

11-4-2012

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the Art Teacher at Spring Harbor '*Environmental Magnet*' Middle School.

Recently one of my students, who walks to school through the University Avenue underground tunnel, approached me and asked if we could paint 'the tunnel' because it is uninspiring, unwelcoming, and a little scary. I love painting on non-traditional objects (for example 2 years ago I had the 7th grade class design and paint the exterior my car) so I was up for 'the tunnel' challenge!

I feel that this is a very valuable beautification project for the Spring Harbor students and for connecting with the surrounding communities. Plus, the timing seems to be ideal with the road construction on University Avenue coming to an end, and the ground breaking construction of Spring Harbor's Environmental Greenhouse beginning. I think that this is the perfect opportunity to creatively connect the surrounding neighborhood to Spring Harbor Middle School's growing gardens and greenhouse (along with access to Spring Harbor Park and beautiful Lake Mendota).

By having the students design and paint a mural in 'the tunnel' we will help beautify the neighborhood and deter any future graffiti. The colorful walls will automatically serve as a deterrent because the mural will take away the "blank canvas" appearance. After the mural has been painted by the students, with non-toxic acrylic paint, I plan on sealing the mural with a permanent clear top coat which will create a protective surface that spray paint cannot bond to.

If we get permission to paint 'the tunnel' I plan on connecting with a Local Madison Mural Artist to help design the mural's concept with the current 8th grade class. My hope is that the mural's design will be meaningful and represent a colorful "bridge" that connects to the surrounding communities. Ensuring that students and patrons alike will no longer be hesitant to walk through 'the tunnel', but instead it will be a visually rewarding experience, and potentially an inspirational highlight in their day.

I hope that you also see the value of this Mural Project for the Spring Harbor Middle School students and the surrounding communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Spring Harbor Middle School

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