklynn
eighth grade



Brooklynn
eighth grade



Clara
sixth grade



Gabri

eighth grade



Hank

eighth grade



Jasper

eighth grade



Jay

seventh grade



John-Emery
sixth grade



Lucas

eighth grade



Olivia

eighth grade

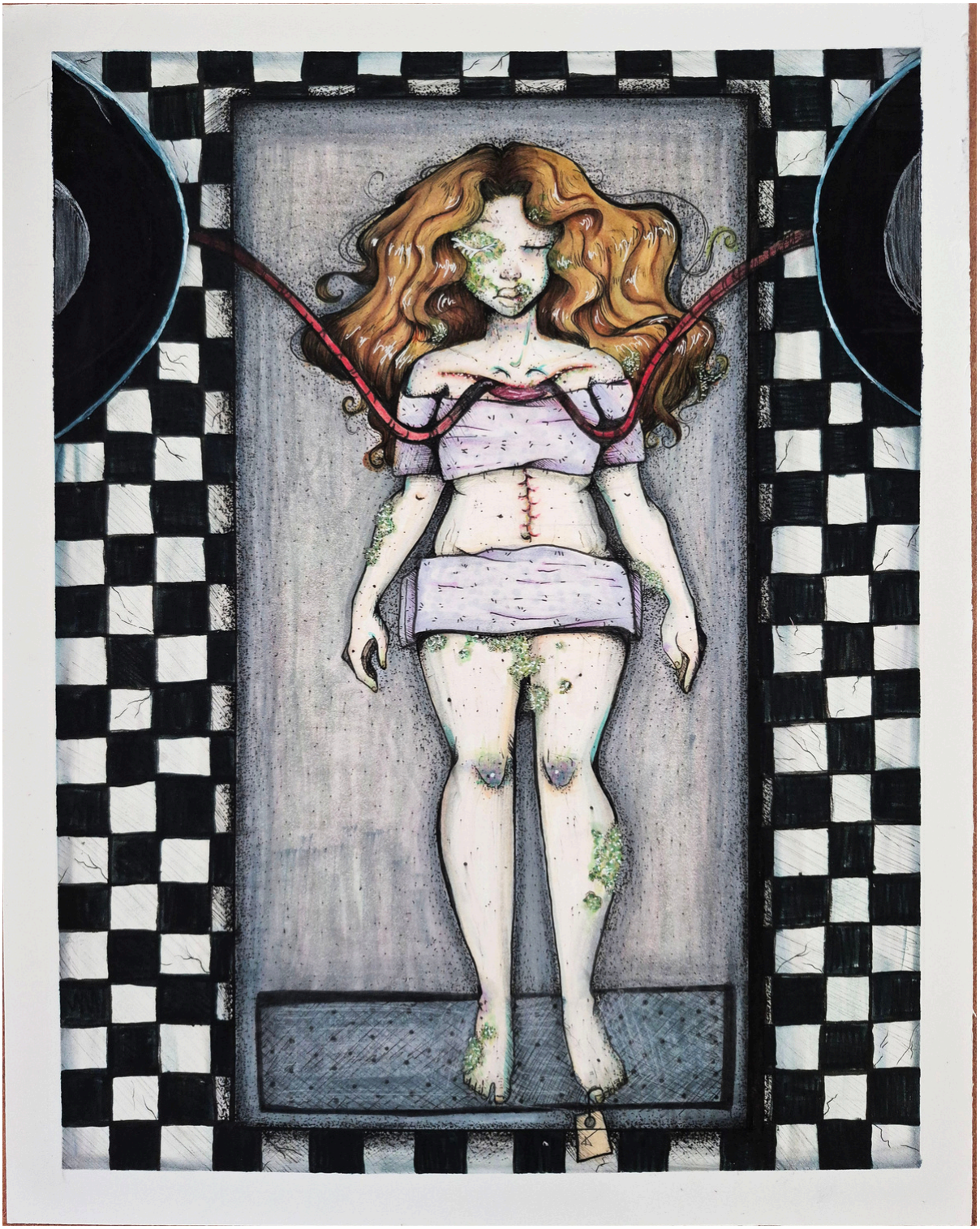


Roy

seventh grade

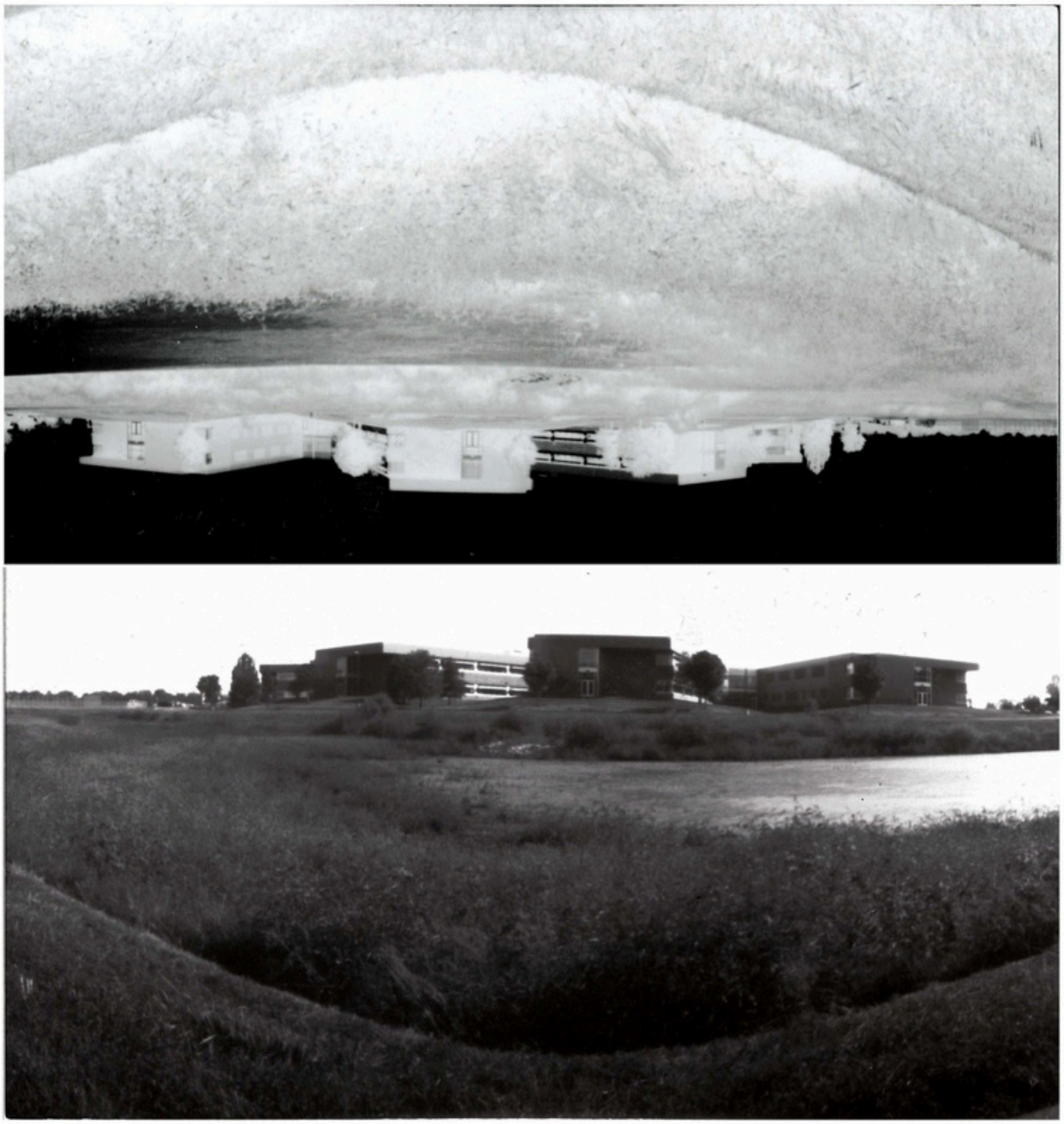


Battle High School



Adrian

12th grade



Alex

11th grade



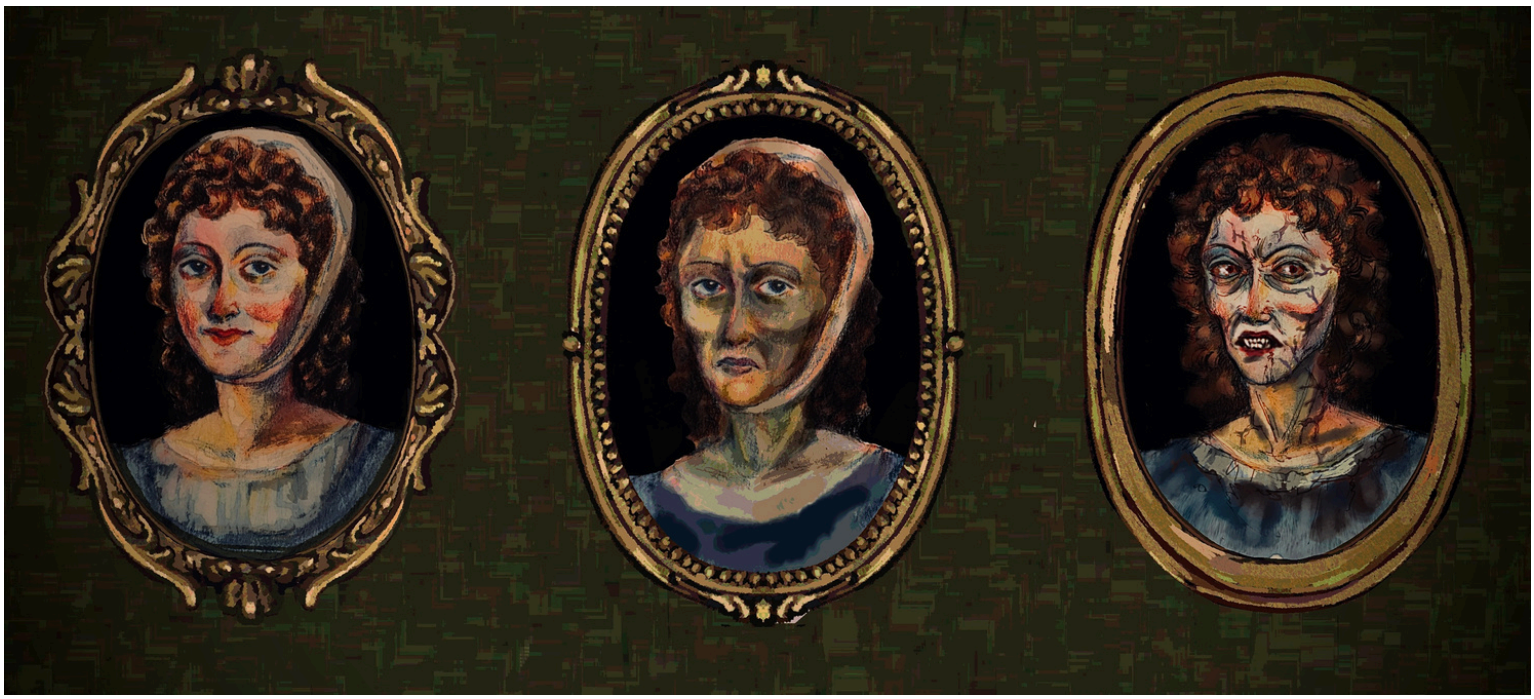
Aline

12th grade



Aline

12th grade



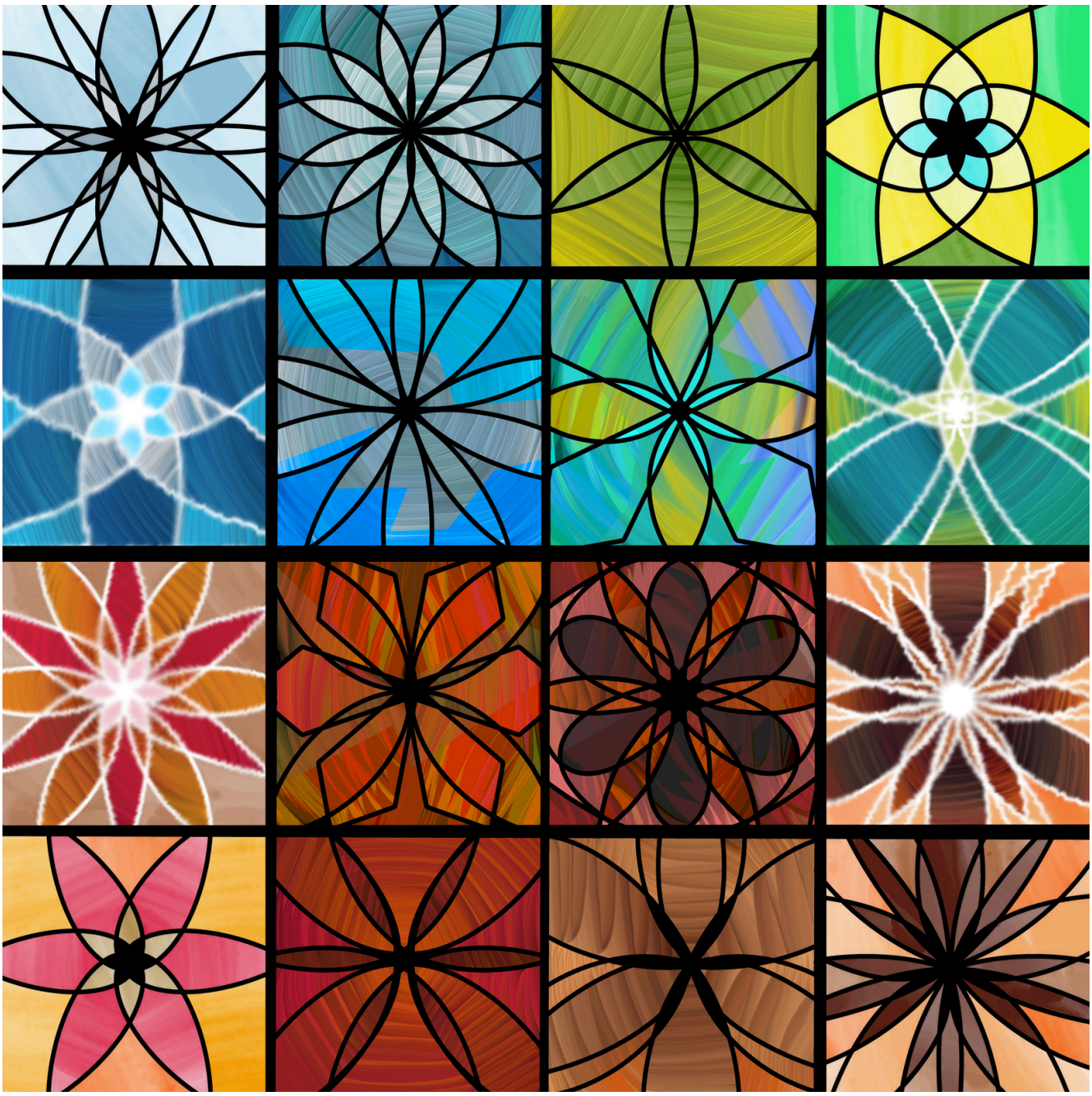
Aline

12th grade



Ashlynn

12th grade



Braylon

12th grade



Brenner

11th grade



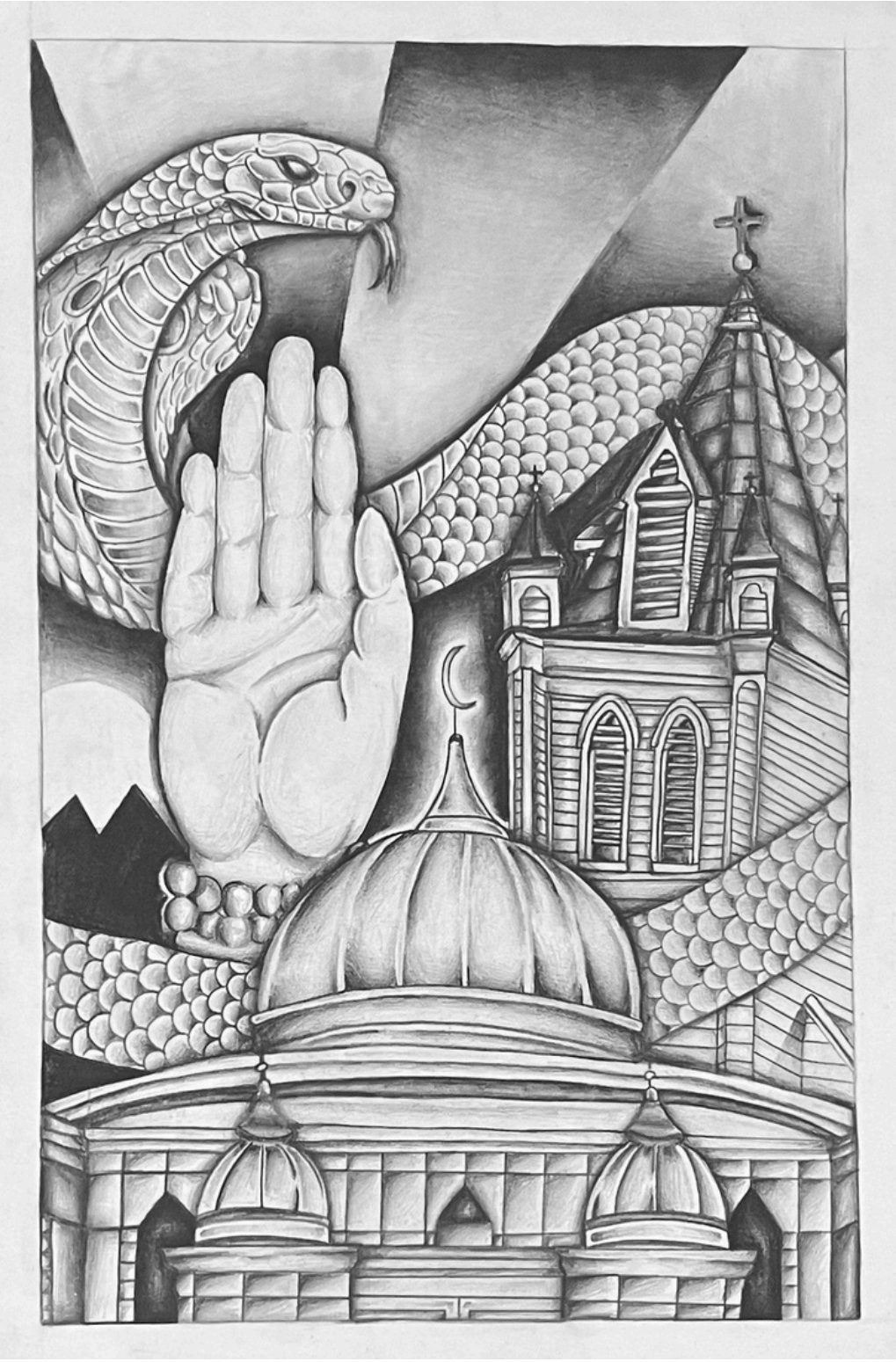
Devin

12th grade



Devin

12th grade



Devin

12th grade



Devin

12th grade



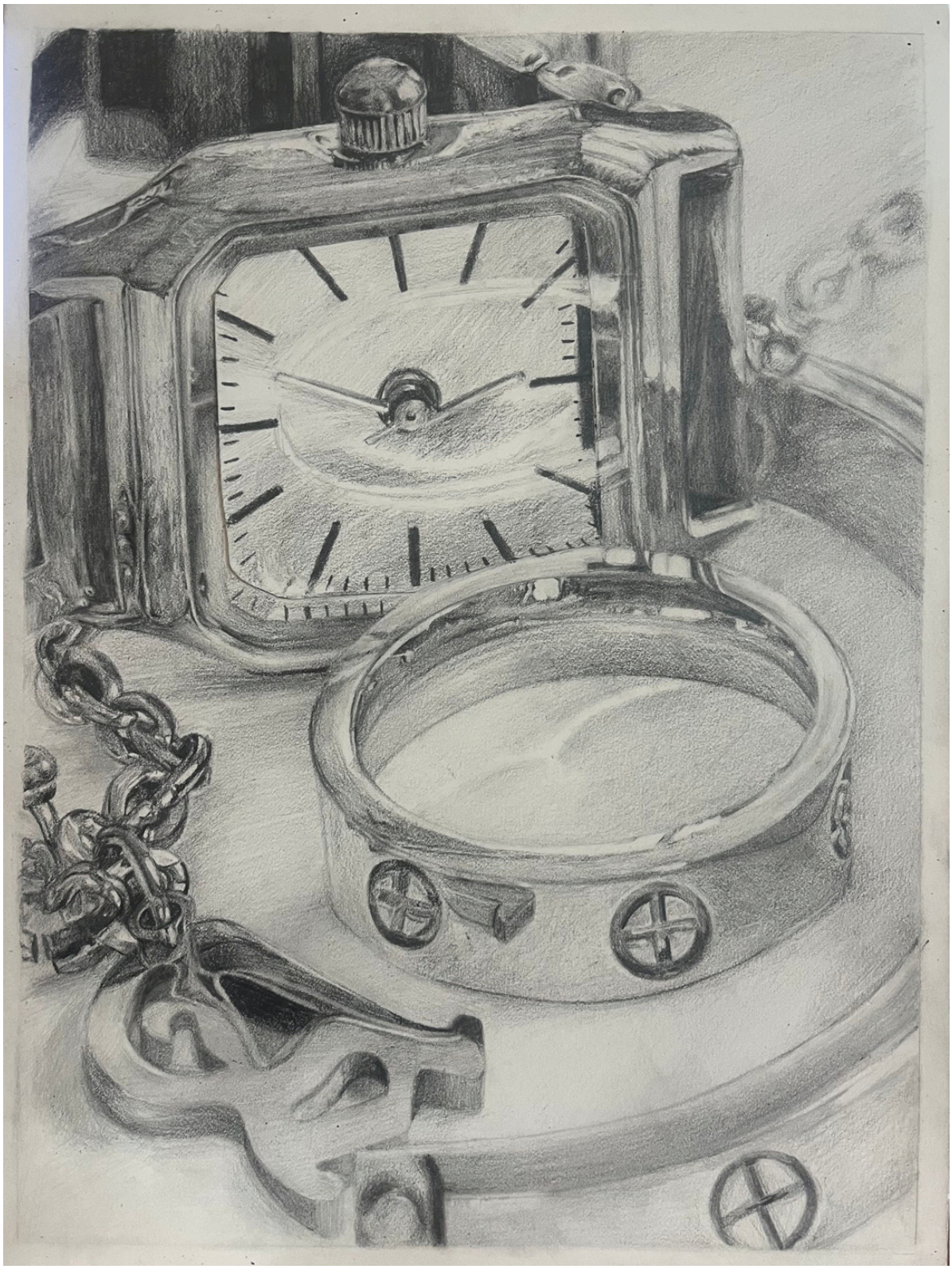
Dominic

12th grade



Dominic

12th grade



Evelyn

12th grade



Gretchen

12th grade



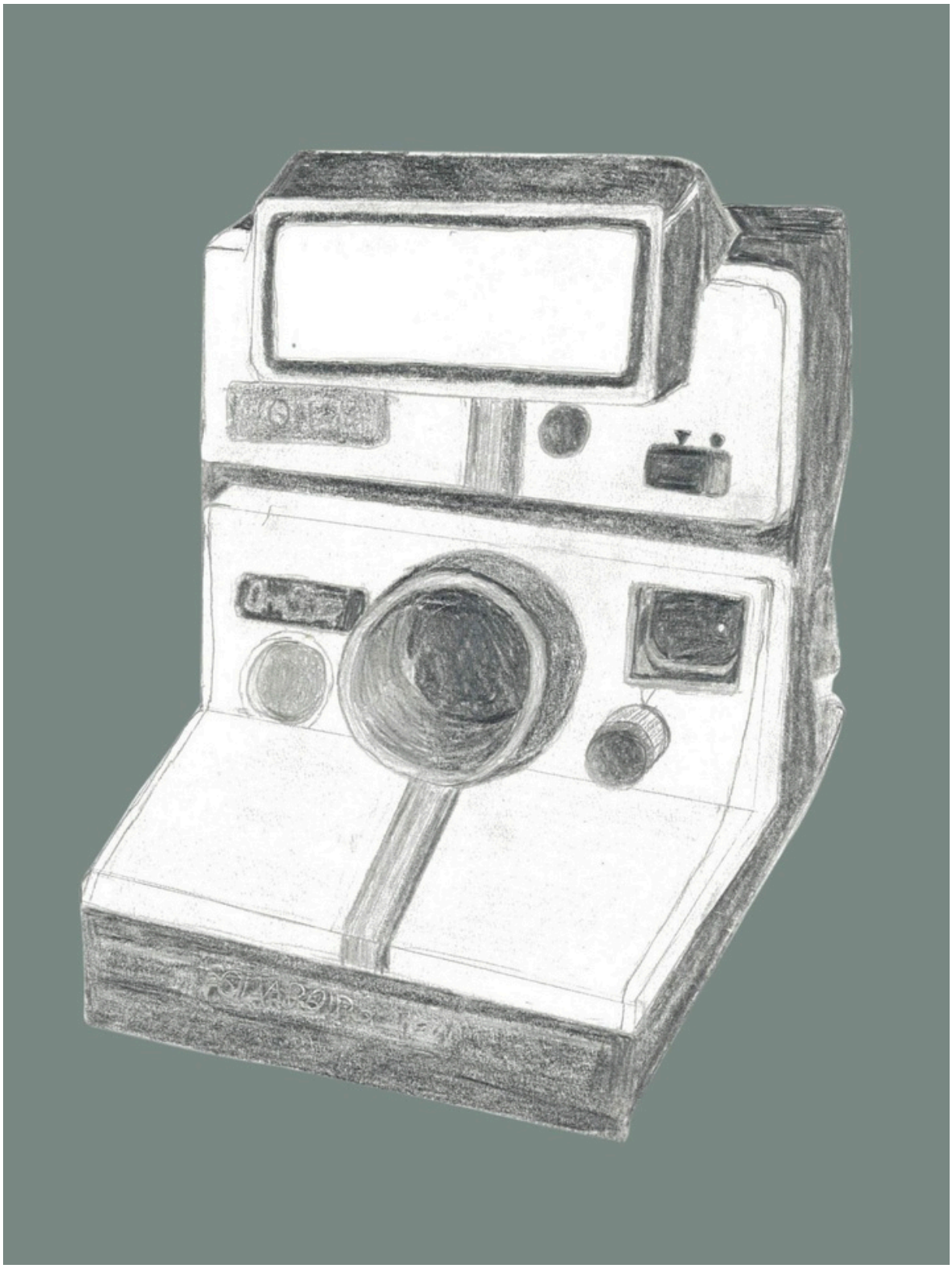
Gwen

12th grade



Gwen

12th grade



Janaija

11th grade



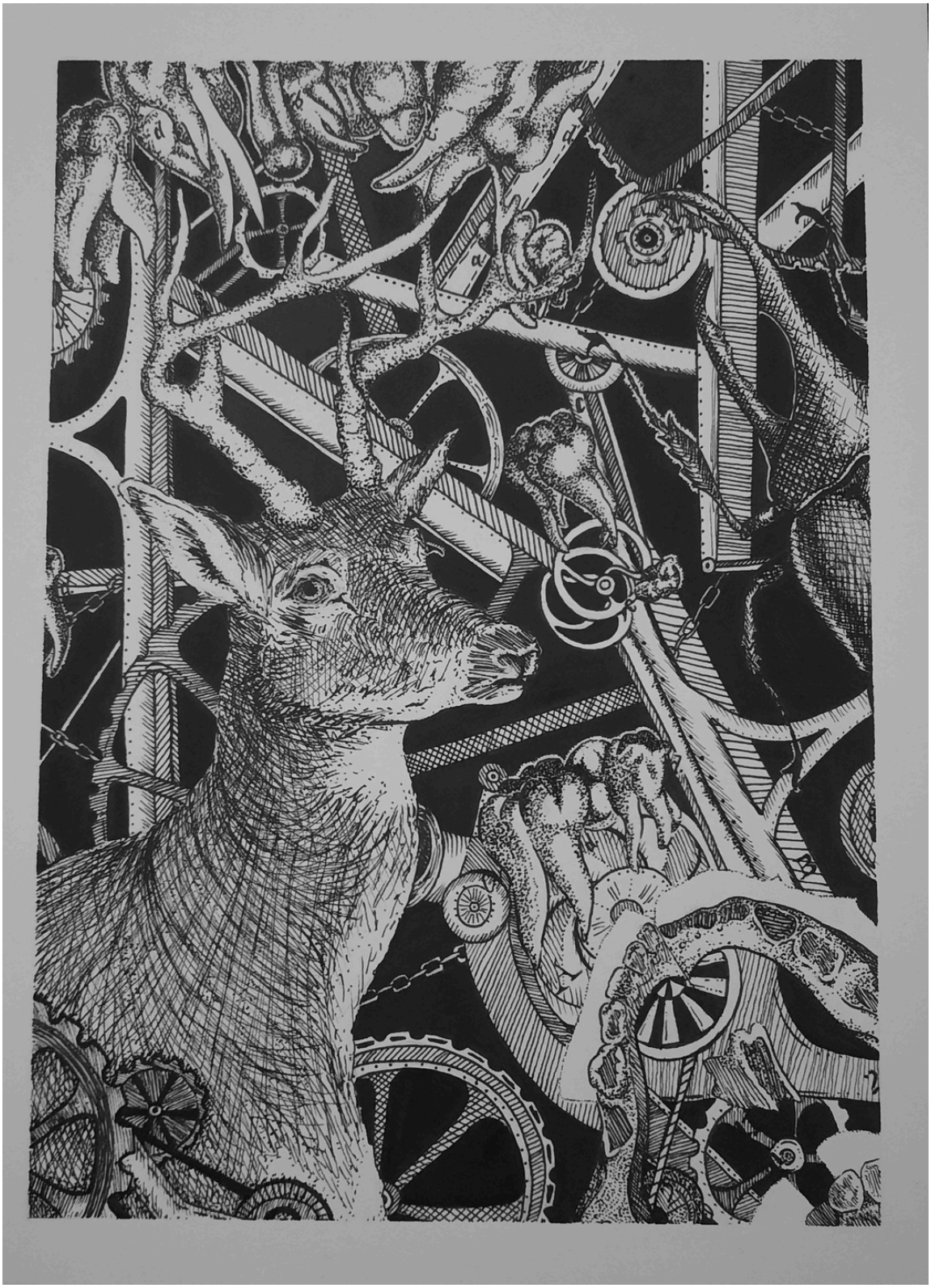
Jarius

10th grade



Kayla

