

I'm reading their wall of rubrics! Impressive.

The rubrics frame the goals: leadership, sharing ideas, helping others, giving constructive and positive feedback, practicing safety, listening to others' ideas, asking questions, enjoying something new, sharing materials and tools, making the project and discussing each other's projects.

The students from grades 6, 7, and 8 created a group mosaic and one of their very own.

Draw the idea out, attach contact paper, cut tiles of glass, tape over the tiles, cement onto a board, clean out the cracks, pull off the stickier tape, apply grout, clean edges. This is painstaking work, very detailed.

Denise prepares to pull the thick tape fastener off the group mosaic as we all gather around. She says, "This is the great reveal – like reality TV." And the glow of light on tile meets our eyes with a great, "aaaah" and a few "wows" – the satisfaction of making something with hands – a new thing has now entered the world.

I'll be back at 2:15 for the unveiling of the individual projects.

Stephen Ringo

Casual Observer