



**GOAL
EVERYONE
MATTERS**

www.gemprojectdayton.org

The 2025-26 GEM Art Contest for Suicide Prevention

High School Award
Dazzling
Diamond
\$1,000





Audrey McPherson Stivers School for the Arts Grade 10

*Your reflection holds every
reason to stay. You are worthy.
You are not alone.*

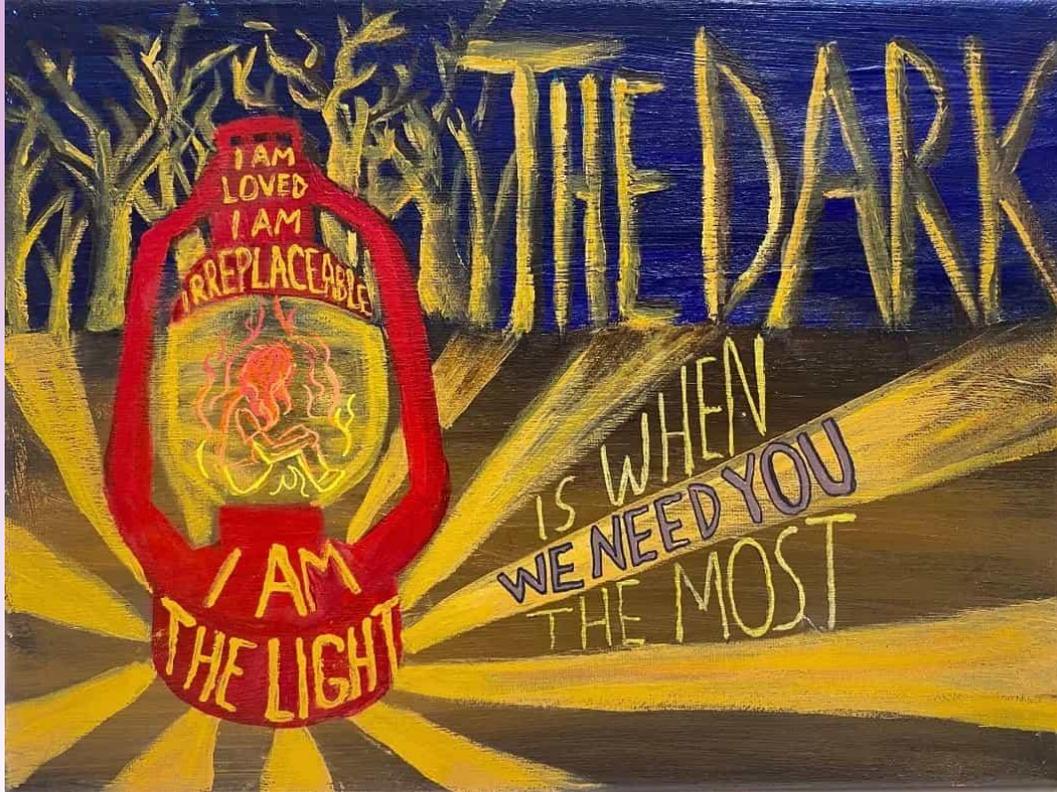
High School Awards
Shimmering
Sapphires
\$500





Joshua Gill
Home School
Grade 12

When someone slips into the dark, the support of others is vital to believing in a bright future.



Marie Millburn
Beavercreek High School
Grade 12

People can understand their worth when they see the light they bring to others' lives.



Katherine Clopper Twin Valley School South Grade 10

*There's light on the other side.
Find your peace. Find your
mental well-being. Find your
hope.*



Violet Meehan
Oakwood High School
Grade 10

Every girl can say “no” and hold their space of refuge, even if it hurts the people they love.



Mame Fatime Niane
Northmont High School
Grade 10

*Healing isn't always linear.
Merge lanes; don't be afraid to
go down a different road.*



Howl Williams

Miami Valley Career Tech Center

Grade 11

The one upon the boat cannot see the struggles that lay beneath the murky surface.



Alex Wysong
Oakwood High School
Grade 9

This painting represents growth through struggle, and how we need to light others' flames.



Hayley Crooks
West Carrollton High School
Grade 10

*Depression is a bonded chain;
making agony seem self-
conflicted. To break free,
practice self-worth.*

Everyone has their own journey



Handle with Care

Yuyan Liu
The Miami Valley School
Grade 12

Everyone has different "plants" to take care of, so always treat others with compassion and empathy.





