

# Berry, Anna K. students complete mosaic College, 4th-graders build mural together

✍ By Spencer Lahr

Staff Writer

SLahr@RN-T.com

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"This will be in our building forever," says Parke Wilkinson, Anna K. Davie Elementary School principal, in describing the mosaic mural fourth-graders were presented with by Berry College students in the media center Thursday morning.

Wilkinson spoke of the legacy the fourth-grade students leave behind by creating the mosaic — a kaleidoscopic collection of clay pieces formed into the image of a flower-rimmed tree with a blue sky backdrop and "Welcome to Anna K. Davie Elementary" arching above — with Berry students.

The mosaic was the last project for Berry's Art in the Community class, an experimental course in its first year that aims to engage students by connecting them to the community through art, said Kelly Stevenson, a visiting assistant professor.

Since the elementary school doesn't have an arts program, she said, it was chosen to be the sight of the final project, to give kids the experience of the arts. And experience they did, as the children carved designs into clay tiles and painted pictures of their dreams — from being an NBA star to owning a shop in Paris — onto clay leaves.

The Berry students helped them figure out what they wanted to make and how to implement their designs, as well as assembling the children's work into the mosaic.

Ellen Summerlin, a sophomore psychology major, said the project provided an inside look into the children's creative process and how they think about art.

For Emily Grace Dover, a sophomore art history and art studies major, working with the fourth-graders gave her the hands-on experience of being there with kids as they touched clay for the first time, witnessing their curiosity, she says.

Summerlin said when she was younger her elementary school art classes were a way to express herself.

Dover agreed, saying that art lets children convey feelings they may not want to talk about.

The plan is to place the mural in the school's front lobby area, to greet all who pass through the doors.

Jackie McDowell, dean of the Charter School of Education and Human Sciences at Berry College, said that for over 25 years Berry has partnered with Anna K. Davie Elementary School.

And once the mosaic mural gets an established location, a message of collaboration will be clear to see from two words carved out beneath the base of the tree trunk — "Growing Together."





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Anna K. Davie Elementary School fourth-graders Jeremiah Crawford (from left), 9; Derrick Austin, 10; Bianca Easterwood, 9; and Kionna Staples, 9, get a close-up of some of the clay pieces they designed with the help of Berry College students.



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Berry College seniors Emily Bruder-Mattson (left) and Blayne Ambler move a mosaic mural Thursday in the media center at Anna K. Davie Elementary School.



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Berry College students in the Art in the Community class present a mosaic mural they made out of clay pieces that Anna K. Davie Elementary's fourth-graders helped craft.