

Transformative Partnership Between Palisades and Nimbus Arts

Since 2016, a unique collaboration has been flourishing in the heart of the valley. For nearly a decade, students from Palisades High School have stepped out of the traditional classroom and into the professional studios of Nimbus Arts, trading textbooks for glass tiles, brushes, and kilns.

This partnership is more than just an art class; it is a weekly immersion into a world of professional creativity.

A Sanctuary for Creativity

Every week, Palisades students travel to the Nimbus studios. This experience allows for a rare kind of focus, giving students the mental space to express themselves through a vast array of mediums, including:

- **Ceramics & Sculpture:** Working with clay and pottery.
- **Traditional Arts:** Painting and landscape work.
- **Experimental Workshops:** From intricate glass tile mosaics to the science of scent-making and essential oils.

Whether a project is completed in a single afternoon or requires weeks of dedicated craftsmanship, the process encourages patience and artistic discipline.

Bringing the Ocean to the Valley: The Mural Project

The most ambitious chapter of this partnership is currently unfolding on the exterior walls of Palisades. Professional artist Anne Pentland, a longtime collaborator with our students, noticed a blank canvas: our empty exterior wall.

After a transformative trip to the California Academy of Sciences, where students were immersed in the wonders of the planetarium and ocean life, a vision began to take shape. Our students expressed a desire for something "bigger" than their immediate surroundings—something that connected them to a part of the Earth far beyond the Napa Valley.

"The students wanted to connect to a portion of our planet that isn't right next door. They wanted something bright, colorful, and vibrant that reminds us all of our global impact."

Key Mural Details:

- **The Concept:** A tribute to the importance of the world's oceans and our role in protecting them, even from inland.



- **The Process:** Anne Pentland interviewed the students about their learnings to design a custom piece that reflects their insights.
- **The Execution:** Students will be painting the mural in sections, which will be assembled into a massive masterpiece by the end of the school year.

A Vibrant Future

This partnership continues to prove that when students are given the tools of a professional artist and the space to dream, they can create something that leaves a lasting mark on their school and their community. We look forward to the grand unveiling of the mural this spring—a colorful reminder that the spirit of Palisades is as vast as the ocean itself.



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