

Granada Hills Charter class creates winning art pieces to be admired by world class athletes at the Iditarod in Alaska



Students showcase over thirty hand-crafted art pieces before they are shipped to Alaska to be seen by their favorite mushers.

March 2, 2017 – Students with mild, moderate and severe learning disabilities won an art contest for the second year in a row celebrating the Iditarod, a strenuous 1,000-mile race across Alaska. The winning art pieces will be featured as centerpieces in the annual Musher’s Banquet in Anchorage, Alaska on March 2, 2017. The Iditarod, which requires mushers to lead their dog teams over mountain ranges and other rugged terrain in sub-zero temperatures, has been a constant source of inspiration and motivation for students in this class at Granada Hills Charter High School.

Every aspect of the art piece has special meaning for the students including a rendition of the Northern Lights being illustrated by colored sand, the burlap represents a drop bag of supplies used by the mushers, and a dog bone tied around the drop bag has the name of different checkpoints in the race. The centerpiece rests on a “trail” created with sandpaper showing the mountains and night sky.



The art pieces are meaningful reflections of the Iditarod race and Alaska.

In 2016, the students won the same contest and this triumph encouraged them to try again. The entire class enthusiastically follows the race and selects favorite mushers and dog teams. The race officially begins on Saturday, March 4 and can last over two weeks with the first-place winner typically crossing the finish line in eight or nine days.

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About Granada Hills Charter High School: Granada Hills Charter High School, the largest charter school in the nation, is an independent public school in the San Fernando Valley. A fiscally independent conversion charter school, Granada Hills Charter has a current student enrollment of approximately 4,650 and an annual student wait list of over 2,000. The School's student body is considered one of the most diverse, with more than 40 languages other than English spoken at home and over 60 nationalities represented. Over 2,300 students are eligible for the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. As a 501c3 non-profit benefit corporation, the School's Governing Board is the legal entity overseeing all school policy and its \$55 million operating budget. The school is ranked *#1 Best Charter High School in California, #4 Most Diverse Public High School in California* and *#19 Standout School in America* by Niche.com in the *2017 Best Schools* rankings.

About the Iditarod: Visit <http://iditarod.com/> to read more about "The Last Great Race on Earth*."