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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ashwaubenon High School Art Students Surprise 1st Graders With Special Project

ASHWAUBENON, WI — The Monster Collaboration Project is all about connecting students through creativity. First graders at Valley View and Pioneer Elementary kicked things off by designing their own monsters with their amazing art teachers Barry Severson and Brenda Conratt, each monster being totally unique and full of personality. Those drawings are then handed off to the ceramics students at Ashwaubenon High School, who use clay to turn the 2D ideas into 3D sculptures, doing their best to capture all the little details that make each monster special. For the high schoolers, this project works a lot like a real-world commission. They're challenged to carefully follow someone else's vision while also making thoughtful artistic choices along the way. It pushes them to problem-solve, pay attention to detail, and figure out how to balance staying true to the original design but still adding their own touch.

At the end of it all, the high school students will walk over to Valley View to return the finished monsters to the first graders*. Last quarter, Ms. Hanson's students created monsters for Pioneer Elementary, but they didn't get the chance to meet in person. Instead, each high school artist wrote a handwritten note to their first grader, and they dropped the monsters off to be distributed by their art teacher. Either way, it's a simple but really meaningful moment that gives both groups a chance to feel inspired and proud of what they created together.

The idea for this project came from a ceramics teacher, Ms. Hanson, who came across a similar project on TikTok (@sajonesceramic) and thought it was a great way to bring that same kind of creative collaboration into the school district community!

****This fun collaboration is a surprise until June 1st, when 1st-grade students will be presented with their clay monsters. Please join us at Valley View Elementary on June 1st at 1:45 pm to see the excitement and surprise on students' faces.***

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