

New Sculpture Adorns CHS



Since becoming co-workers almost two years ago, CHS Art teachers Rod Raunig and Jarred Jackman have talked about increasing the presence of visual art at CHS. This last fall, they agreed on a location and a feasible student project. They wanted the piece to be large enough to command attention, yet still allow for individual student creativity. Neither wanted to force their own ideas on students, rather they wanted the students' ideas to be present within the larger piece. Out of this vision came the work now hanging from the ceiling at the main entrance to CHS.

Nearly 170 students created the objects included in the installation. Prior to the start of the project, both Raunig and Jackman took their classes to view the space. Students were prompted to think about what kind of communication they wanted their piece to have with viewers. Aside from the required materials (each piece is made with plaster cloth), students were set free to build original and unique objects.

So with 170 plaster objects, Raunig, Jackman and custodian Bill Swacker began hanging the pieces from the ceiling of CHS this past Sunday.

The really cool thing about this project? Those 170 pieces of art were created by so many different types of students- the band student, the AP student, the athlete, the Skill Center student. Art is great in that it unites populations that may not always inherently connect. Raunig and Jackman are excited that so many CHS students get to share pride in an inspirational piece. To Jackman, "High school is all about having a number of different experiences. We wanted students to experience success while also realizing how thought provoking public art can be."

A few side notes about the project:

- It took Raunig, Jackman, and Swacker 50 hours combined to install the work.
- Approximately 380 lbs of plaster was used to create this sculpture.
- This is the first major art installation at CHS.
- Students grade 9-12 participated in the project. These students were from Rod Raunig's 1st Semester Everything in Art first semester class and Jarred Jackman's Beginning Ceramics classes.
- Both Raunig and Jackman contributed their own sculptures to the project.