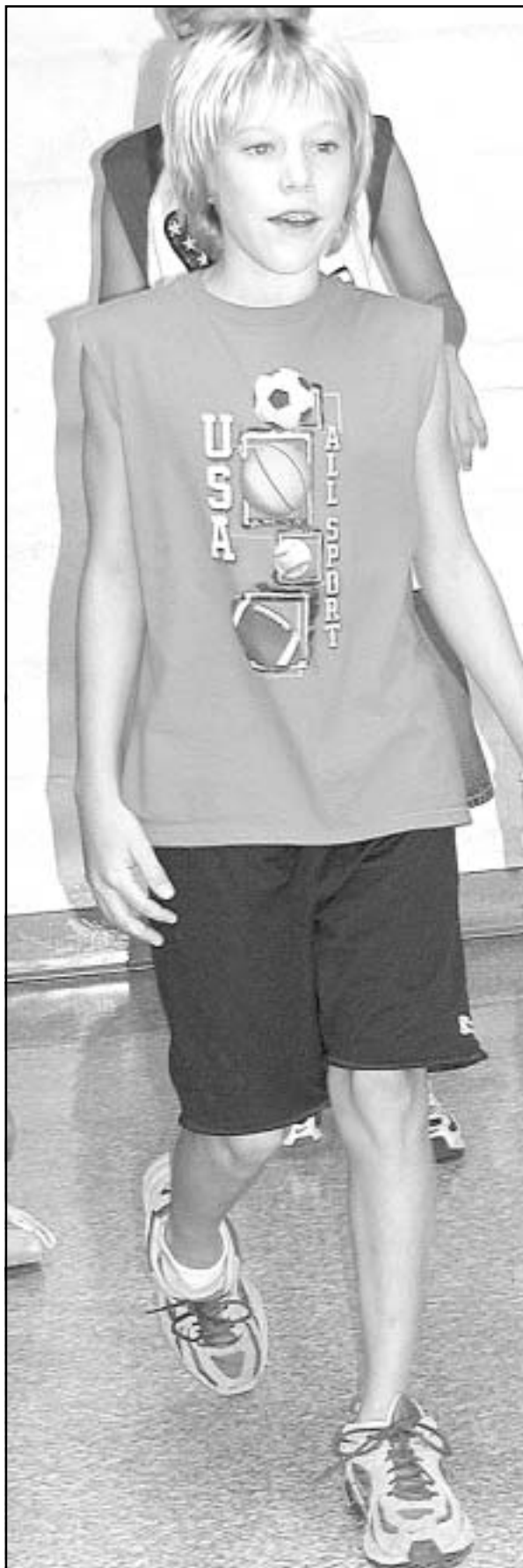




AT HER TABLE, Megan Huntley worked on the five elements of drawing, including dots, circles and straight, curved and angled lines. The sixth graders have art class every Friday for 40 minutes.



Students learn to draw, express themselves in art

The students seemed to bounce down the stairs Friday at Oberlin Elementary School, talking with friends on the way to their 40-minute art class.

With recent budget cuts, the students didn't have art outside of their classroom last year. This year, the Oberlin School Board decided to go back to having art downstairs in the grade school basement with teacher Terri Woolsey, who also works at the high school.

Mrs. Woolsey teaches all of the first grade students in one section and all of the second, fourth, fifth and sixth graders the same way. The only class that is separated into two sections is the third grade, she said, because it is a bigger class. Each section is 40 minutes once a week.

On Friday, it was the sixth graders' turn to venture to the basement art room, where they are learning about five elements of drawing.

Students got their sheets of paper

out and grabbed a pencil out of a bucket, then started to work on their project, the five elements of drawing; dots, circles and straight, curved and angled lines. Since they were almost done with the paper, Mrs. Woolsey had another small project ready for them, which was to draw a picture of a scarecrow she had drawn on the chalk board.

The art students at the grade school, she said, get the chance to learn to draw, color, work in clay, do

some sculpture and paint in different mediums throughout the year.

Art, said Mrs. Woolsey, is a creative expression. This is a class where students can freely show their creativity. Art also helps students work on their fine motor skills, such as eye-hand coordination. Mrs. Woolsey added that art also seems to help students increase their academic scores.

In class, she tries to talk to the students with art terminology, which helps them learn the words.

Mrs. Woolsey also teaches seventh grade art, which is required for all students, and three periods of high school art. During those three periods, she has three classes going on at a time, including computer art, arts and crafts and advanced art.



STUDENTS FILED into the art room for class on Friday, including Tyler Shields (left). Megan Wentz (above) drew on her project.

Story and photos by Kimberly Davis