

Drawn toward the concept

By Lauren DeFilippo

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Randolph -

Sometimes in class, Eddie Estrada starts drawing.

It can be a small picture, at the corner of the page; other times, it takes up an entire sheet.

“I just draw whatever comes (to me),” the seventh-grader said.

Mostly, Estrada draws graffiti tags, or “not normal things,” like aliens.

At the prodding of a friend, Estrada, 14, entered his artwork into a school contest.

The prize – having his image put on a T-shirt sold during the Randolph Community Middle School’s first-ever respect week.

The logo, set on a royal blue long-sleeve T-shirt, has the word “respect” surrounded by clouds.

Down the left arm of the shirt reads “RCMS.”

“It took me a long time,” Estrada said of the winning design.

He tried a lot of different designs and types of letters before landing on one he liked.

And he didn’t event start at the beginning of “respect.” The first letter he drew was the “C,” and he went from there.

The idea for the clouds came after watching a video on the YouTube of an artist air-brushing a T-shirt.

“I was happy because people could see my work,” he said of winning the contest.

Winning the contest also has motivated some his friends to start drawing, he said.

Estrada said he got into drawing from family members. Both his cousin and stepfather draw.

He started out tracing their work.

Now, he looks to artists and designers like Mark Ecko for inspiration.

Although he looks to other artists for ideas, he doesn’t like to take the whole concept for himself.

“Then it wouldn’t look like I was being original,” he said.

But his work also does include homage to others.

The smiley face underneath his signature on the design is for an artist friend who he met through his Big Brother in the Big Brother-Big Sister program.

He starts off his drawings with pencil, then goes over them with pen before taking a marker to the image. Most of his work is done in black and white because Estrada said he really doesn’t know what colors to use.

To order a Respect T-shirt, for \$5, call the Middle School at 781-961-6243.

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