Hannah Walker
West Carrollton High School
Grade 11

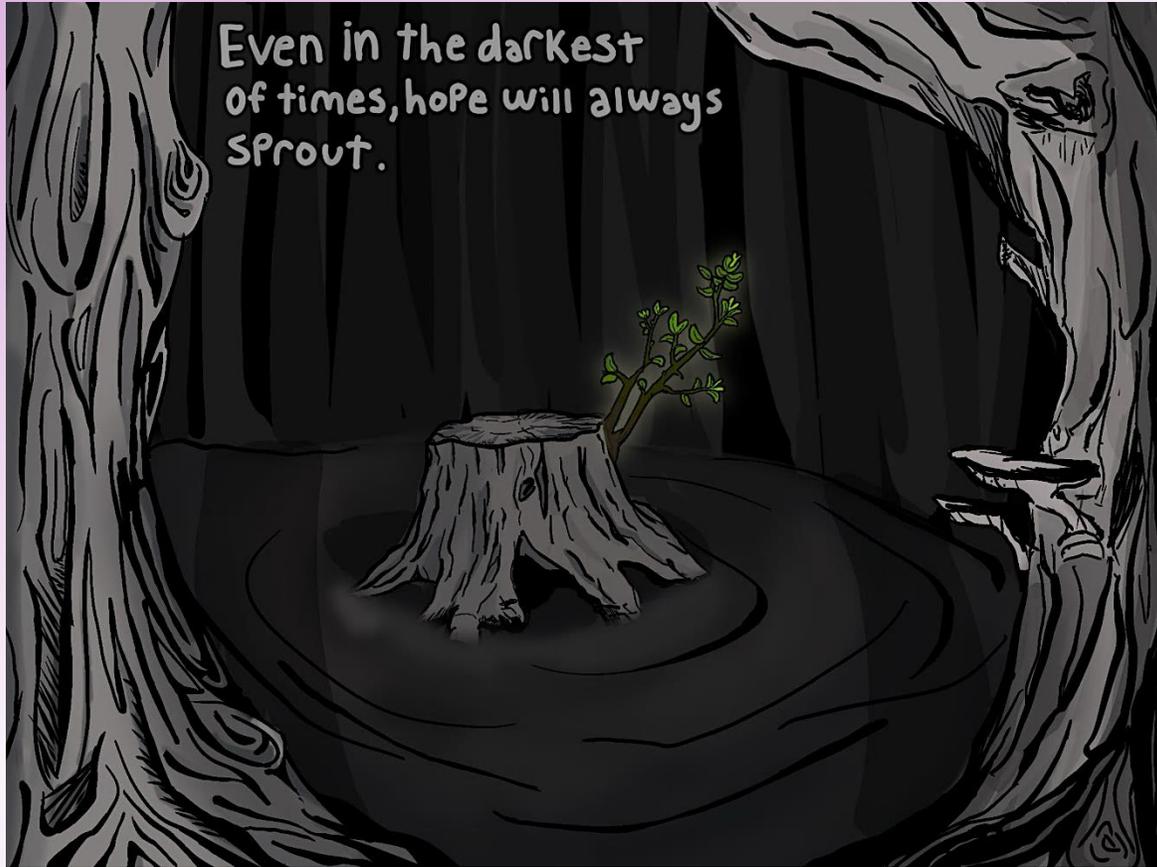
Even darkest nights end, pain isn't permanent, and light breaking through offers hope to hold on.





Letao Zhang
Dayton Christian School
Grade 12

Look inward at who you once were. Healing lives in the act of self-compassion.



Clark Andrews
Oakwood High School
Grade 10

Trees can grow back after being cut to a stump, and the new growth shows people can rebound.

~~I am not enough~~ you are fearfully and wonderfully made - psalm 139.14 ~~nobody loves me~~
 i have loved you with an everlasting love - jeremiah 31.3 ~~I have no peace~~ peace i leave with
 you, my peace i give to you, not as the world gives, do i give to you - john 14.27 ~~I am hopeless~~
 may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, so that you may overflow with hope - romans 15.13
~~I am far too lost~~ the son of man came to seek and save the lost - luke 19.10 ~~it's so dark~~
 i am the light of the world - john 8.12 ~~I am weak~~ my grace is sufficient for you... my power is
 made perfect in weakness - 2 corinthians 12.9 ~~the world would be better without me~~ you are
 God's masterpiece... created for good works - ephesians 2.10
~~I'm a mistake~~ longer strangers... but instead, fellow citizens and members of
~~understands~~ before i formed you in the womb,
~~I'm too broken~~ ~~me~~ you have searched me, Lord
 wounds - psalms 147.3 ~~to be loved~~ he heals the
 there is ~~no way~~
 escape - 1 corinthians 10.13 ~~I~~
 i can do all things
 - philippians 4.13 ~~I~~
 beautiful my love, there is
~~I do not matter~~ even
 head are numbered - Luke
~~strong enough to keep~~
 the Lord is my strength
 has become my salvation - psalm
~~a future~~ for i know the
 declares the Lord, plans to
 harm you, plans to give you a
 jeremiah 29.11 ~~I am not worth~~
 the world, that he his only son,
 should not perish but have eternal
~~pretending that i'm okay~~
 and burdened, and i will give
~~that i could disappear~~
 palms of my hands, your walls
~~nobody ever listens~~
 he heard me - he delivered
~~I am too tired to~~
 you, you need only to be
~~forgotten~~ through
 forget you - isaiah 49.15
 where the spirit of the
 2 corinthians 2.17



