

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## **Two Lancaster High School Students Selected to Compete in Congressional Art Contest**

Lancaster, TX/Lancaster ISD

Lancaster High School is proud to announce that two seniors have been selected to participate in the Congressional Art Contest of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson for the 30<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

Seniors Joseph Taylor and Anthony DeLaTorre will have their artwork on display at the Meyerson Symphony Center May 6-13, 2013 and will be honored there at a reception on May 10.

"Being selected is an honor because now I have an opportunity to be exposed, DeLaTorre said. "I just think it allows me to compare myself to other artists. It's almost more of an internal thing for me to assess my skills and how much I still need to accomplish."

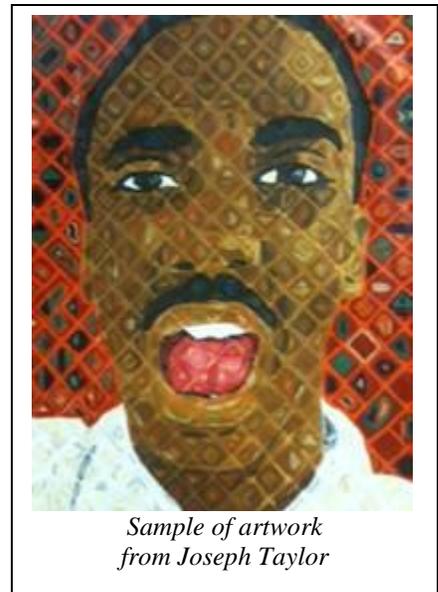
Visual arts teacher Tracye Salters said that her students worked every day for 2-3 weeks on their pieces for this important contest.

"This contest is important because it showcases the talent of our students, allows various communities (artistic, government, school, etc.) to appreciate their artwork and encourages students to pursue the arts," she said.

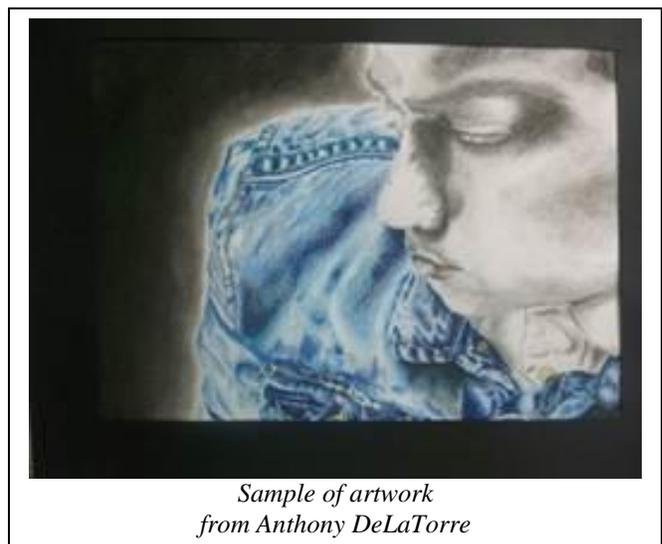
For both students, their skills in art become apparent by second grade.

"I knew that I was good because I was the first kid to not draw stick people," DeLaTorre said.

Taylor said that he realized his talents once he began doing projects for school.



*Sample of artwork  
from Joseph Taylor*



*Sample of artwork  
from Anthony DeLaTorre*

“Every time we did classroom projects, my artwork was admired by my classmates and teachers,” he said.

However, for Taylor—as like many artists—his passion for art started much earlier and was born out of pain.

“I started drawing around the age of five when my grandfather passed away,” he said. “My grandfather wasn’t an art person or anything, but because of his passing, I tried to find a way to express myself and I did so through drawing.”

The annual art competition offers the opportunity for one high school student from participating Congressional Districts to have their artwork hung in the Cannon Tunnel in the United States Capitol for the next year. The overall winner will have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. and join other winners from across the country for a special ceremony to recognize their artwork.

“This is a perfect opportunity for me to be exposed and to basically set a high standard for myself to continue to push forward in life and maintain high expectations,” Taylor said.

Although seniors, both young men are determined to continue using their artistic talents after graduating from LHS. However, DeLaTorre does not want to be the traditional “starving artist.”

“I want to continue my art because I recognize that I have a talent. You know they say, ‘follow your dreams’ but because of economic standards, that doesn’t always work,” he said. “So, I plan to incorporate art in some way by going into advertising or maybe becoming an art director.”

Taylor said that he looks forward to turning his hobby into a profession.

“Being artistic is a great talent to have. Therefore, I am currently choosing to major in architectural design and minor in graphic design,” he said. “Doing art now helps me with my major in college, and from there, I am going to pursue a masters in an art-related field.”

*The Lancaster Public Schools serve more than 6,000 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students in 11 schools. The mission of the Lancaster Independent School District, a leader in providing innovative, quality programs, is to educate every student with the knowledge; skills; and principles to succeed and contribute in a competitive and technologically advancing world by providing rigorous and engaging learning opportunities that promote diversity; create an environment of integrity and respect; and establish a commitment to continued improvement in partnership with families and community.*

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