



By Jenna Caputo

When the Clifton Park Town Court approached the Shenendehowa art department about an opportunity for students to showcase their work, the department jumped at the chance. "We believe that this is a great opportunity to show the residents of the Shenendehowa School District the quality of what our students can accomplish if given the opportunity, and we are happy that Judge Rybak and Judge Hughes reached out to us," says Robin McKenna, teacher and one of the student advisors.

The Town Court has long wanted to do something to make the building more welcoming. "One of the many duties of a Town Justice is to marry people. In many cases, these ceremonies take place in our courtroom. Unfortunately, the room is a very sterile environment that is not conducive for pictures of what is a very important event in the lives of these couples," says Clifton Park Town Justice Robert A. Rybak.

Justice James F. Hughes agrees. "Over the years, Judge Rybak and I have discussed the possibility of trying to make the courtroom a more welcoming environment for performing a wedding ceremony. The murals, which have been designed by the students, will accomplish this."

Clifton Park judges perform an estimated 100 ceremonies per year with the majority taking place in the courtroom. The murals by students, Marlie Ziobrowski, Ashley Zhang, Charlotte Crummack, Cadence Zaremski, Xiomara Stevens, and Jana Nayfeh, are going to make the space much more inviting for everyone. The students met several times to create multiple design possibilities before



narrowing them down to four potentials. The final murals now adorn the walls of the Town Court.

"I am glad to hear that our students are taking their talents out into the community and making a positive difference. This project speaks to the impact we want the educational experience at Shen to have on our students, providing them with a real sense of accomplishment," says Dr. L. Oliver Robinson, Shenendehowa Superintendent. Naomi Hoffman, President of the Shenendehowa School Board, adds, "It's often said that art is what makes life worth living, and this is a tremendous opportunity for Shen student-artists to experience firsthand the impact their work can make. Deepest thanks to Judge Rybak and Judge Hughes and all who've made this opportunity possible."