12th grade



Khalan

11th grade



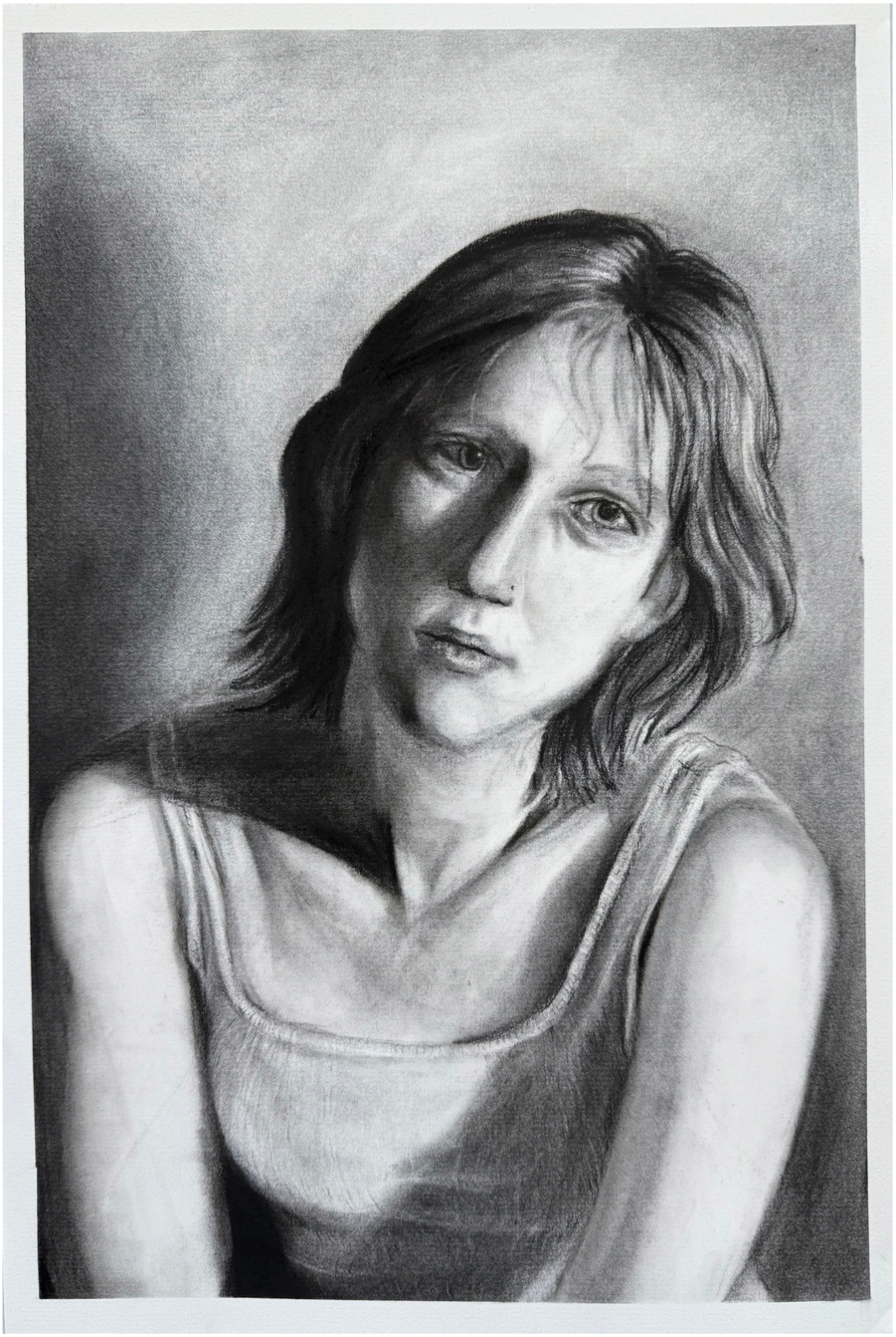
Kyler

12th grade



Lila

11th grade



Lila

11th grade



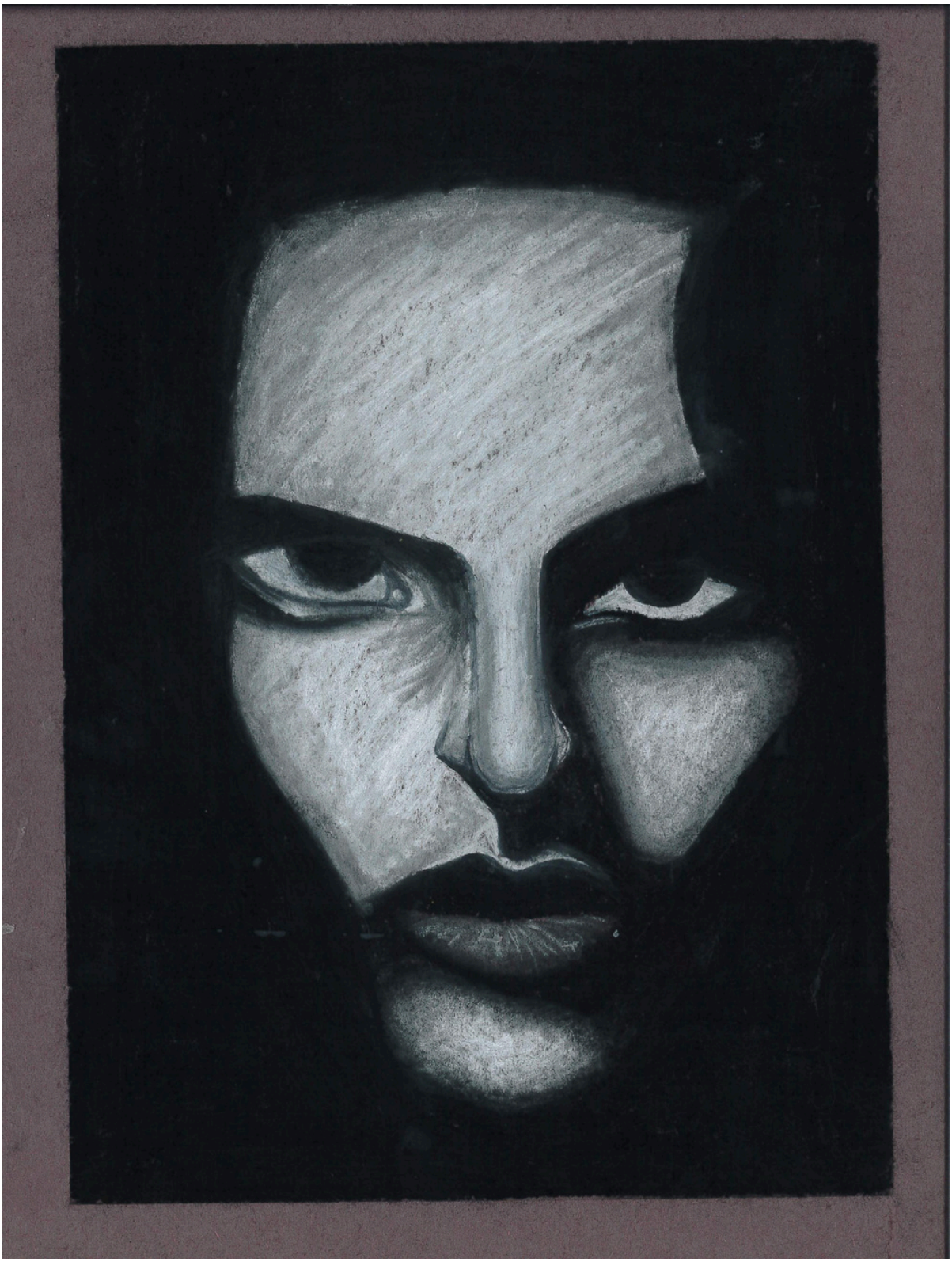
MaKenzie

11th grade



Mallory

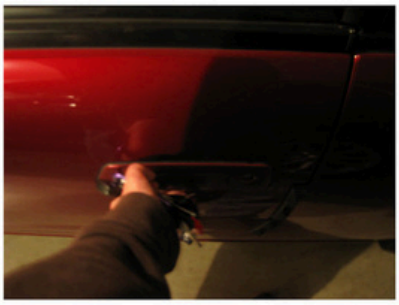
12th grade



Markayla

11th grade








Mitch

12th grade



Morrigan

12th grade



Morrigan

12th grade



Moses

12th grade

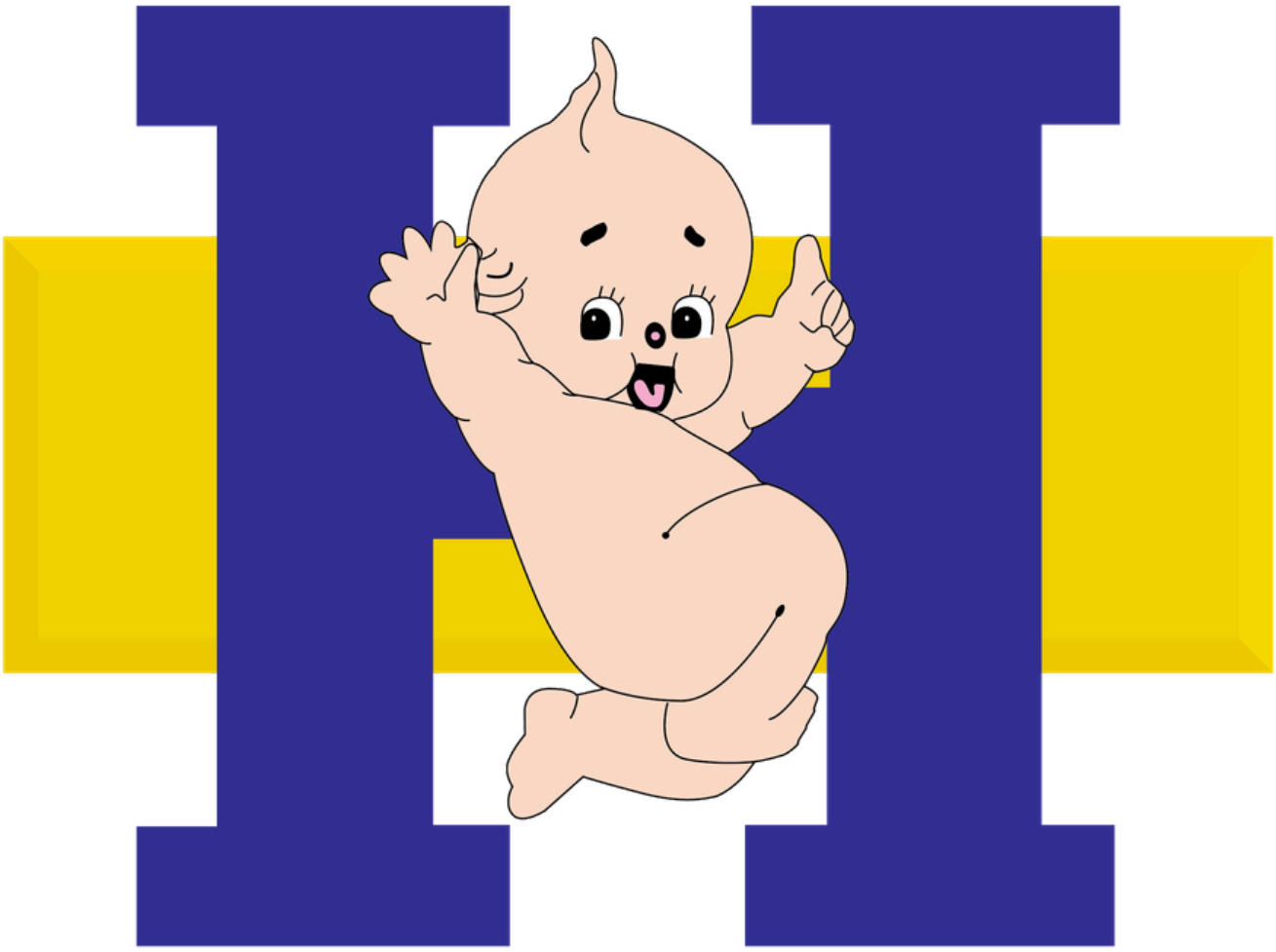


Starr

11th grade



Tyler
12th grade

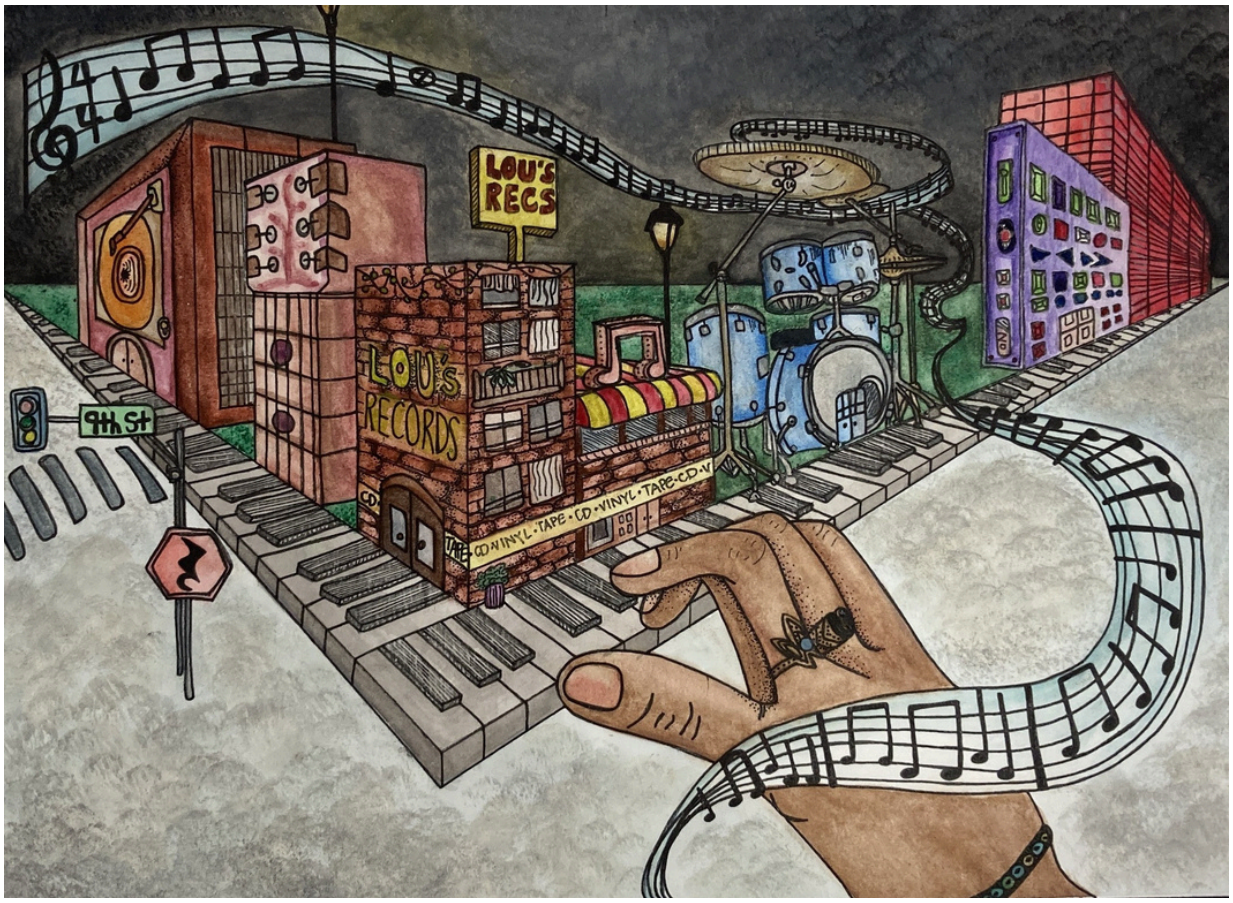


Hickman High School



Ava

11th grade



Pasha

11th grade



Sophia

11th grade



Zhen

11th grade



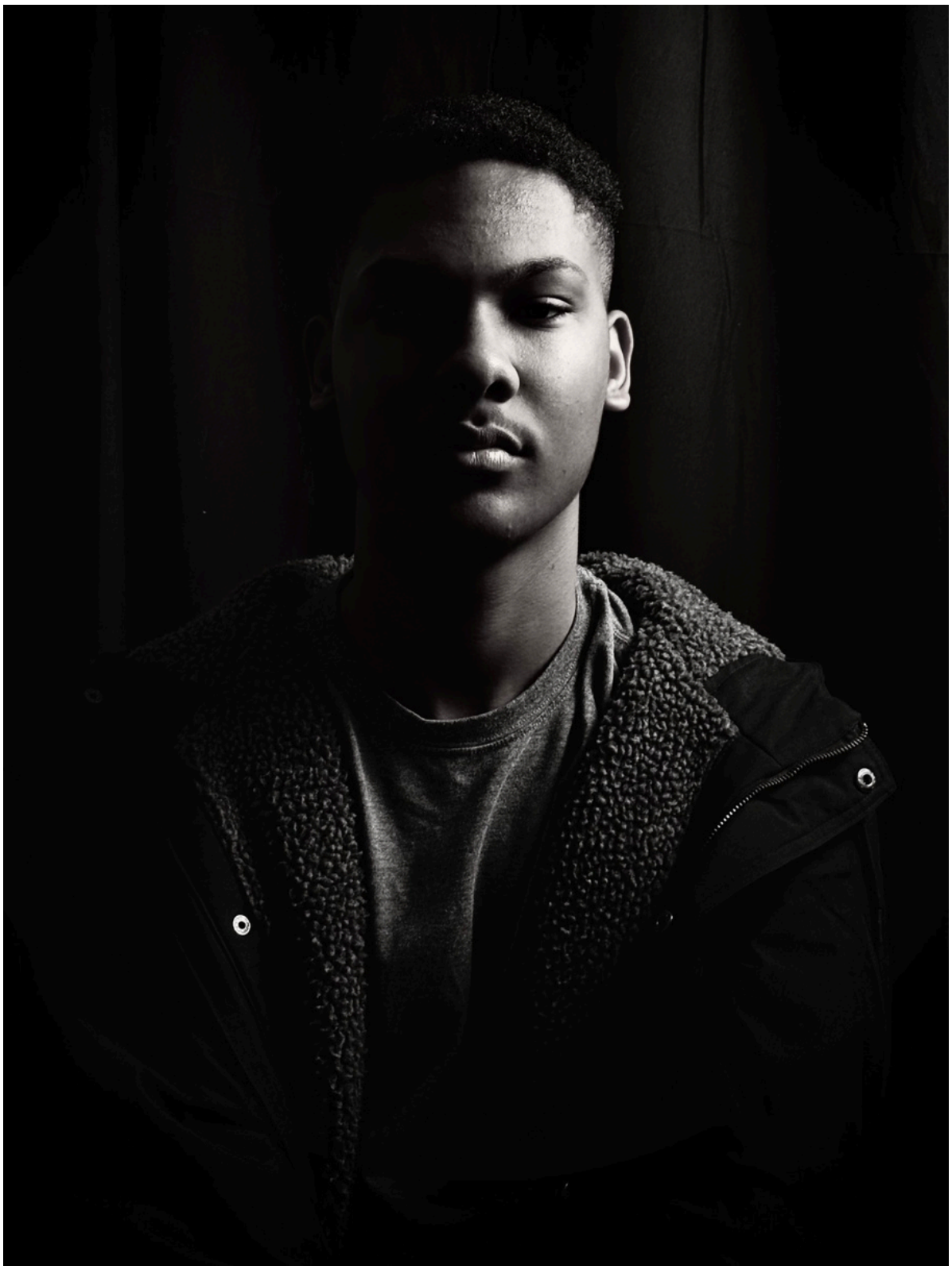
Abigaile

11th grade



Alex

12th grade



Amora

11th grade



Anna

12th grade



Aria

12th grade



Aria

12th grade



Aryanna

12th grade



August

12th grade



Ava

12th grade



Ava

12th grade



Ava

12th grade



Ava

12th grade



Bailey

12th grade



Hannah

11th grade



Hannah

11th grade



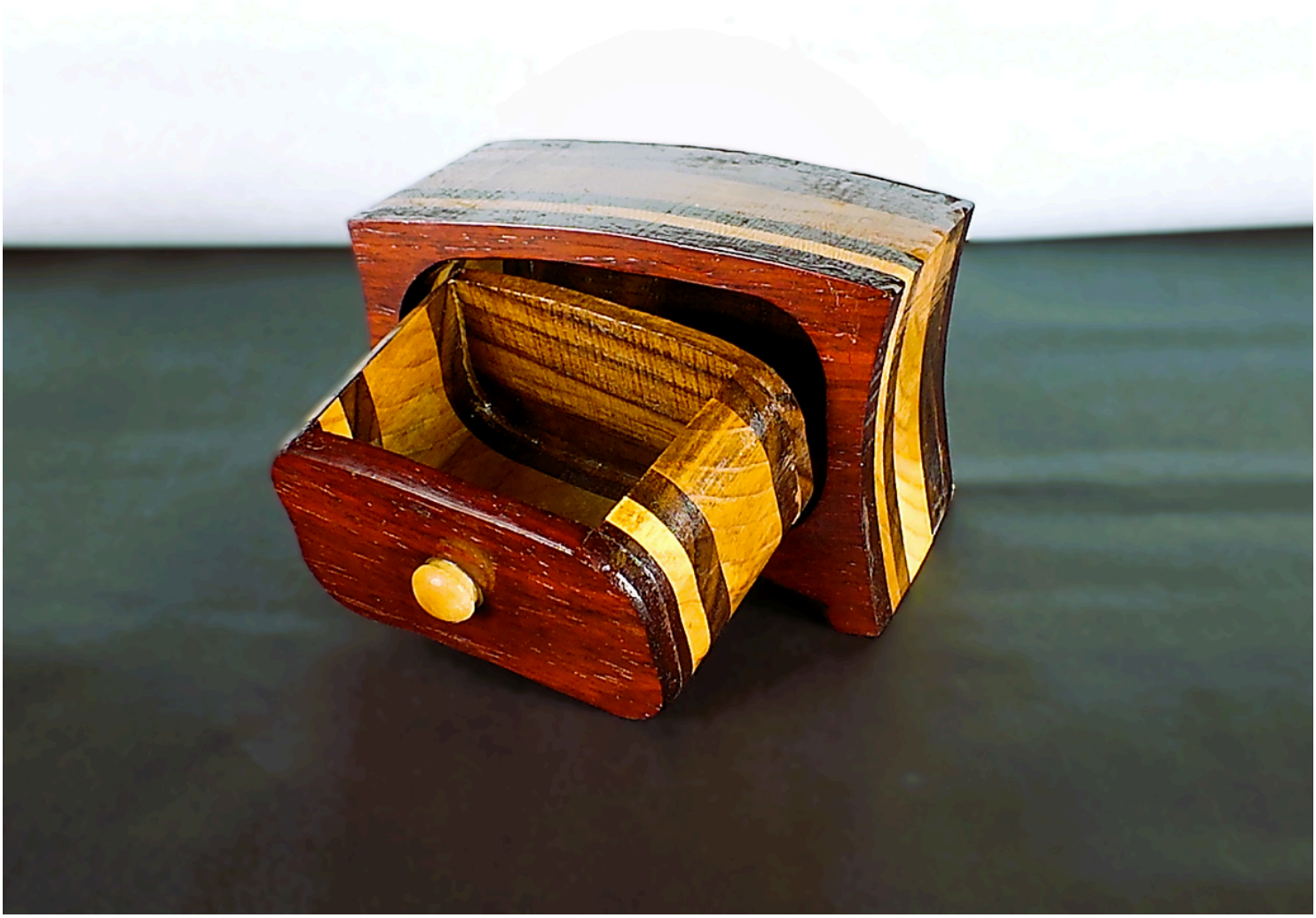
Brewer

12th grade



Brewer