~~I do not belong~~ you are no
 God's household - ephesians 2.19
 i know you jeremiah 1.5 ~~nobody~~
 and you know me - psalms 139.1-4
 brokenhearted and binds up their
~~out~~ God will make a way of
~~cannot do this anymore~~
 through Christ who straightens me
~~am ugly~~ you are all together
 no flaw in you - song of solomon 4.7
 the hairs ~~on your~~
 12.7 ~~I am not~~
 going...
 and my song, and
 27.1 ~~I do not have~~
 plans i have for you
 prosper you and not to
 hope and a future -
~~saving~~ for God so loved
 that whoever believes in him
 life - john 3.16 ~~I am tired of~~
 come to me, all you who are weary
 you rest - matthew 11.28 ~~I wish~~
 see... i have engraved you on the
 are ever before - isaiah 49.16
~~to me~~ i sought the Lord, and
 me from my fears - psalm 34.4
~~fight~~ the Lord will fight for
 still - exodus 14.14 ~~I am~~
 she may forget i will not
~~I am trapped inside~~
 Lord is, there is freedom -
 JESUS loves me <3

Jenna Deaton

Miami Valley Career Tech Center

Grade 11

When darkness speaks lies, love replies—sacrificed, steadfast, and unending. You are SO loved!!





Avery Cooper Dayton Regional STEM School Grade 10

At my lowest times, I count the reasons to stay alive. Things I create can never be taken from me.

**High School Awards
Radiant
Rubies
\$250**





Trinity Sayger
Miamisburg High School
Grade 9

Self-love is crucial to persevering through hard times, shown through the girl supporting herself.



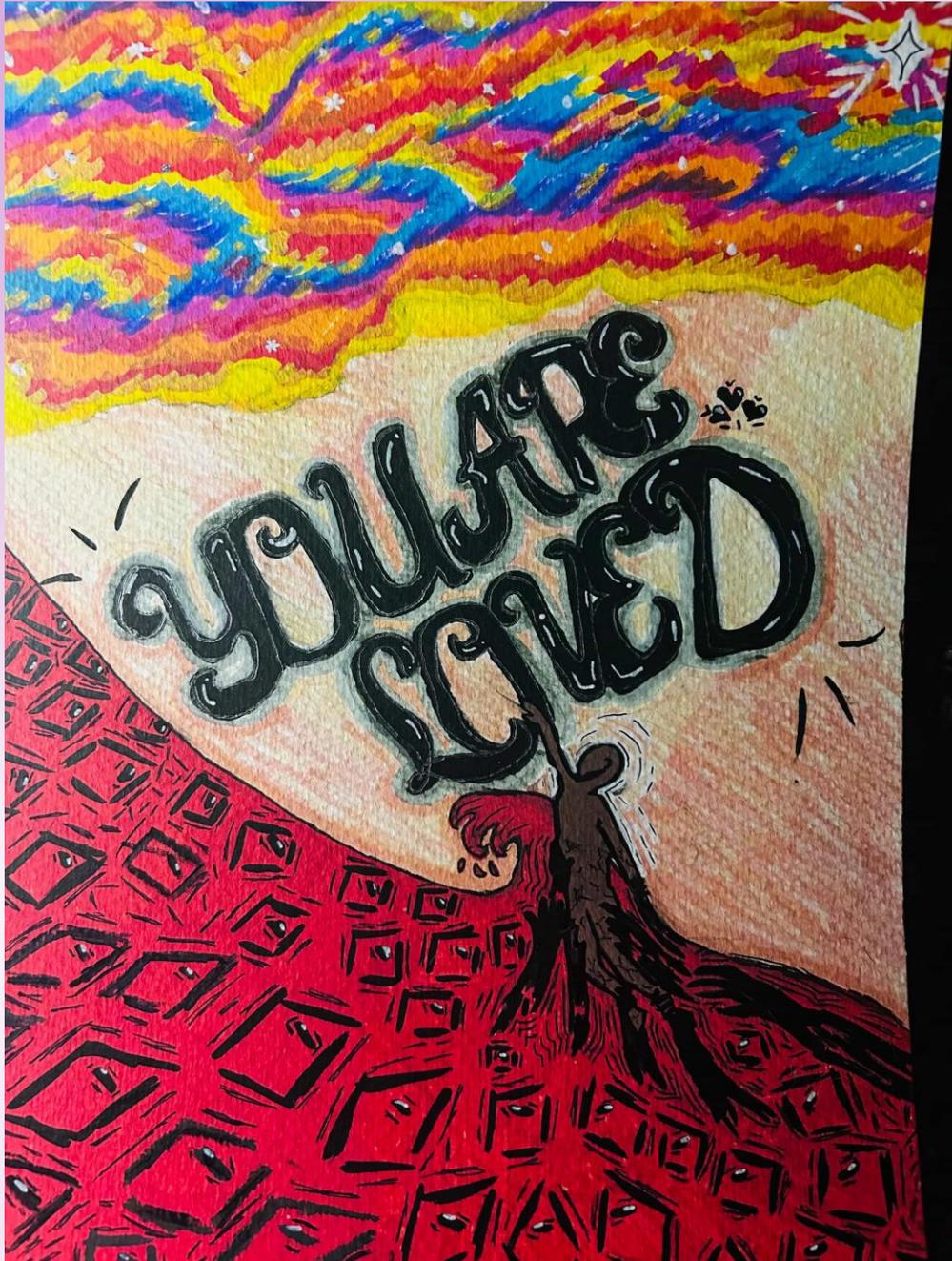
Kate Miller
Centerville High School
Grade 11

