



The Vital Need for Beauty in Our Schools



All great art is a communication of the true, the good, and the beautiful and is thus an avenue by which the soul can encounter God. Exposure to classical art and architecture is a necessary part of the deep and comprehensive educational experience which forms students in their understanding of themselves and the world in light of truth, order, beauty, and hierarchy. This reinforces what is being learned in the classroom and helps them acquire the character to live happy and integrated lives in the service of God and others.

Community members can help students encounter firsthand the life-changing beauty of the greatest artistic masterpieces of Western civilization, soul-lifting liturgical music, and sacred architecture. The organizations listed below can help our students receive exposure to this kind of beauty. Targeted funding by community members who support this initiative can transform the hallways of our school and the hearts of our students for generations to come.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN HELP

Benedictus Art
www.benedictusart.com



Benedictus Art produces museum-quality reproductions of the world's great masterpieces.

Saint Luke Guild
www.saintlukeguild.com



The Saint Luke Guild exists to promote the appreciation of great works of art by classical school students.

Harrison Design
www.harrisondesign.com



Harrison Design specializes in architecture and classical design, including institutional and ecclesiastical projects.



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HOLY CHILD CATHOLIC SCHOOL (TIJERAS, NM): A CASE STUDY



Holy Child Catholic School's entrance hallway features 55 high-quality reproductions of art masterpieces as well as custom-built wooden lockers that also function as benches. These lockers were crafted by the local Knights of Columbus, featured above, and allow the artwork to be displayed at students' eye level.

Holy Child Catholic School's 260 ft. entrance hallway is adorned with 55 great masterpiece paintings, creating a haven where students are immersed in beauty. The selection of stunning reproductions produced by Benedictus Art and owned by the Saint Luke Guild captures highlights from a timeline of world history both thematically and in stories, while also displaying works of the greatest artists in the Western canon and offering examples from every major period in art history.

The selection is intended to depict the school's curriculum and features scenes from the cradle of civilization, ancient Greece and Rome, and the Medieval and Modern eras, with an emphasis on American history. This all leads to the geographical center of the building, which features Jan van Eyck's 1432 masterpiece "The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb" and serves as a reminder to the school community that Jesus is the center of everything.

"The whole point is to build enthusiasm and inspiration in gazing at beauty to prepare you for beauty itself, which is Jesus Christ. In that way, we can take everything the kids are learning in their heads and provide an avenue for it to enter their hearts in a deeper way," says Janice Martinez, principal of Holy Child Catholic School.

Learn more at: holychildnm.com/about/art-gallery

"This world in which we live needs beauty in order not to sink into despair. Beauty, like truth, brings joy to the human heart, and is that precious fruit which resists the erosion of time, which unites generations and enables them to be one in admiration. And all this through the work of your hands... Remember that you are the custodians of beauty in the world."

— Pope Paul VI



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