12th grade



Graeme

12th grade



Blake

11th grade



Brionna
ninth grade



Brionna
ninth grade



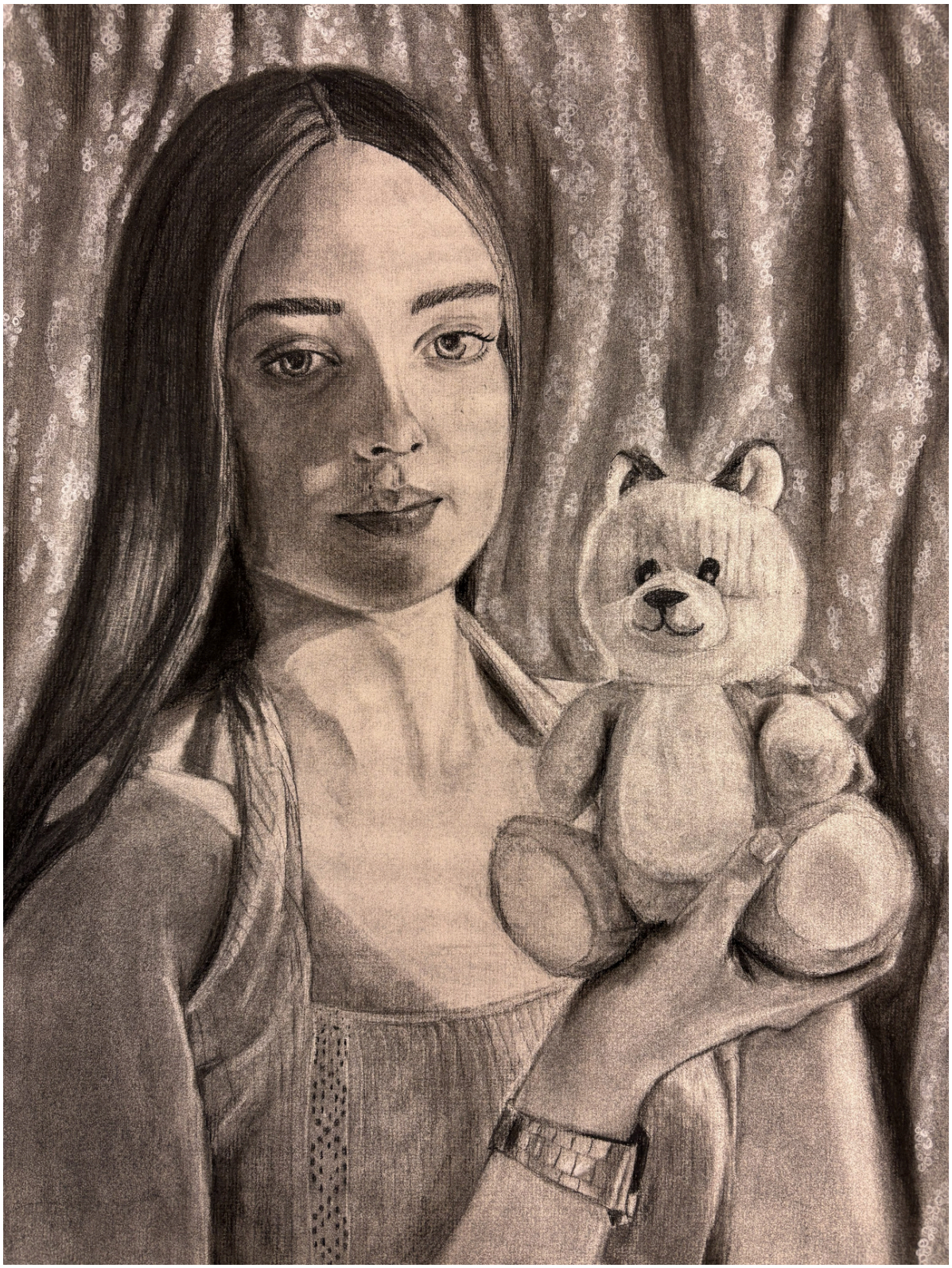
Brooklyn

10th grade



Cameron

11th grade



Carla

11th grade



Carla

12th grade



Charly

11th grade



Clariety

12th grade



Crow

11th grade

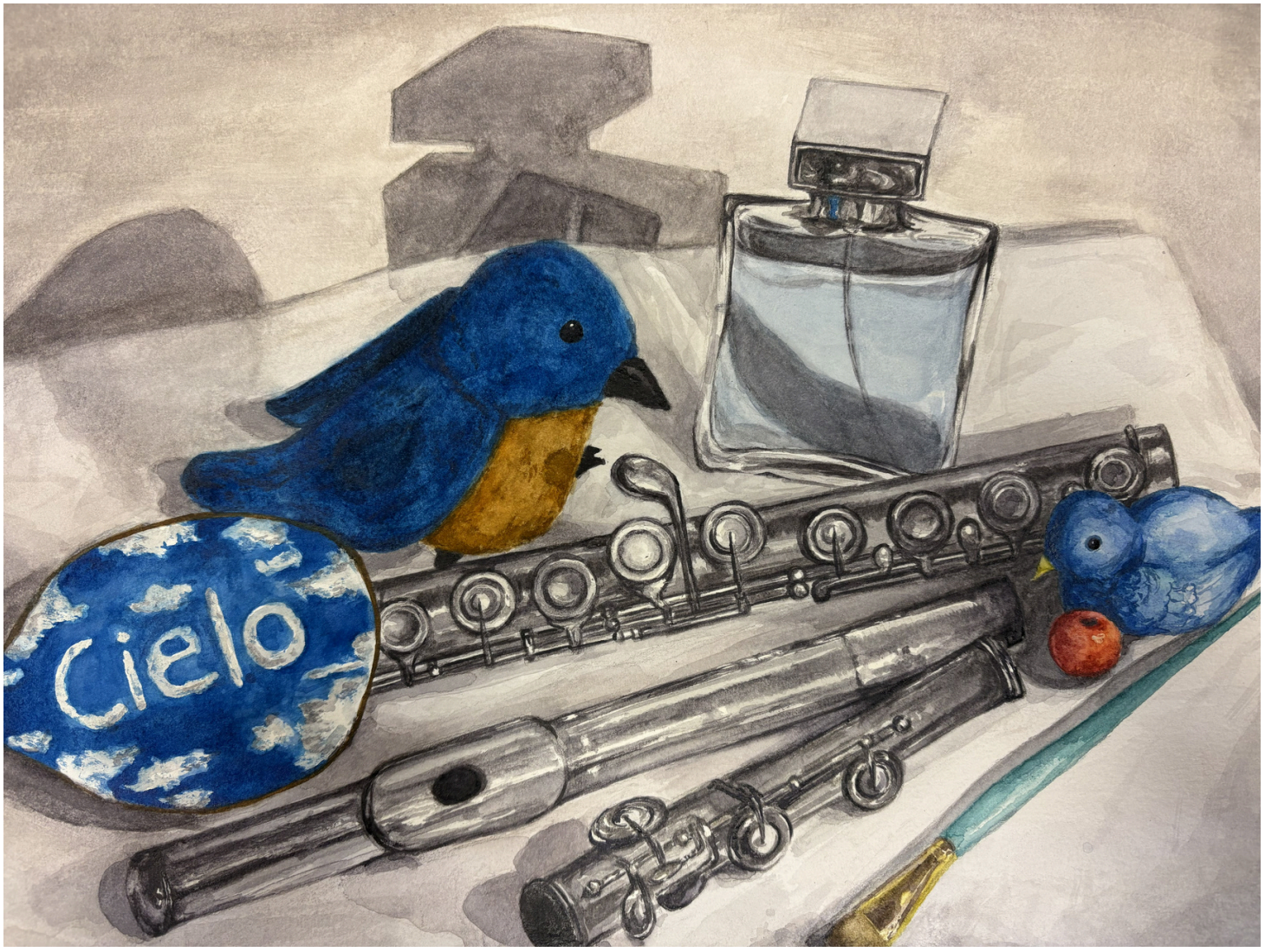


Crow

11th grade



Cyrus
ninth grade



Elin

11th grade



Elizabeth

12th grade



Elizabeth

12th grade



Ellie
ninth grade



Ellie

ninth grade



Emma

11th grade



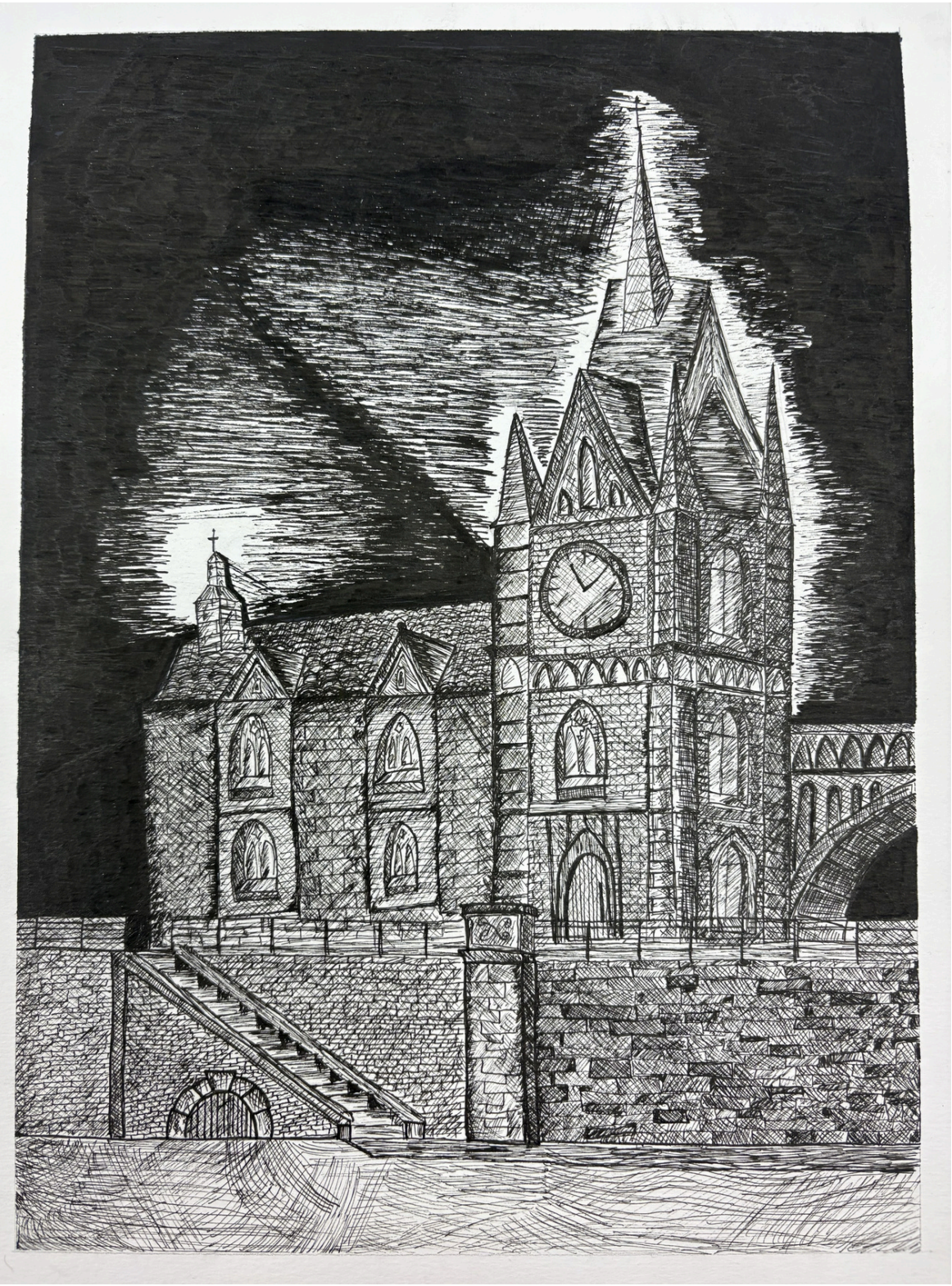
Emma

11th grade



Esme

10th grade



Ethan

12th grade



Ethan

12th grade



Evan

12th grade



Evan

12th grade



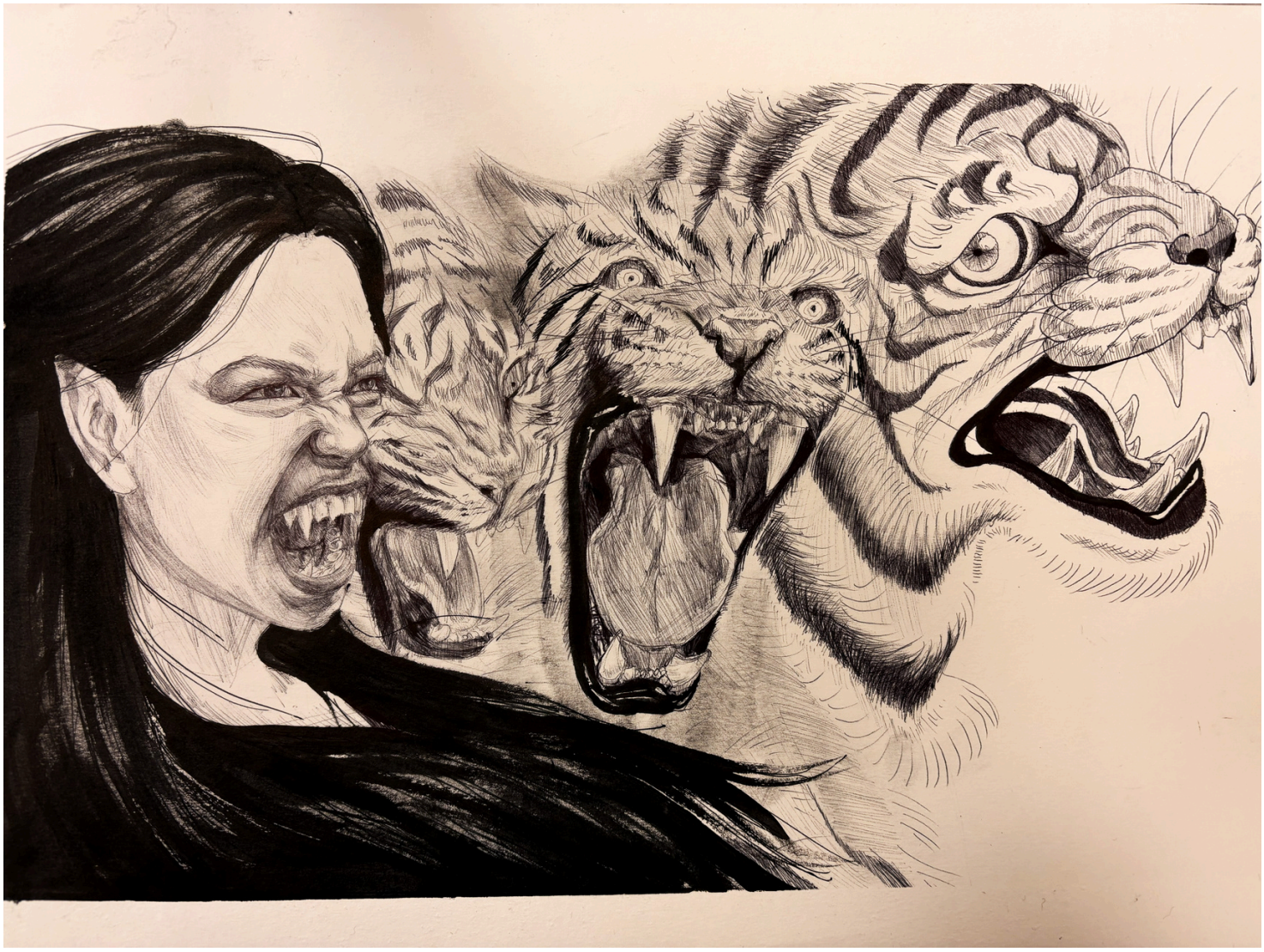
Funan

12th grade



Funan

12th grade

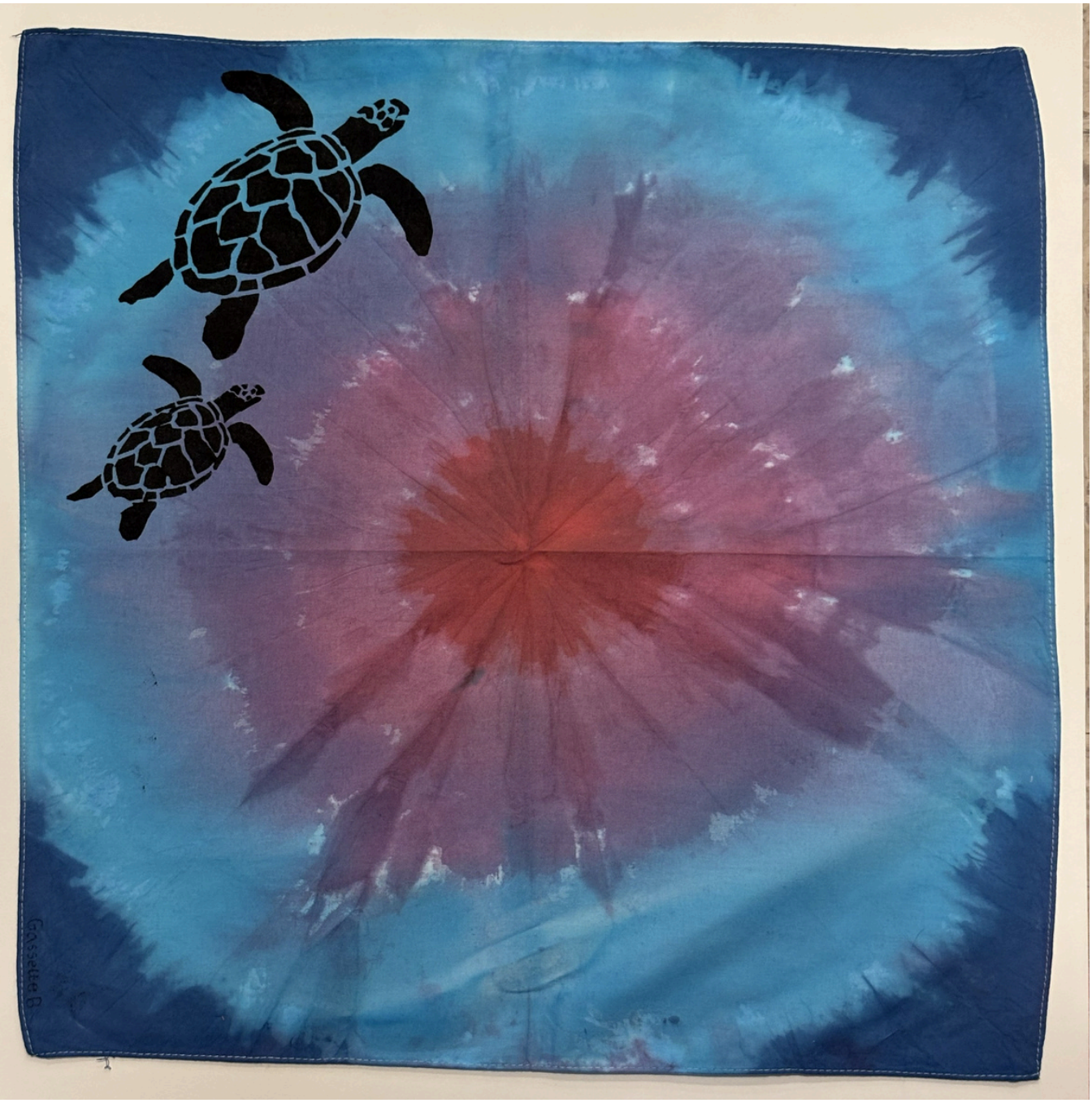


Funan

12th grade



Gassette
ninth grade



Gassette
ninth grade



Glitch

12th grade



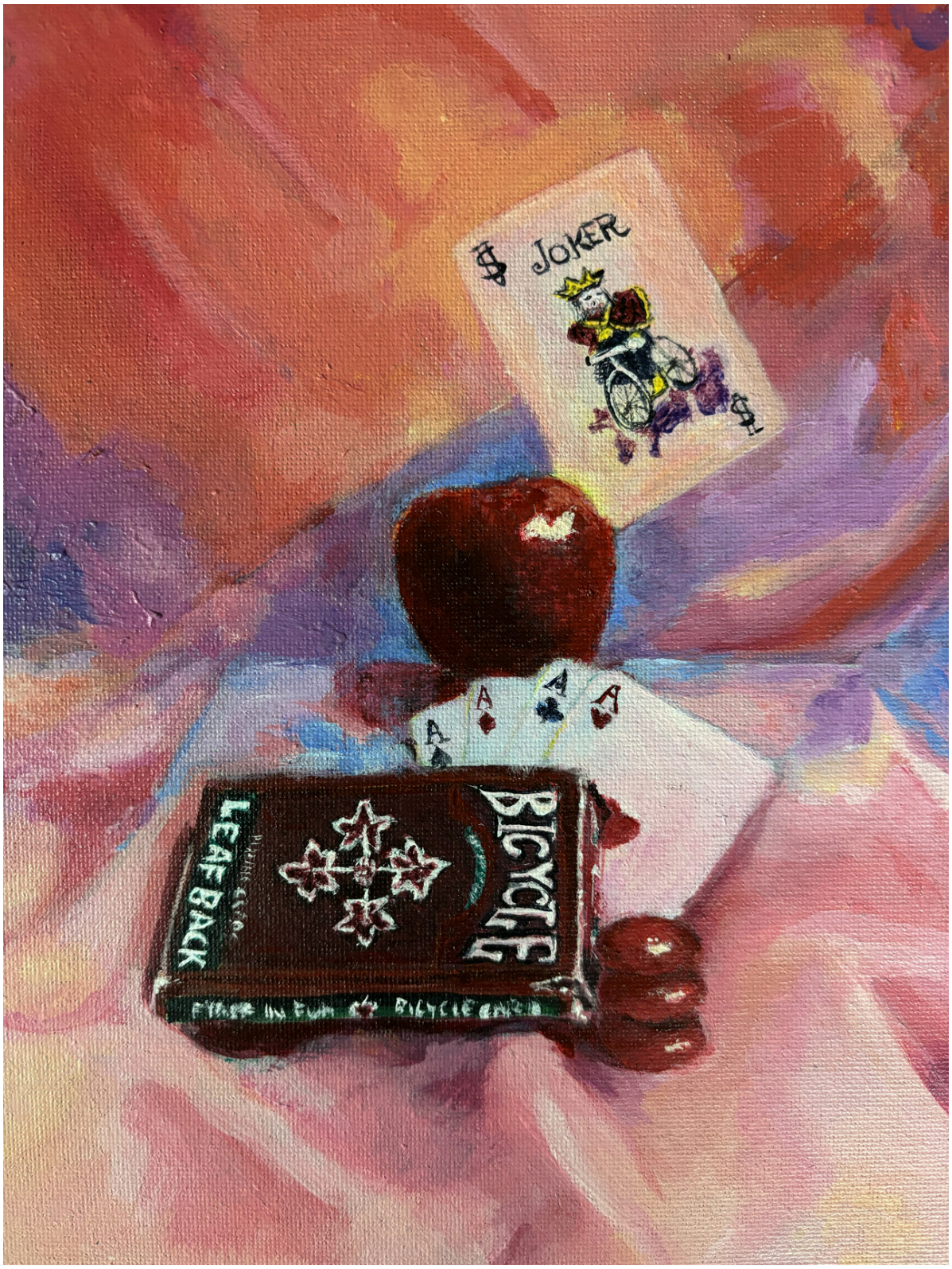
Gracie

ninth grade



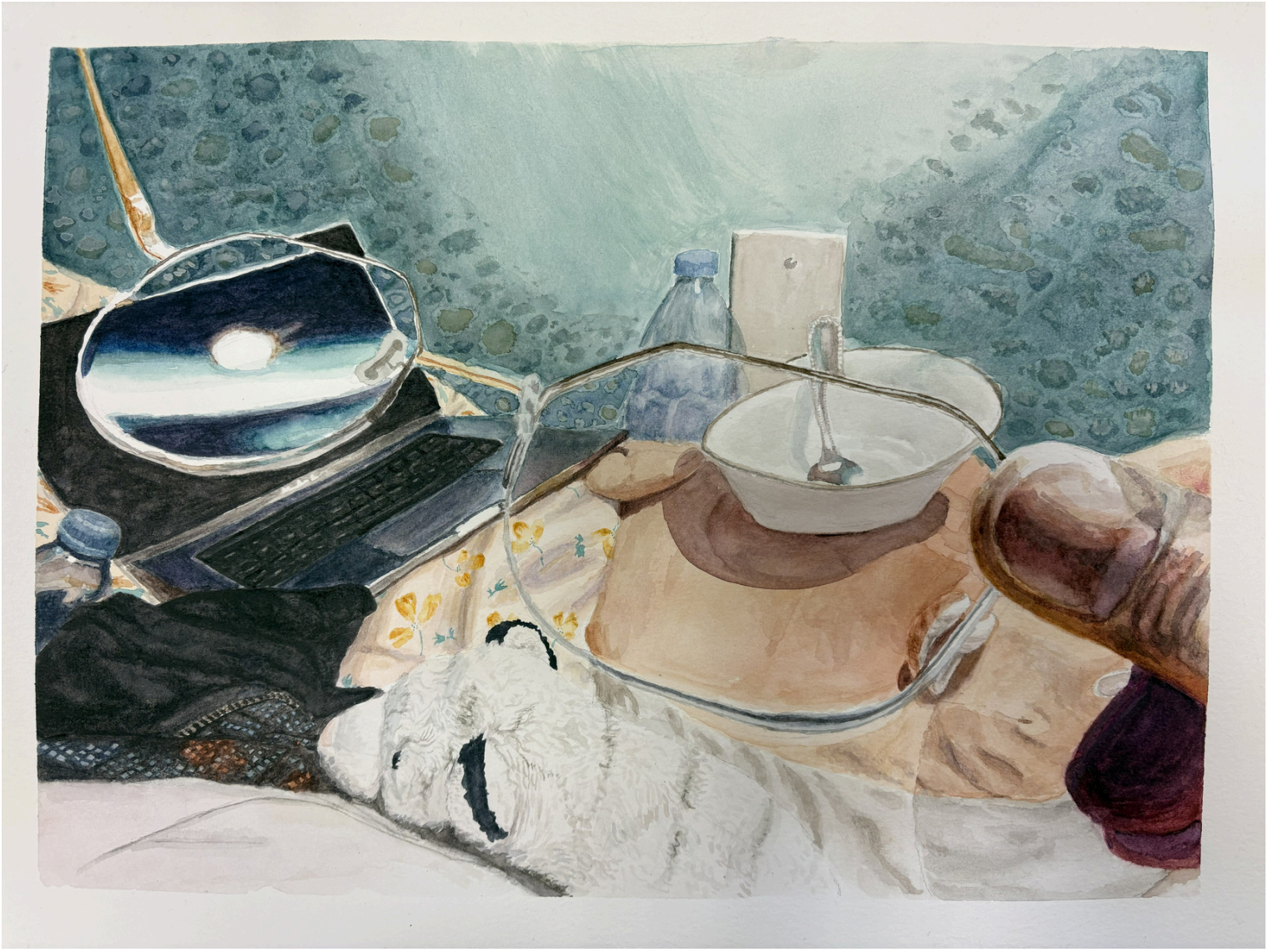
Helen

10th grade



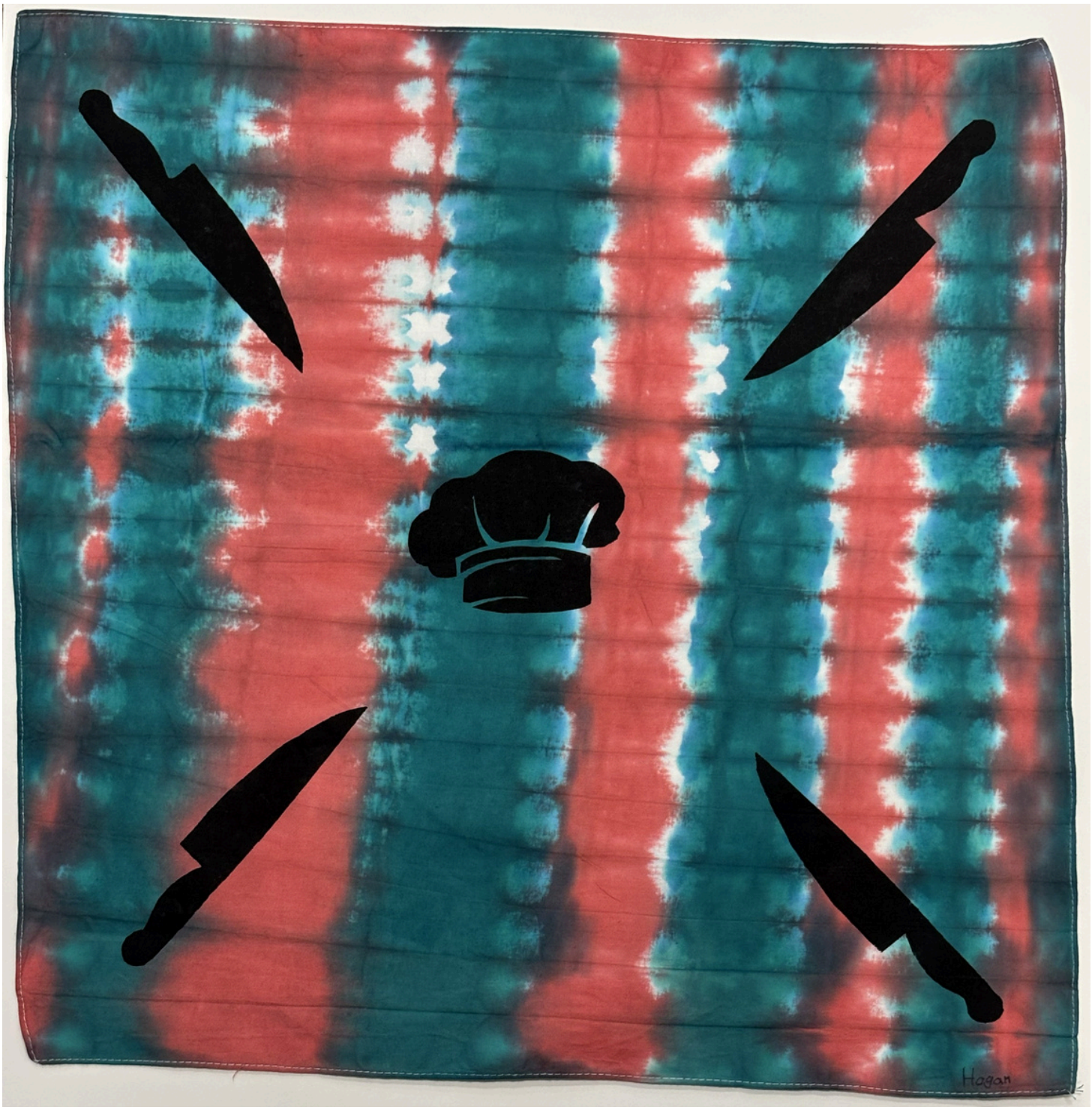