See your own worth and be confident. Both are key to prevent suicide.



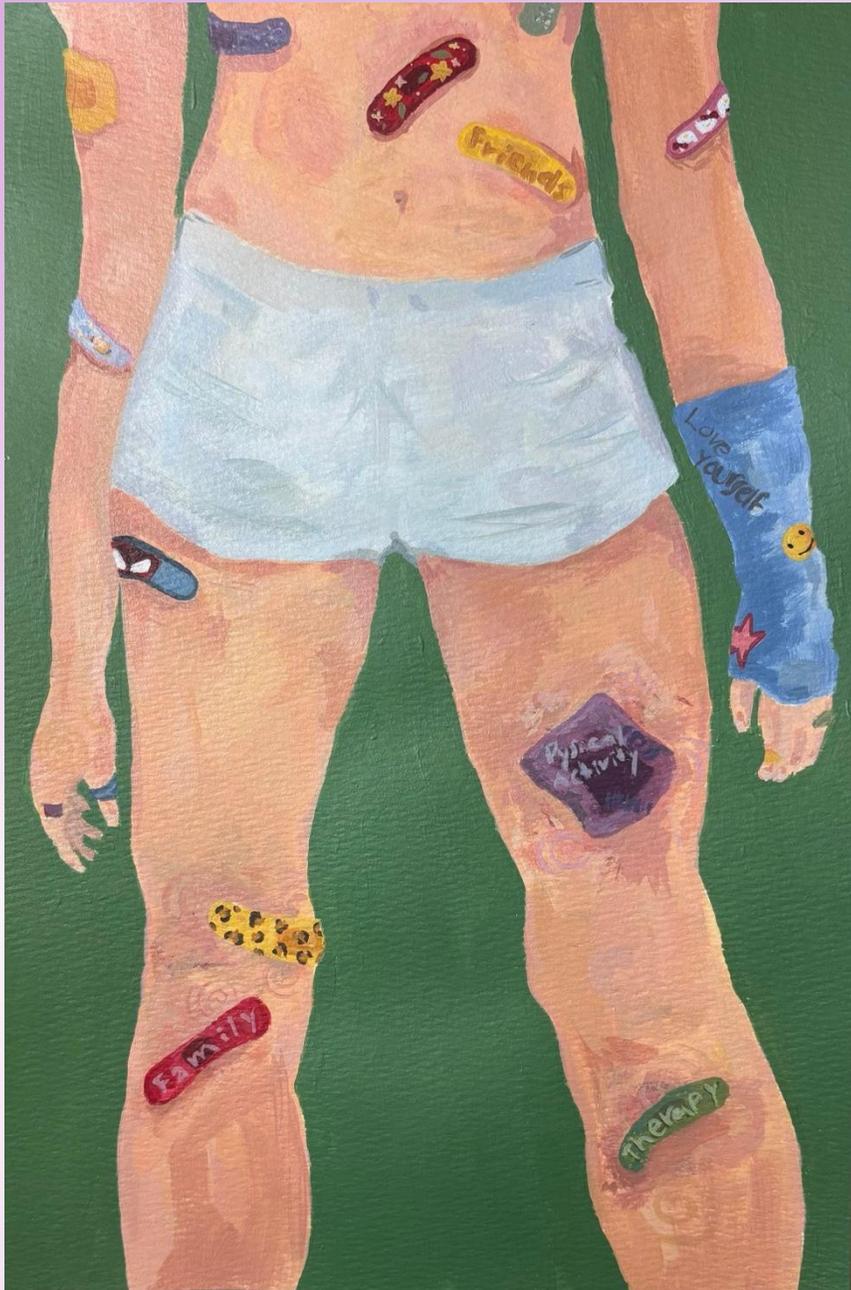
**Harper Crosthwaite
Franklin High School
Grade 9**

A reflection of one's younger self and the innocence, joy, and color in life that is still present.



