

Coventry High Students Hard At Work

MAKING SENSE OF IT ALL

Art students help create low-stress environment at school



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

It's taken Jessica Pusateri, Megan Doyle, Kaci Perry and Mariah Rictzel a few months to reach the point where they can see their work coming together.

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COVENTRY — In an effort to calm students and put them in a more positive, less emotional state of mind, art students Jessica Pusateri, Megan Doyle, Kaci Perry and Mariah Rictzel created a sensory room within the Life Skills area of the Coventry High School for students with intellectual disabilities.

“Some students have trouble reg-

ulating their emotions, so we thought having a sensory room would be a great idea,” said Maureen Le Clair, life skills teacher.

“Some students, when they get a little more advanced, and they can express their emotions a bit better, they can request to have some time in the room,” added Gail O’Loughlin, teacher’s assistant for special education.

The room, roughly the size of a double-stalled bathroom, is painted blue with colorful fish and other

sea life. Once the painting is completed, soft light will be included in the effect.

“The room was all white when we started a few months ago,” said Rictzel. “The students who will use this room, need to not be stressed out so we used blues for the base color because that’s considered a calming color.”

“We wanted to use brighter colors for the fish because that promotes happier emotions,” explained Pusateri.

O’Loughlin explained that the supplies used to pay for the project were taken from a Stop and Shop card fund, which was started a few years ago, called the A+ program.

A customer’s card number can be linked to have a portion of what is spent, given to the high school to be used solely on the students.

“Stop and Shop does the calculations and we gain points,” she said.

“Our students will benefit for years having this space,” said LeClair.