Helen

10th grade



Helena

12th grade



Hogan

11th grade



Ivy

11th grade



Ivy

11th grade








Ivy
11th grade



Ivy

11th grade



Ivy

11th grade



Ivy

11th grade



Jada
ninth grade



Jada

12th grade



Jaren

10th grade



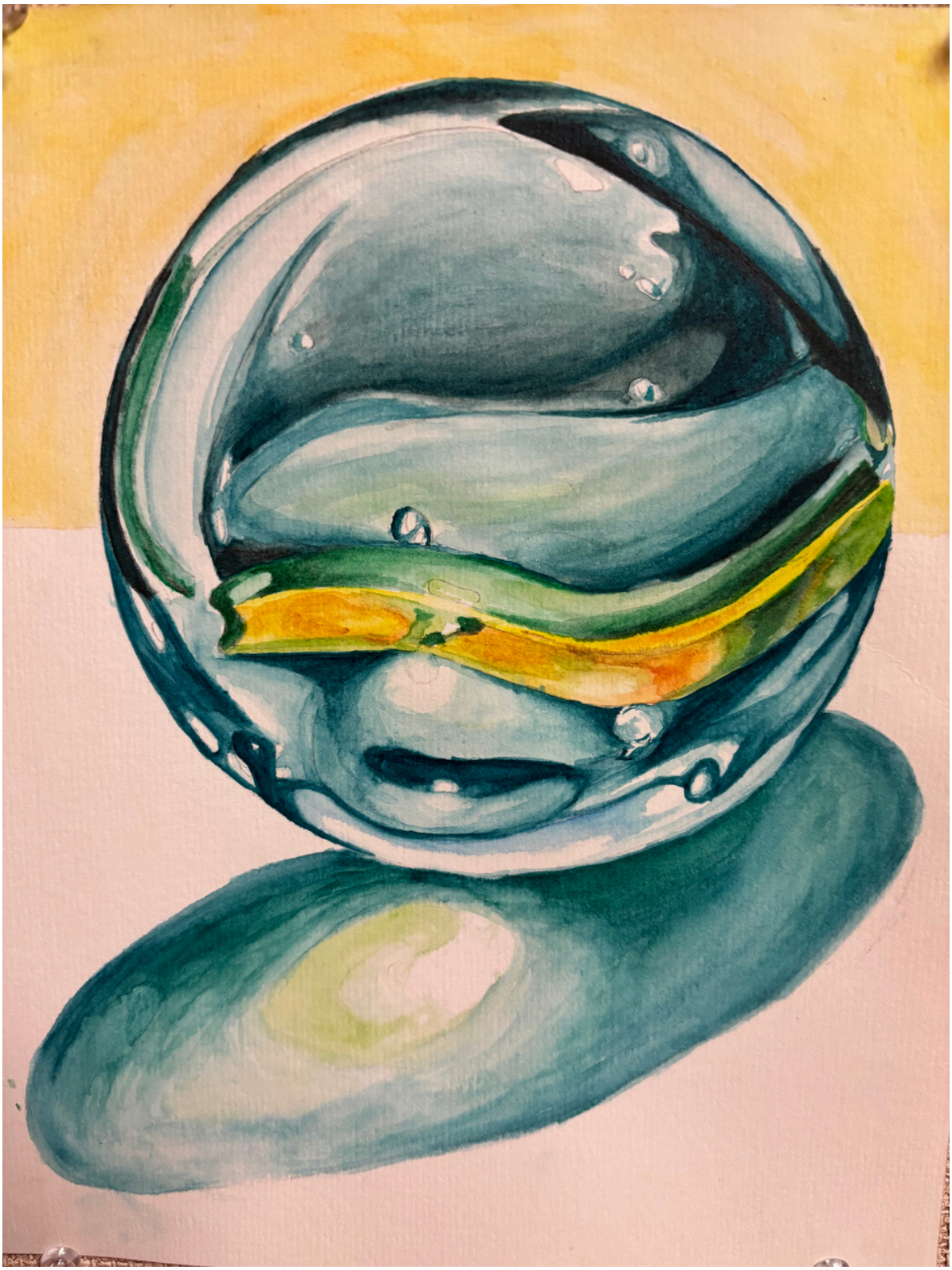
Jay

11th grade



Jayla

11th grade



Jennifer

11th grade



Jocelyn

11th grade



Jonah

12th grade



Jonah

12th grade



Jonathan

11th grade



Joshua

10th grade



Juniper

10th grade



Juniper

10th grade



Karlynn

12th grade



Keller

12th grade



Kelsey

12th grade



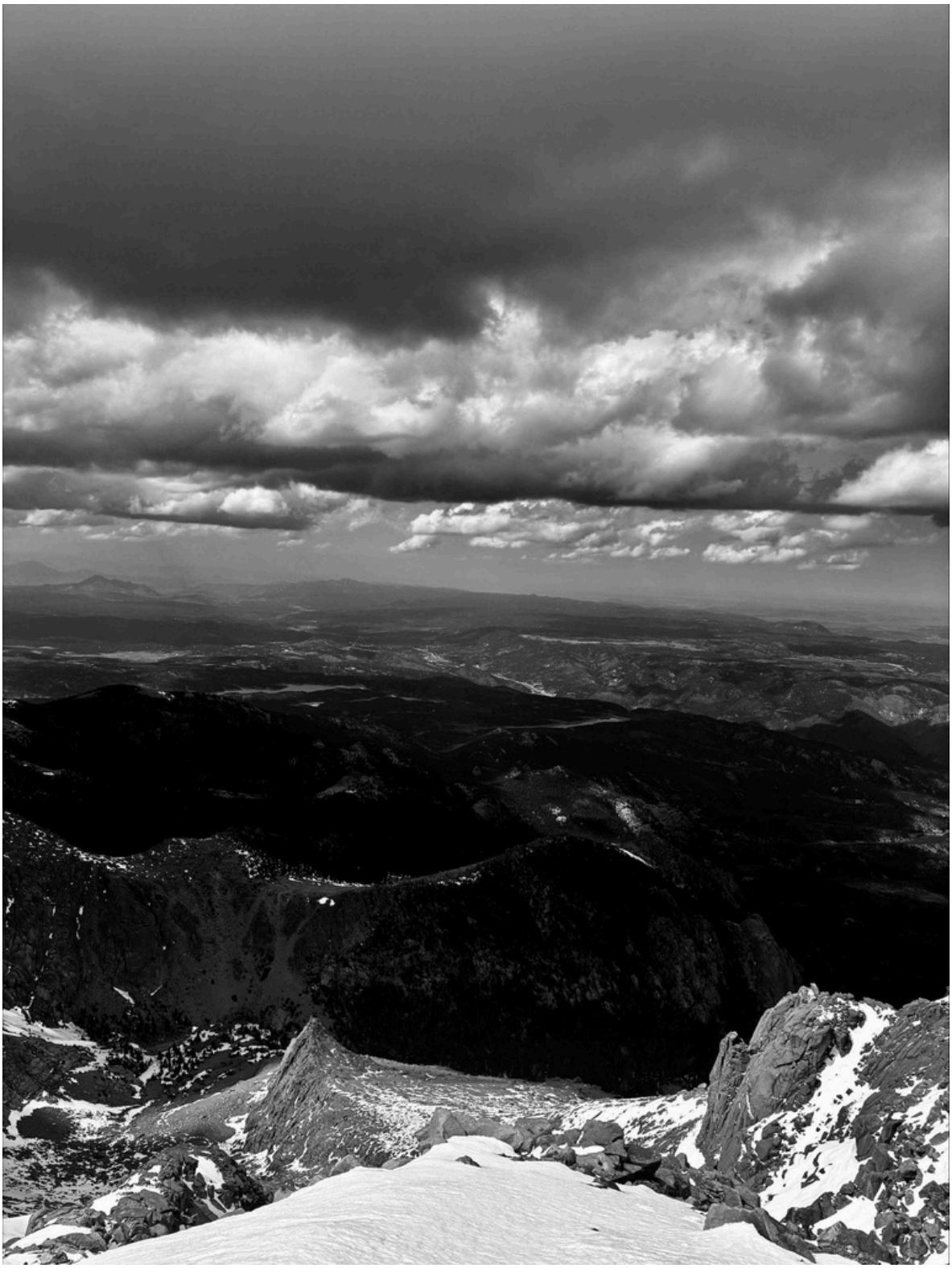
Kris

11th grade



Kylie

11th grade



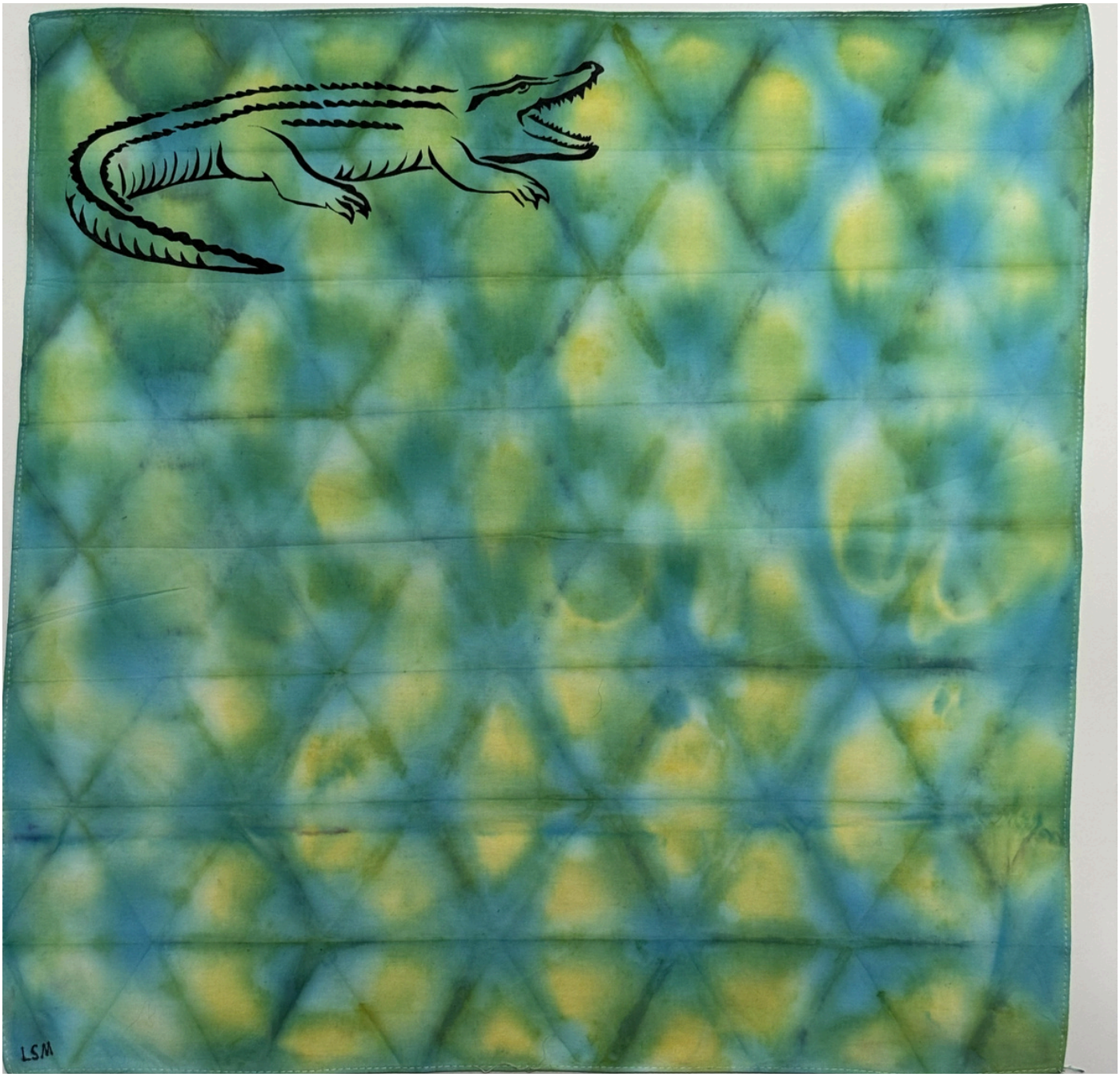
Lane’ya

12th grade



Langston

12th grade



Langston

12th grade



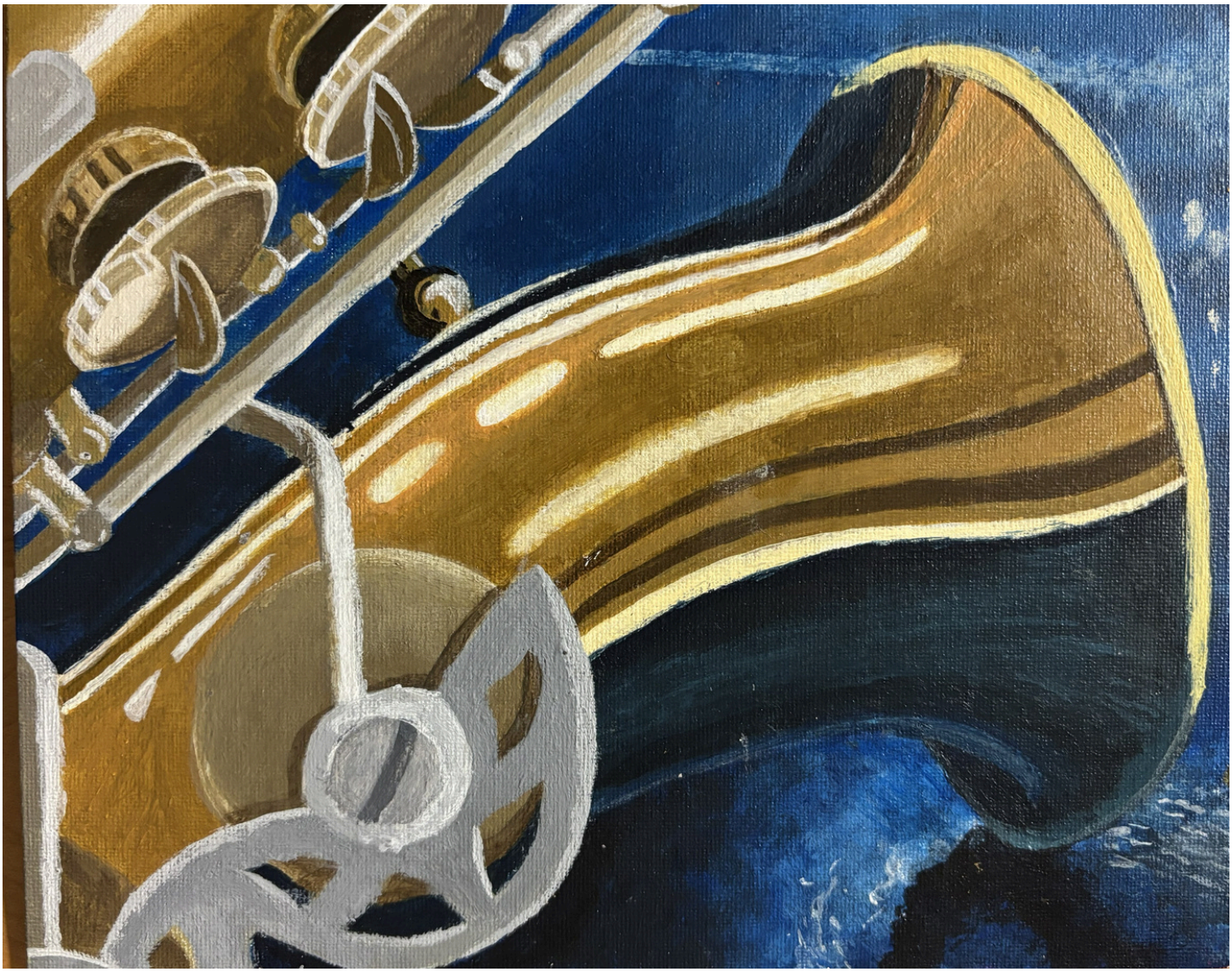
Lela

11th grade



Levon

11th grade



Liam

10th grade



Lillian

12th grade



Lillian
high school



Lua

11th grade



Lyla

11th grade



Marcos
ninth grade



Marissa

11th grade



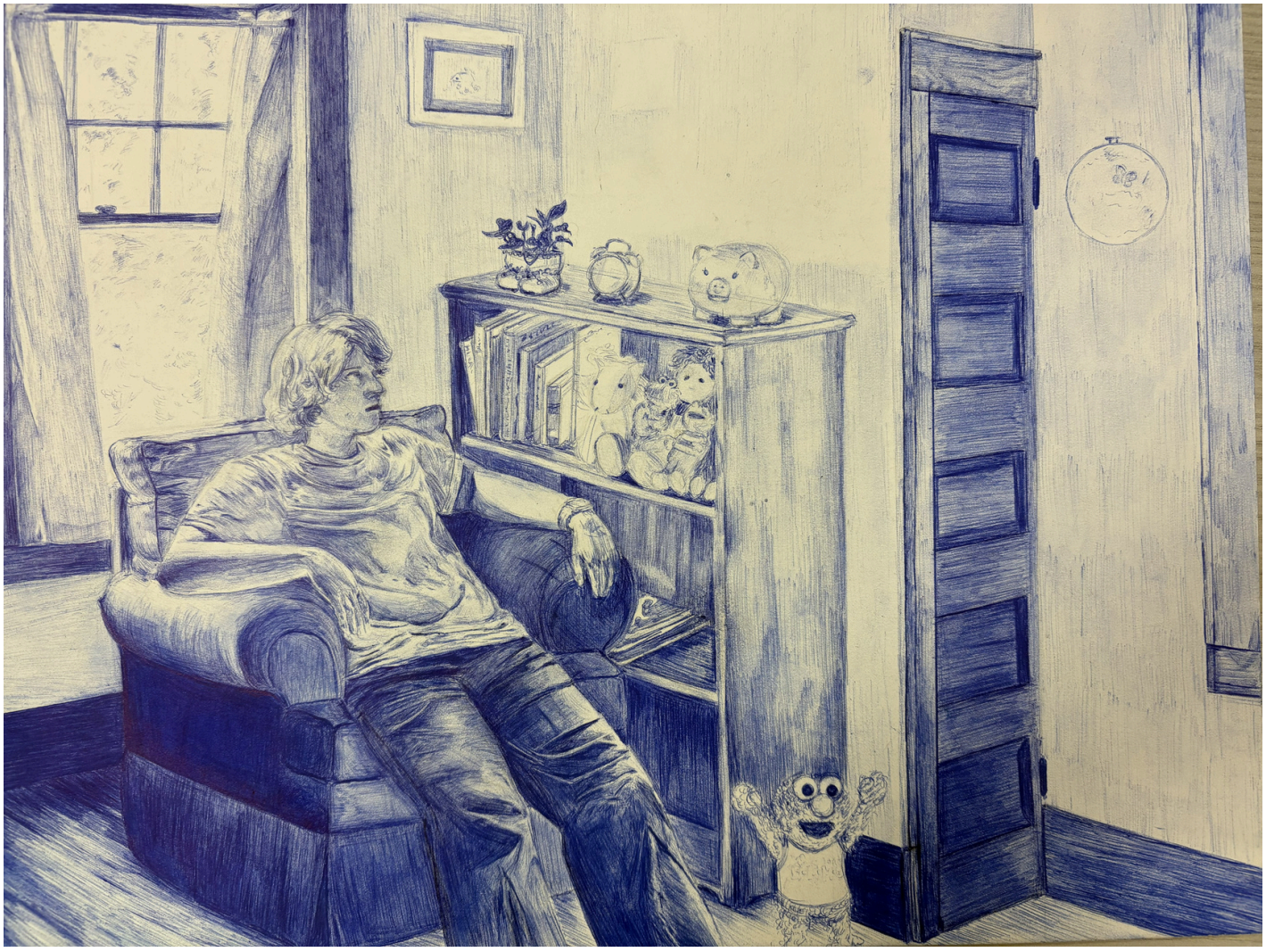
