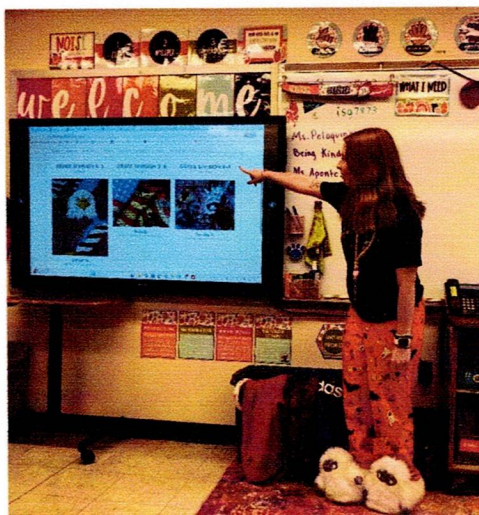


WHAT IS THE ILLUSTRATING AMERICA CONTEST?

Created in 2019-2020, Illustrating America is a patriotic art contest for students in elementary and middle school who compete against their peers in three grade categories: K-2, 3-5, 6-8. Illustrating America encourages students to be creative and to interpret the "assignment" however they see fit. Some of the ways past winners have chosen to represent their view of America are by drawing famous Americans, by

thanking soldiers or veterans for their service, by doing their best to make American Flags (students are not required to follow Flag code for this contest), by painting their own homes, towns and/or families, by sketching famous landmarks and more. The primary goal with this contest is for children to express their creativity and patriotism in their own unique ways, not to color a printed picture or trace another's artwork.



In case you missed it, we recently featured an article in [VFW Auxiliary Magazine](#) all about the first-ever grade 6-8 Illustrating America winner, Mackenzie Peloquin.

Peloquin was a Putnam Middle School student in Connecticut when the contest existed only at an Auxiliary level. She is now a first-year fourth-grade teacher who is encouraging students to enter the contest this spring, giving them the opportunity to express themselves creatively the way she did when she