

## PURSuing AN ARTFUL EDUCATION

### Skyline Middle School Teacher's Work Earns State Recognition

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By AMELIA BRUST

**HARRISONBURG** — A Skyline Middle School teacher has earned state recognition for her creative teaching methods.

For the second time in nine years, Holly Kincaid won the Virginia Art Education Association Middle Division award, according to an announcement from the Harrisonburg City Public Schools. As a result, Kincaid will advance to the Southeastern regional competition in March.

Now in her second year with the division, the West Virginia native previously taught in Pulaski County schools for 12 years before moving to Texas for seven years. She won the Virginia Art Education Association Middle Division award in 2005 and was a Blue Ridge Virginia regional winner in 2013.

Kincaid said teaching students from different cultural backgrounds, which has been the case after moving to Harrisonburg, “makes it really interesting when it comes to art.”

In a Thursday morning class for eighth-graders at Skyline, students were at work painting clay bobblehead dolls.

The figurines were molded to represent students' deepest fears, but Bengamin Zelaya, 14, decided to paint with his favorite colors of yellow and black.

“I don't like [scary] masks,” he said of his



*Holly Kincaid, an art teacher at Skyline Middle School, discusses a project with eighth-grader Yousif Al-Ameen at the Harrisonburg school on Thursday. Kincaid recently won the Virginia Art Education Association Middle Division award. It's the second time in nine years she has received the honor. (Photos by Nikki Fox / DN-R)*



*Casey Blankenship, 14, paints part of a clay bobblehead doll for a project representing a deep fear he has.*

bobblehead monster, emblazoned with a “Z” across its chest.

Juan Martinez, 13, sculpted an old-fashioned scuba diver.

“I don’t like the ocean and I don’t want to drown,” Martinez said as he applied a fresh coat of paint.

Kincaid said the project “allows them to think inwardly.”

Like many of her assignments, she gleaned the idea from her network of fellow art teachers.

“It’s really important that we reach out and stay connected,” she said.

Whether using paint or iPads awarded through a division grant, Kincaid teaches a range of artistic styles from art nouveau to animation.

Her website, [www.capitolofcreativity.weebly.com](http://www.capitolofcreativity.weebly.com), documents her classes’ work and she will post descriptions of students’ bobble heads on [Artsonia.com](http://Artsonia.com).

Skyline Middle’s library was also gifted a copy of “If Picasso Had a Christmas Tree,” a children’s art history book for which Kincaid is a contributing artist.

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*Holly Kincaid, an art teacher at Skyline Middle School, laughs while giving painting tips to eighth-grader Elisavet Savides, 14, at the Harrisonburg school on Thursday.*