Mary

12th grade



Mary

12th grade



Mary

12th grade



Matthew

11th grade



Maylea

11th grade



Melody
10th grade



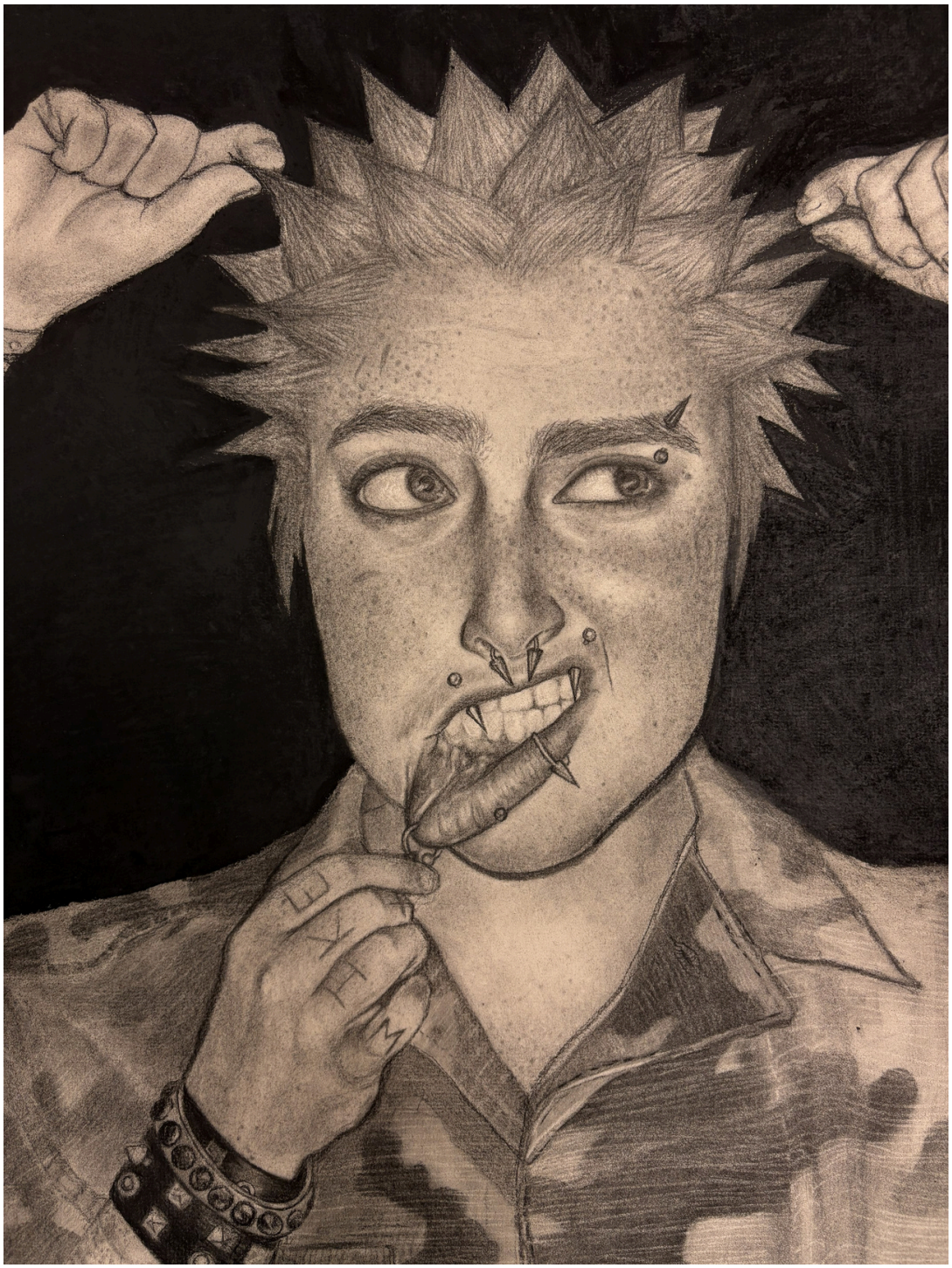
Meren

10th grade



Mia

10th grade



Michael

11th grade



Michael

11th grade



Michael

11th grade



Mooshaw

12th grade



Mooshaw

12th grade



Natalie

12th grade



Nate

11th grade



Nate

11th grade



Ne

11th grade



Ollie

11th grade



Ollie

11th grade



Ollie

11th grade



Ollie

11th grade



Ona

12th grade



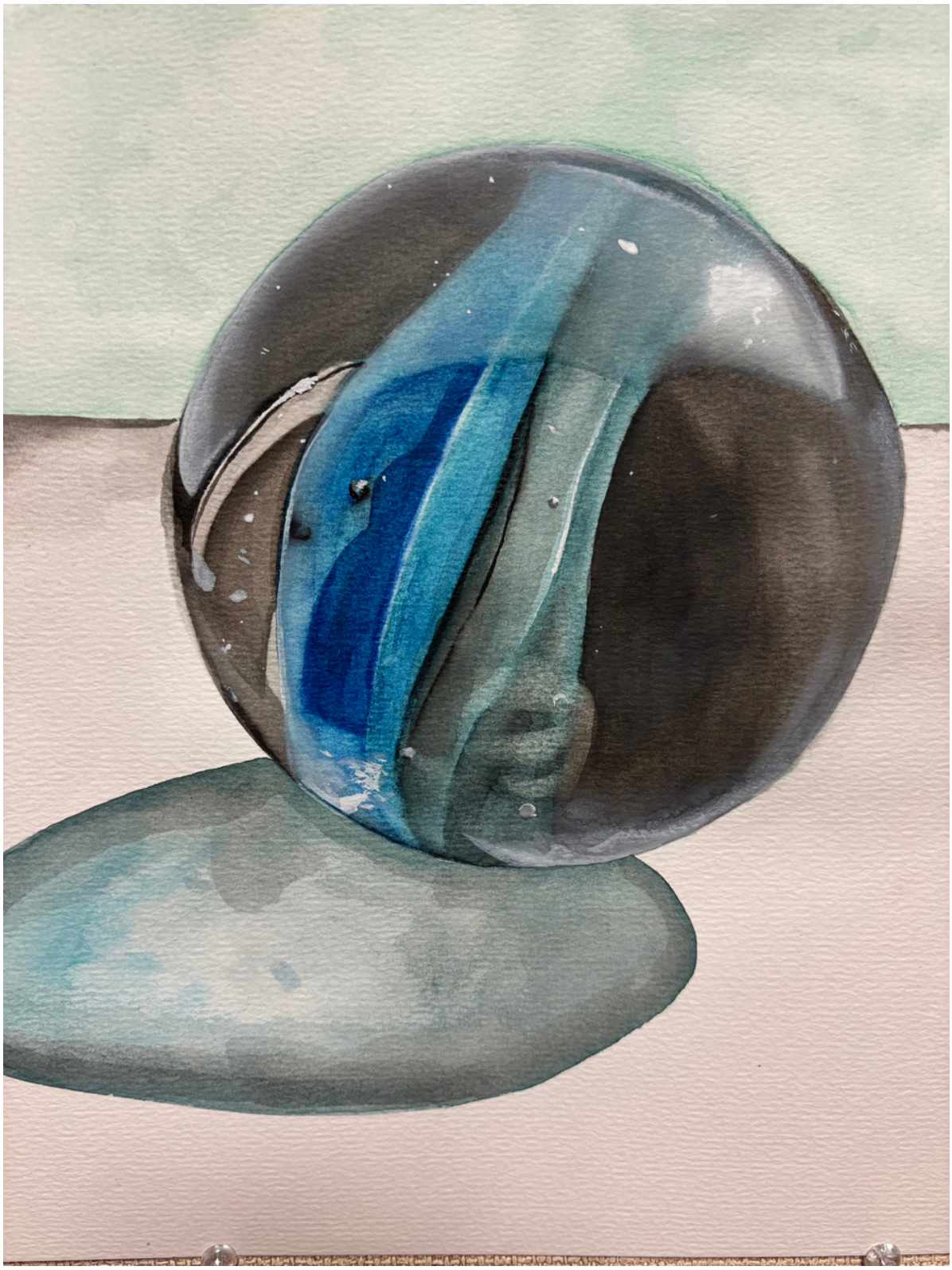
Pasha

10th grade



Pasha

10th grade



Pasha

10th grade



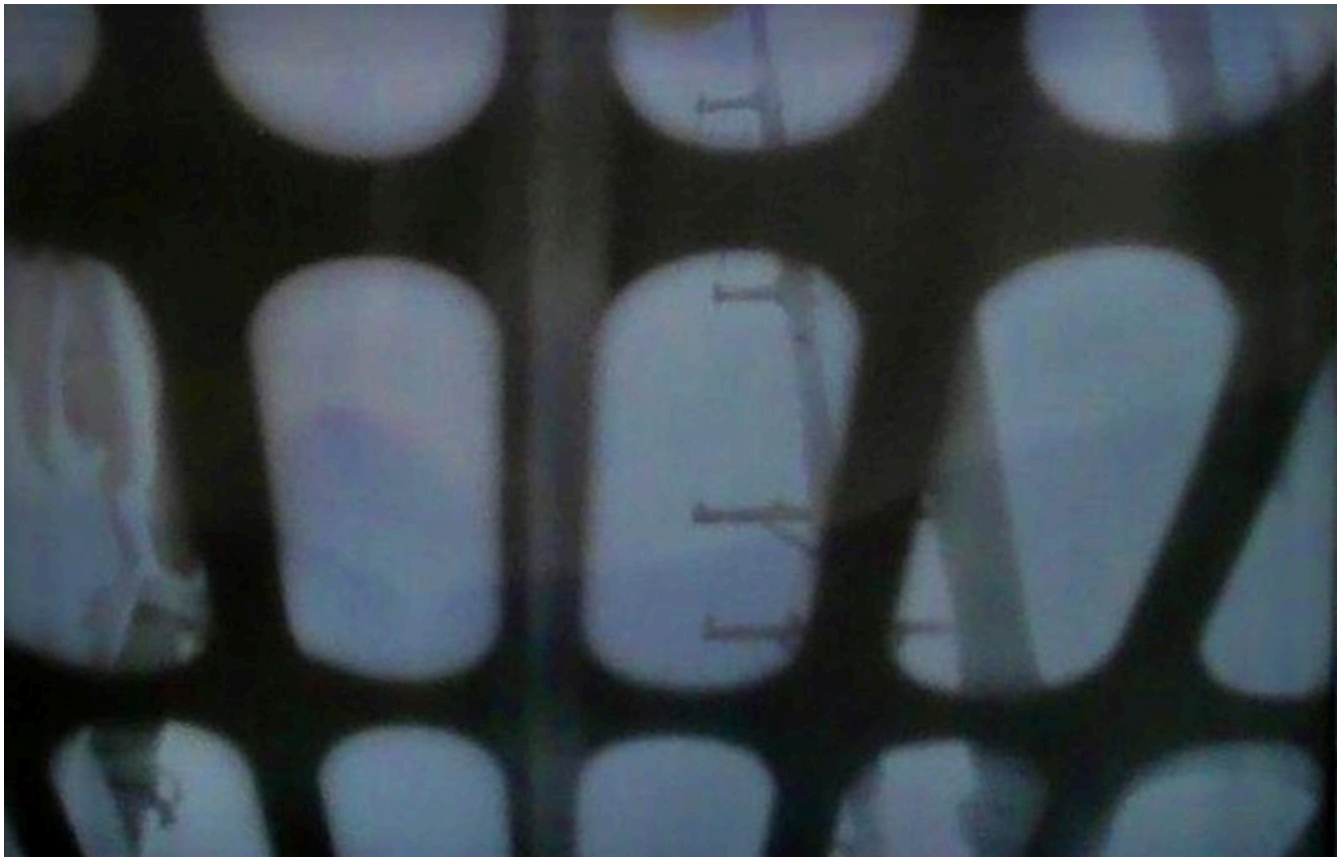
Quiance

12th grade



Quiance

12th grade



Raya

11th grade



Riley

12th grade



Rita

10th grade



River

12th grade



Ry

10th grade



Ryleigh

10th grade

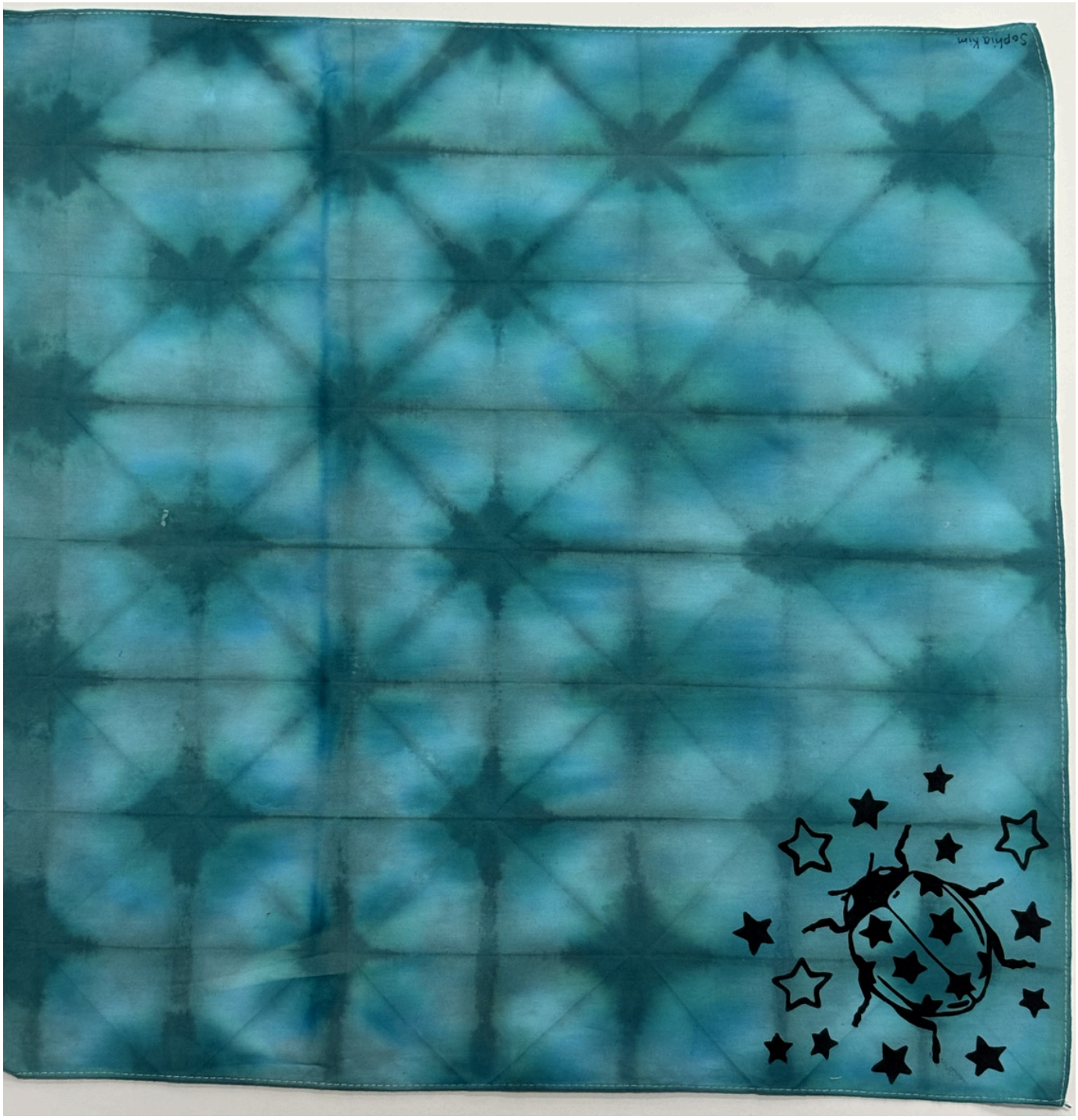


Sami

12th grade



Sophia
ninth grade



Sophia
ninth grade



Sophia

12th grade



Soren

10th grade



Sydney

11th grade



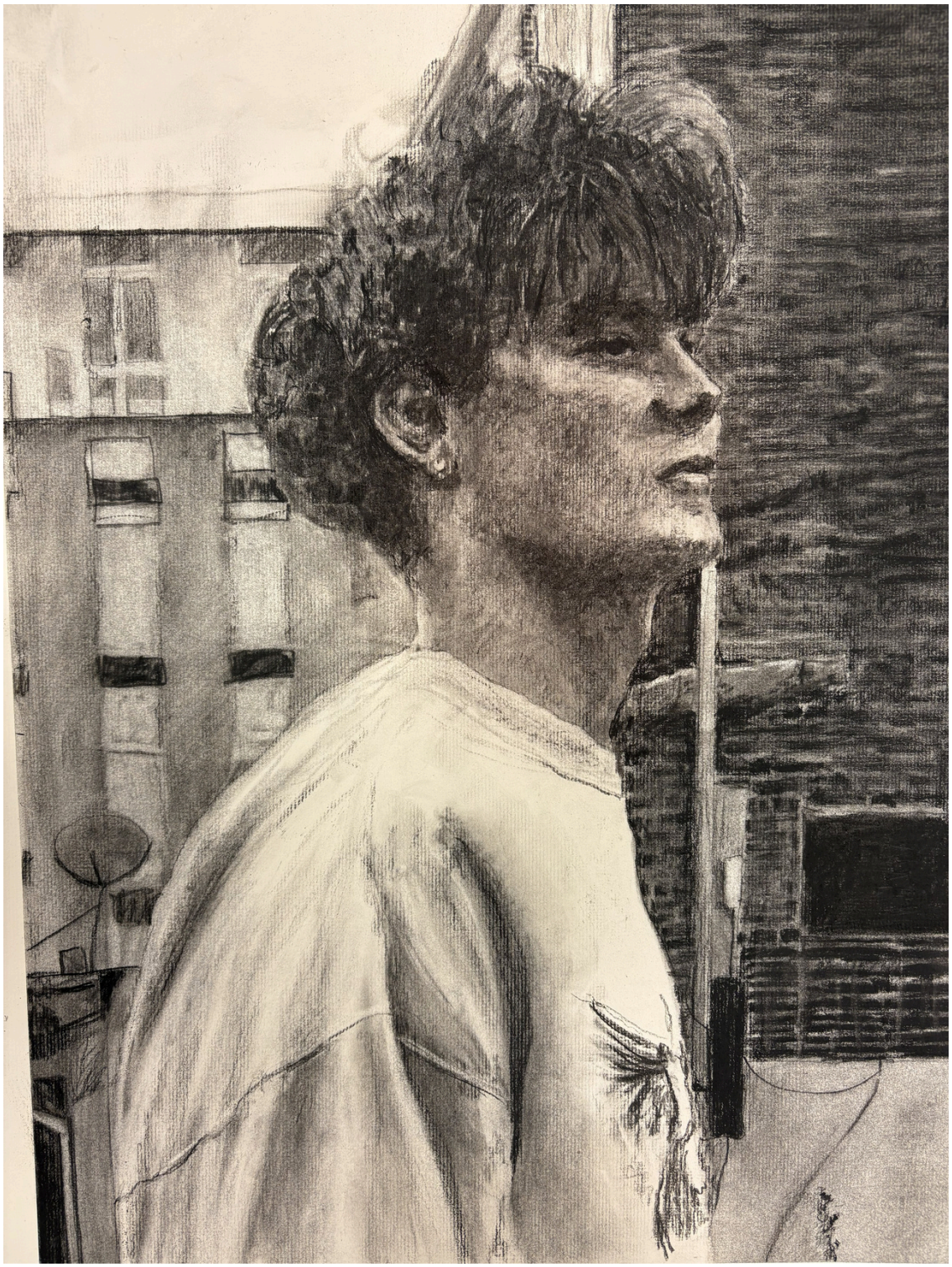