Rakiyah Hill
Kettering Fairmont High School
Grade 11

This artwork shows how fear can take hold of a person, yet still allows space for hope and light.



Mary Waibel
Tippecanoe High School
Grade 10

The bandaids symbolize the many forms of aid in our lives, like loved ones, nature, and role models.



Liana Overdorff
Springboro High School
Grade 12

Put in effort and give affirmations to your younger self. Try for the younger you.



Mya McLaughlin
Archbishop Alter High School
Grade 11

*You have a unique, irreplaceable
light that gives hope to others.
Don't let it dim.*





Jester Judd
Spring Valley Academy
Grade 12

We aren't told things like "I love you" enough. It's hard to remember we are loved. So, I love you



Emma Gilliam
Xenia High School
Grade 11

Life goes on. No matter the heart ache or problem life will find a way. Never give up.

High School Awards Emerging Emeralds

\$100





Elise Abernethy
Chaminade Julianne High School
Grade 10

Insecurity can be the death of a teenager. It is important to shatter impossible ideals.



Amelia Gross
Dixie High School
Grade 12

You are never alone, just reach out and your hands will be met by someone.





Ember Day Bellbrook High School Grade 10

A silhouette bound by the heavy script of a mind at war with itself.

It will
be ok.



Josh Colvin
Troy High School
Grade 12

Saying “It’ll be ok” helps someone struggling. A hug brings warmth and shows them you care.



Asher Blackburn
Vandalia Butler High School
Grade 12

*Illustrating feelings of drowning
& trapped... hope & peace at
the moment that you break
free.*

Edward Clark
Yellow Springs
McKinney High School
Grade 10

My art piece represents the willpower and resilience of the queer community despite oppression.



Middle School Awards

Shimmering Sapphire

\$500





Truett Fisher
Fairborn Middle School
Grade 8

*Resilience is getting back up
when you fall, but you don't
have to get up alone.*

Middle School Awards

**Radiant
Rubies**

\$250





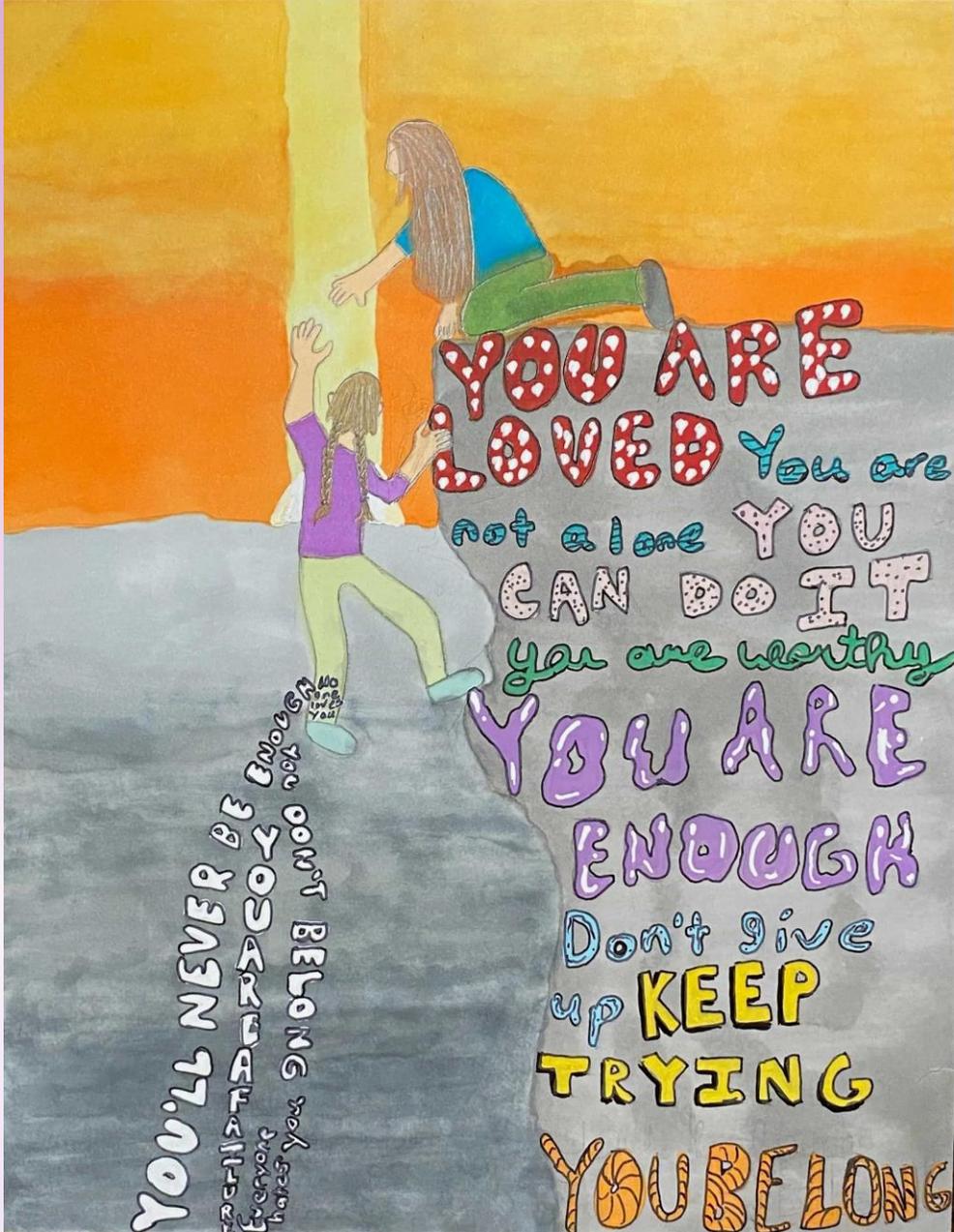
Gabriel Espiritu
Mad River Middle School
Grade 7

