

# Calendars feature the works of Riverside Middle artists

By TED CRAIG

Looking to buy a last-minute Christmas gift? Looking to help out local school children?

Riverside Middle School is providing people the opportunity to do both.

Students from the school are selling calendars featuring their artwork. The calendars are a product of art teacher Eugenia Marve's longtime dedication to encouraging student achievement.

"The whole purpose of it is to teach kids to achieve, that they can help themselves be successful," Marve said.

The calendars were printed through a donation from Spartan Stores. Each student has pledged to sell at least 50.

The calendars cost \$5, but contain \$2 worth of coupons.

It may seem like a lofty goal to have middle school students sell that many calendars, but student Charles Roy had already sold 28 by the end of last week.

The money goes into the Grand Rapids Student Achievement Foundation, and is used to help pay for students' post-secondary education, whether it's college or training in a trade.

The calendars are more than a decorative way to tell what the date is. They provide insight into the students who made them.

Students share their dreams for the future in the calendars. Kha Nguyen wants to be a flight attendant so she can see the world. Rosalinda Tapia wants to make enough money to buy her parents a retirement house in Mexico.

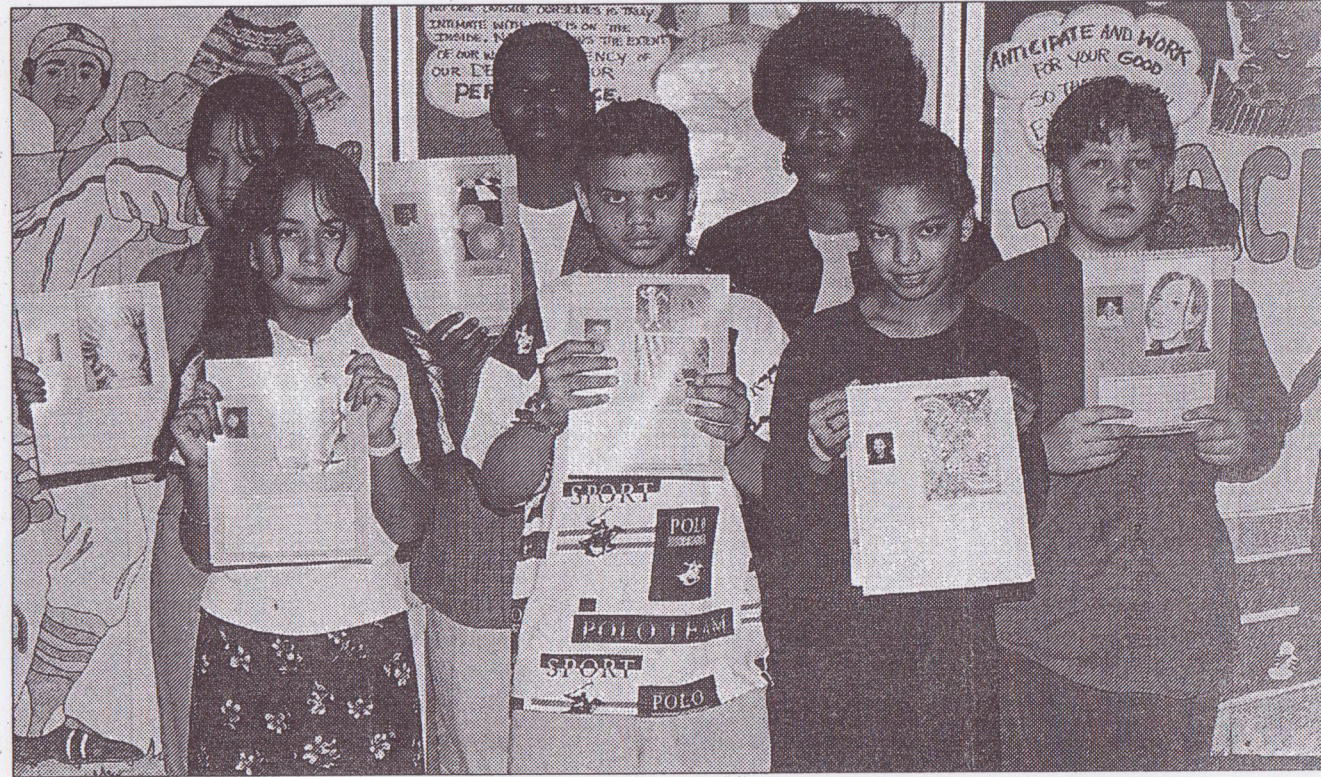
Her drawing of a rose reflects her Mexican heritage.

"In Mexico, the most famous plants are the roses," Tapia said.

The artwork shows what the students have learned in art classes at Grand Rapids schools. Denise Sanchez's drawing is a collage of projects she worked on over the course of a year.

It took Sanchez two months to create the collage, but these kids are used to hard work. Duane Carter lists his goal as maintaining his 3.6 grade point average.

The calendars contain information about what



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Showing off their artwork are, front row, from left, Rosalinda Tapia, Duane Carter, and Denise Sanchez; back row, from left, Kha Nguyen, Marcus Zolicoffer, teacher Eugenia Marve and Charles Roy.

volunteer activities the students are involved in. For example, Marcus Zolicoffer volunteers at Rosewood Manor.

Zolicoffer said he enjoys interacting with senior citizens.

"They've been on the earth so many years," he said. "I respect that, because you never know how long you're going to live."

For more information about the calendars, call 771-2968.