

Algonquin students enter art in Google competition



Students at Algonquin Middle School in Clinton Township chose to enter the nationwide Doodle 4 Google competition, open to students in grades K-12. Nicole Tuttle — For the Macomb Daily

By Nicole Tuttle , For The Macomb Daily
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Ten Algonquin Middle School students in the Chippewa Valley Schools district chose to enter their drawings in the Doodle 4 Google competition

Although doodling in class can get students in trouble from some teachers, Algonquin Middle School teacher Dustin Coleman encouraged his students to engage in the activity in the hopes one might win a scholarship.

Coleman teaches art to grades six, seven and eight at Algonquin Middle School in Clinton Township. He received information and packets about the national Doodle 4 Google competition and decided to offer the opportunity to students without making it a class requirement to enter.

“It is very simple. They give you a theme. This year the theme is ‘What Makes Me, Me’ and you express yourself through a unique doodle. Also they have you write a short 50-word essay and get a parent to sign it,” Coleman said.

He encouraged students to enter by discussing the contest in his classes, putting posters around the school building, including information in school announcements and posting information on the school’s Twitter feed.

The eighth annual Doodle 4 Google competition was open to students K-12 from Oct. 19 to Dec. 7. Students could use any medium or material they chose to create their doodle, according to competition information. Following the competition theme, students needed to show what made them unique while using the letters G-o-o-g-l-e. They also needed to fill out an entry form. Submissions are divided into five grade groups for judging, according to competition rules.

The national winner's doodle will be used on Google.com's homepage for a day. He or she will also receive a \$30,000 college scholarship, a \$50,000 technology grant for his or her school, a Chromebook, an Android tablet, a T-shirt with his or her winning doodle on it and a trip with his or her teacher to visit Google's headquarters in California.

Five national finalists will also be selected, according to the competition's website. These students can have their doodles featured in the Doodle 4 Google gallery, earn a \$5,000 college scholarship, go on a trip to Google headquarters in California, win an Android tablet and a T-shirt with their doodle on it. Fifty-three state and territory winners will have their doodles included in a Doodle 4 Google gallery, win an Android tablet and a T-shirt with their doodle on it.

Competition rules indicate that only one original doodle per student was accepted.

According to google.com/doodle4google/, judges in the competition include actress Julie Bowen, astronaut and professor Dr. Yvonne Cagle, professional basketball player Stephen Curry, director and animator Glen Keane, professional soccer player Alex Morgan and writer, director and producer B.J. Novak. According to Google's website, Google Doodlers and the judges narrow the field to 53 state and territory winners. The public has the opportunity to vote online from Feb. 8, 2016 to Feb. 22, 2016 to help determine five national finalists. The final national winner is selected by a panel of Google employees and announced on March 28, 2016, according to the website.

Coleman said that although several of his students were interested in participating in the competition, not all ended up with a finished product including an essay.

"I have 10 students that really wanted to send it," Coleman said.

Since an entry was not a class requirement, Coleman did not designate specific class time to enter the competition. Instead he allowed interested students to work on their doodles in class if they were between projects, and allowed them to count their contest entry as one of the developed drawings they needed to meet class requirements.

Submissions for the competition were accepted via a digital upload tool or as a hard copy via mail, according to competition rules.