*Thoughts can bring you down,
but people can bring light to
shatter the feeling of
hopelessness.*



Grace Millburn
Jacob Coy Middle School
Grade 6

The balloon is floating up above dark clouds because it's important to look forward to better days.



Emilia Fisher
Fairborn Middle School
Grade 6

If you get up you might fall down again, but never stop trying. Don't be afraid to ask for help.





Audrey Cronin
Bellbrook Middle School
Grade 8

*Even a small spark of hope
can help someone break
their chains of darkness—
so don't give up!*



Brayden Gabbard
West Carrollton Intermediate
Grade 6

*You are not alone, and you
don't have to be!*



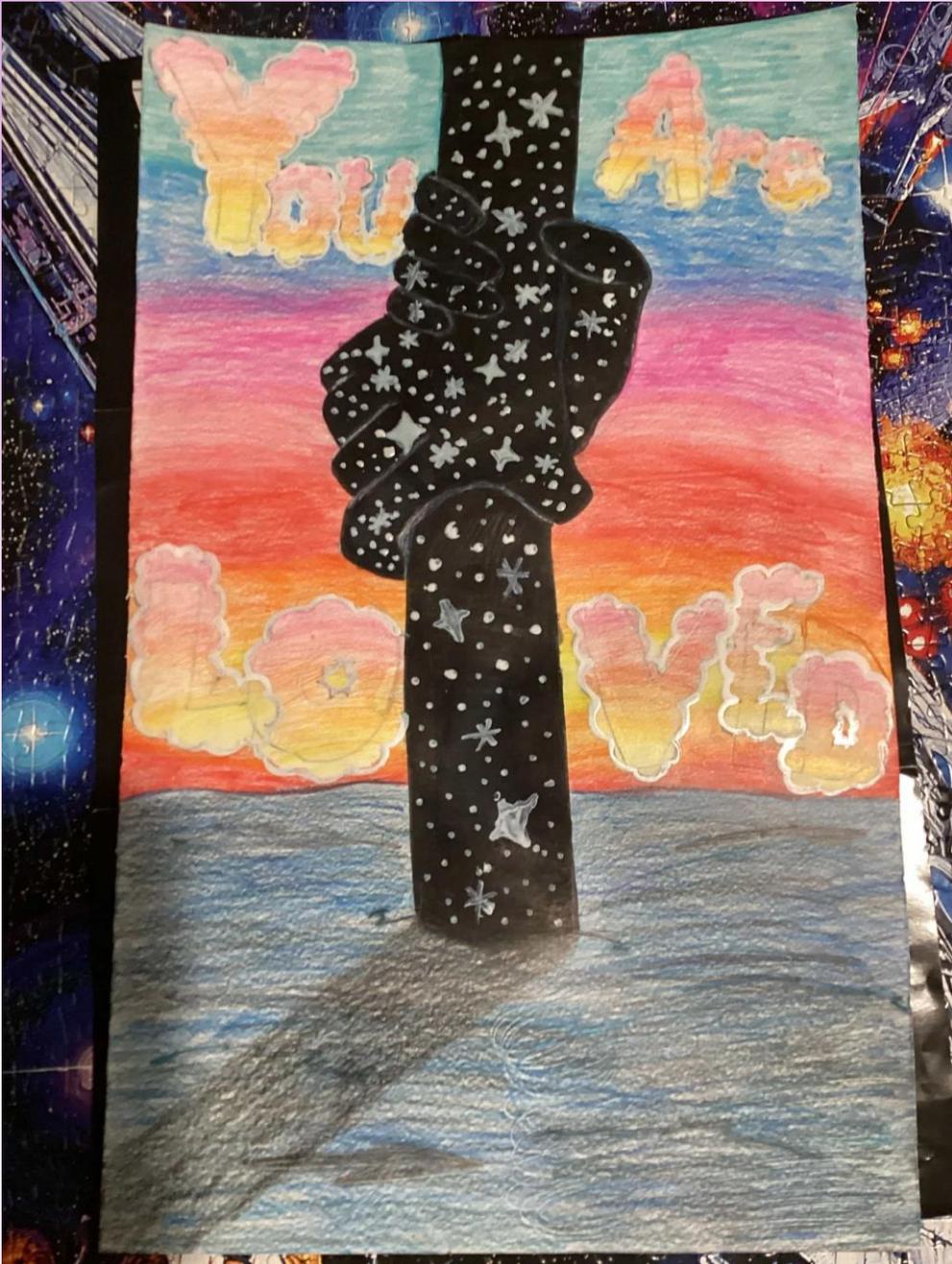
Kori Smith
Monticello Elementary
Grade 6