Trenton

12th grade



Trey

11th grade



Wilkie

11th grade



Yelin

11th grade



Yelin

11th grade



Yelin

11th grade



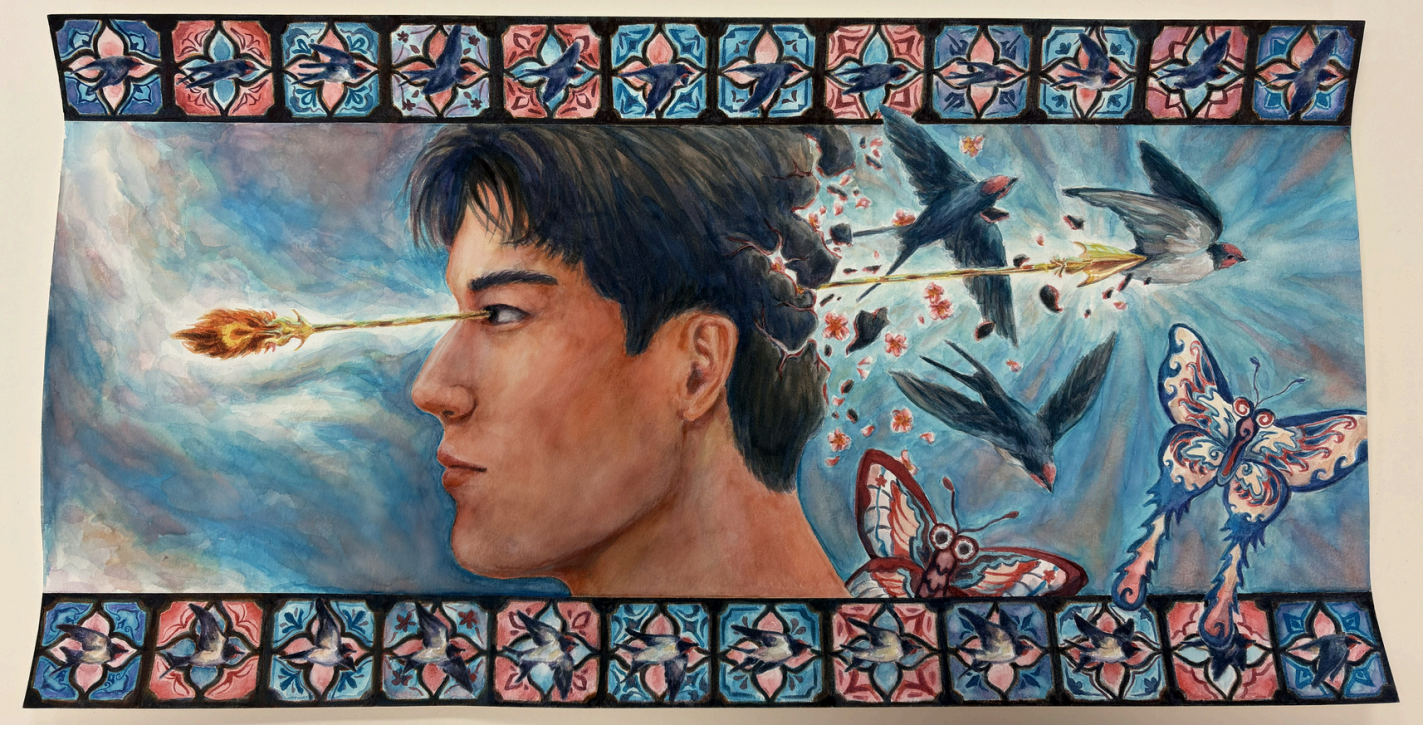
Yelin

11th grade



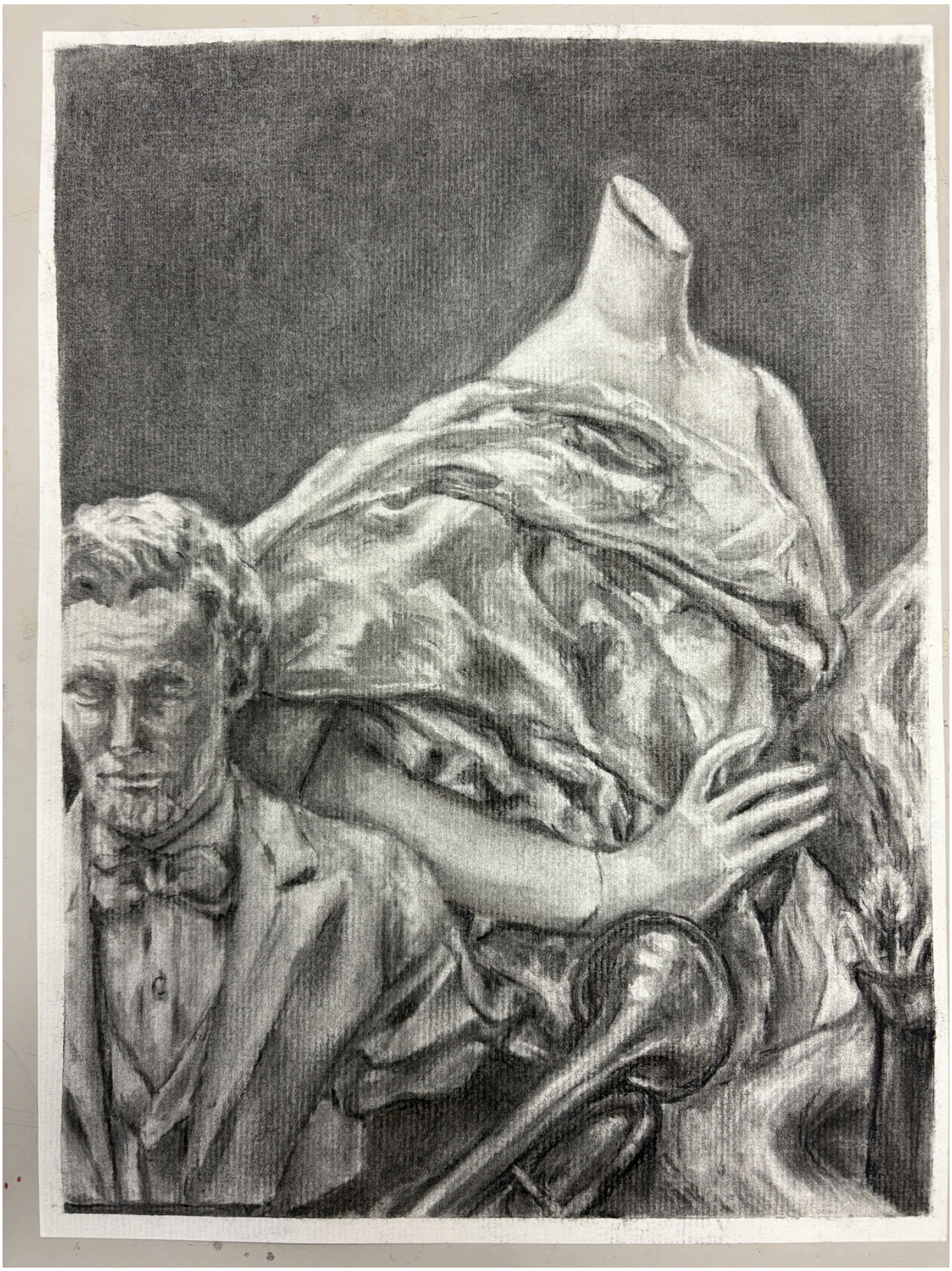
Zarrian

10th grade



Zhen

11th grade



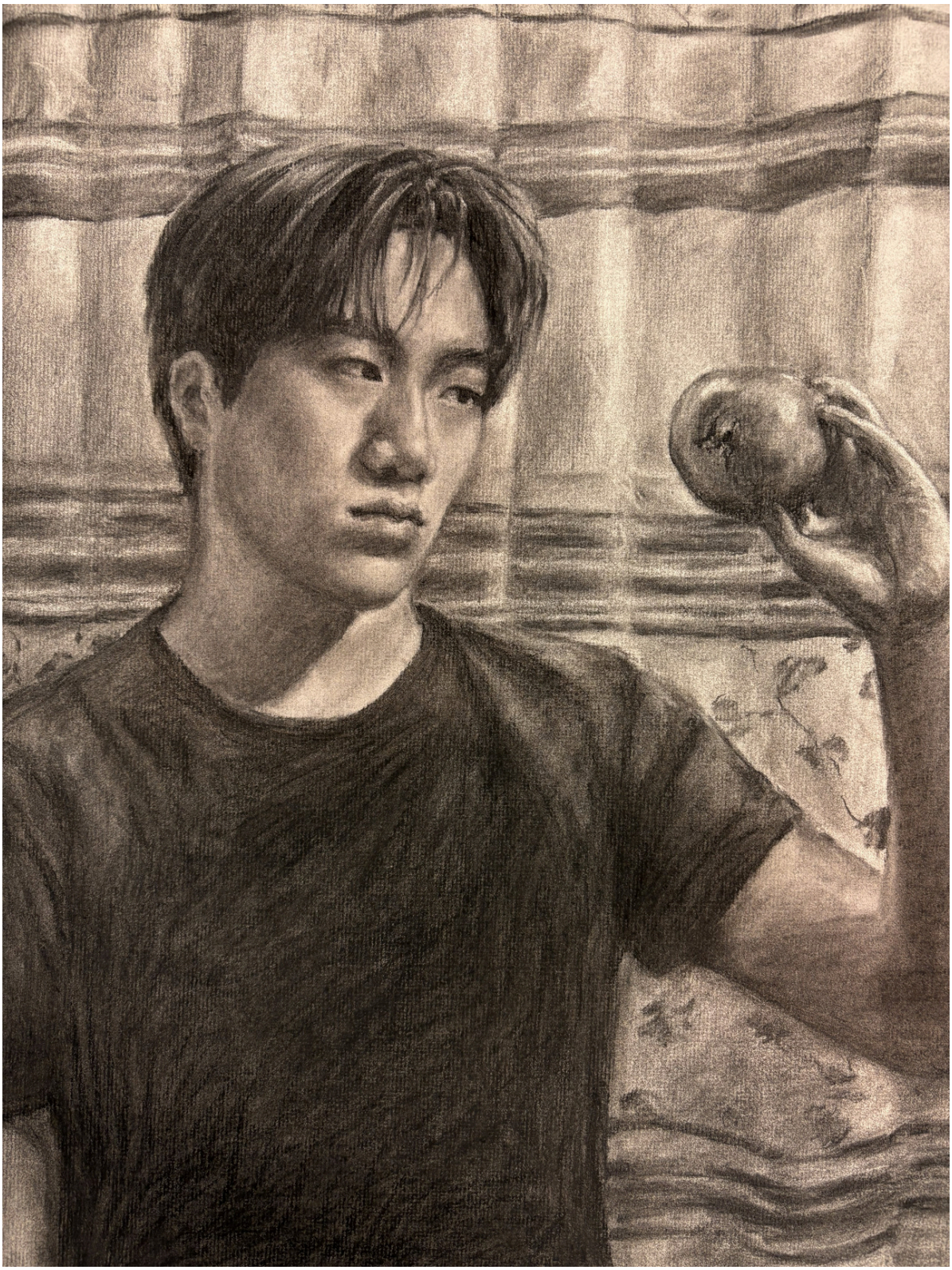
Zhen

11th grade



Zhen

11th grade



Zhen

11th grade

42nd ANNIVERSARY PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Celebrating 42 Milestone Anniversaries of PIE Businesses Partnerships

<u>40 Years (1986-2026)</u>
MU Health Care – Hickman High School

<u>35 Years (1991-2026)</u>
KOMU 8 & Mid-Missouri CW – CPS Athletics
MU School of Music – Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School
ABC 17, KMIZ/Fox22, KQFX/MYZouTV/Me-TV – Mill Creek Elementary School
City of Columbia Police Department – Columbia Public Schools

<u>30 Years (1996-2026)</u>
Columbia Public Schools Foundation – Columbia Public Schools
My Secret Garden – Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School