*Many have traveled, some alone
and some with help; with time
and growth, you can always
choose hope.*



Vivian Purdy
Horace Mann Middle School
Grade 6

My purpose for this artwork is to show people that they are not alone, and you don't have to be!



Evalyne Allen
West Carrollton Intermediate
Grade 8

Even a small spark of hope can help someone break their chains of darkness, so don't give up!



Bella Bartone
Harman Elementary
Grade 6

My artwork is about finding hope when you hit rock bottom or finding light through the dark times.

Middle School Awards

Emerging Emeralds

\$100





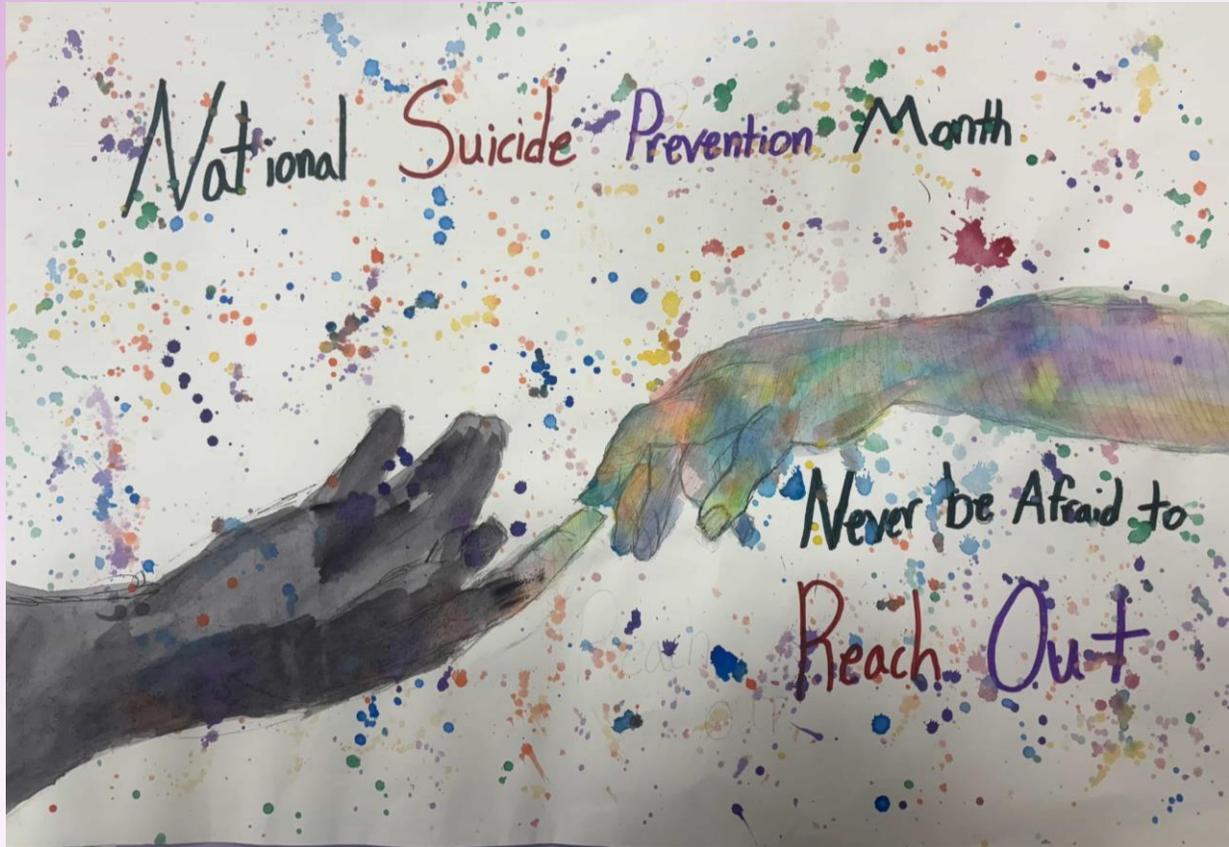
Emma Kahut
Cleveland Elementary
Grade 6

*Your story isn't over. Even if
you have cloudy days, a
rainbow appears somewhere.*



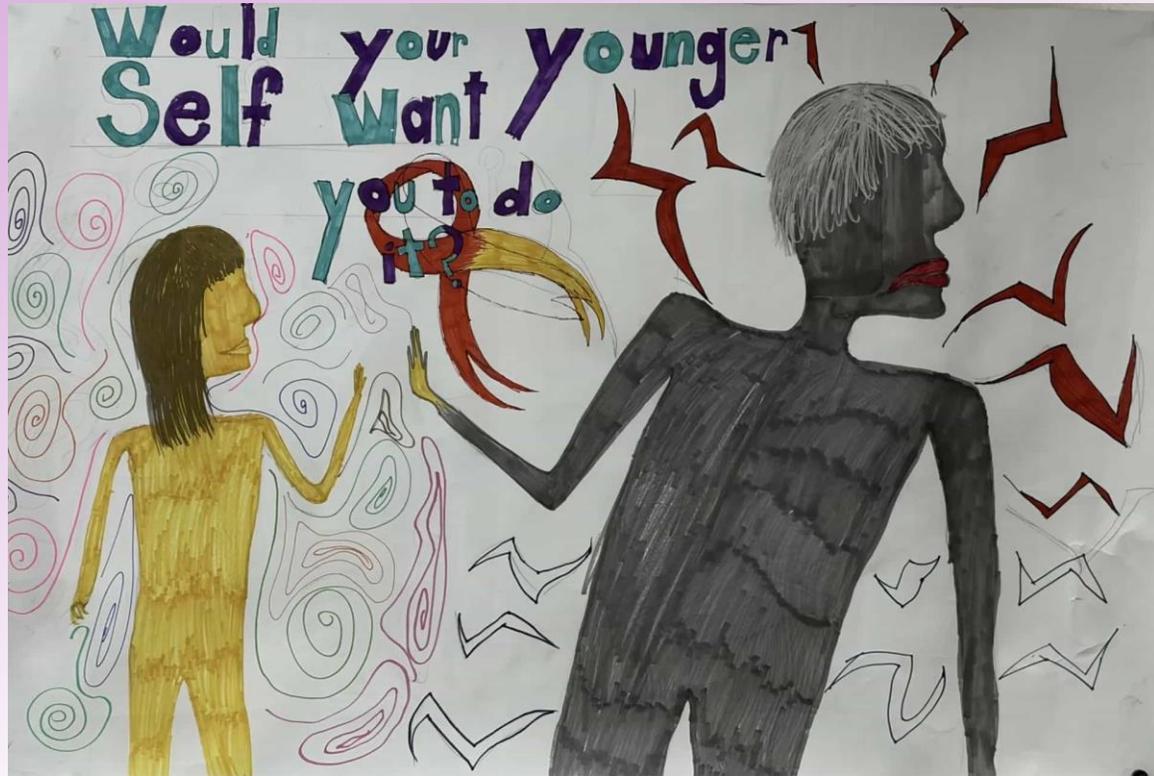
Iona McDivitt
Edwin D. Smith Elementary
Grade 6

There are other ways, even if they can't see them now. No one deserves to be pushed to end their life.



Noor Hasan Kettering Middle School Grade 8

It is never easy, but every person matters and no one should lose their life to suicide.



Liana TotoXala
North Dayton School of
Science & Discovery
Grade 8

My artwork is a reflection of a teenage mind going through suicidal thoughts.



Ava Bryant
Stivers School for the Arts
Grade 8

*Many judge the outside
without knowing the
inside, and what they are
really thinking.*



Andrew Nyman
Valley View Middle School
Grade 6

Some people think it's too late to ask for help; they are wrong.



Abigail Doggett
Saint Luke Catholic School
Grade 8

Art is cool, I would say it's very six-seven, but that's not very skibidi.



Rosie Smith
Fairview Elementary School
Grade 6

I made this really late into the evening, but I feel nice knowing I made a difference.

Recognition of Participation

Sophia, Dayton Regional STEM Middle School

Keshae, Gem City Career Prep

Emily, Valley View High School

\$50