Quaker Oats – Smithton Middle School

25 Years (2001-2026)
Zimmer Radio Group – Oakland Middle School
Pepsi Beverages Company – Parkade Elementary School
The Callaway Bank – Russell Boulevard Elementary School

20 Years (2006-2026)
Columbia Kiwanis Club – Benton STEM Elementary School
Walmart Store #451 – Benton STEM Elementary School
Bradford Research Center – Blue Ridge Elementary School
“We Always Swing”® Jazz Series – CPS Fine Arts
Daniel Boone Regional Library – Parents As Teachers
MU Environmental Sciences Extension – Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School
Ragtag Film Society – Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School
TRYPS – New Haven Elementary School
Walmart Store #80 – Blue Ridge Elementary School

15 Years (2011-2026)
Big O Tires – Columbia Area Career Center
Columbia College – Columbia Public Schools
The District – Douglass High School
MU Theatre Department – Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School
CARE – Career Awareness Related Experience – Douglass High School
MU College of Education & Human Development - Columbia Public Schools

10 Years (2016-2026)
Great Southern Bank – Beulah Ralph Elementary School
City of Columbia Office of Sustainability – CPS Science
Rusk Rehabilitation Hospital – Battle High School
Columbia Civic Orchestra – Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School
First Presbyterian Church – Benton STEM Elementary School

Partnership Friends

30 Years (1996-2026)
Assistance League of Mid-Missouri – Columbia Public Schools
Boone County Lumber Company – Columbia Public Schools
League of Women Voters – Columbia Public Schools

25 Years (2001-2026)
Central Missouri Community Action – Columbia Public Schools
University Concert Series – CPS Fine Arts
20 Years (2006-2026)
COMO Companies – Columbia Public Schools
Target Stores – Fairview Elementary School
Sunrise Optimist Club – Hickman High School

15 Years (2011-2026)
Columbia Landcare – CPS Facilities & Construction Services
Stoney Creek Hotel – Columbia Public Schools

10 Years (2016-2026)
Chick-fil-A – Columbia Public Schools