

“Strength in Diversity, Unity in Service”

A note on the title:

We titled our mural “Strength in Diversity, Unity in Service” because it addresses a fundamental part of M-A and Global Leaders service club. Though “Strength in Diversity” is a commonly heard slogan at M-A, it is often difficult to execute on. How can we integrate so many different students from so many different backgrounds and create meaningful connections? We answer that question with service. Service doesn’t just have to be raising money for a cause, or canning for the canned food drive. Talking to someone different from you, bringing them into the conversation, and learning their perspective are all ways to help serve your community, by making it as cohesive and supportive as it can be. So while the message of diversity may be clear in our mural, we hope you will also see that by reaching out to diverse identities, you will be serving the M-A community by unifying it into one.

Artist's statement:

Throughout this mural, there are many highlighting factors to the central message of the piece: that M-A is a place where diversity may flourish. We decided to leave the students as silhouettes, to suggest that each individual attending M-A will come to fill in their own unique path and place. The figures are painted with different colors and traits to reflect the spectrum of cultures and identities present at M-A, and they stand hand-in-hand to represent the unity of this community. The mural expands on the theme of unity by highlighting the communities M-A students fit into: the first being our global community (represented by the Earth), the second - our local towns and Sequoia Union High School District (represented by evergreen trees in the background), and the third and most important - our school, Menlo-Atherton (represented by the M-A logo). The quotes, using the same color scheme as the sky, encourage the viewer to pursue morals encouraged at M-A, such as service, bravery, activism, and determination. Lastly, we placed large central focus on our school’s slogan, “Strength in Diversity” - a reminder for students to celebrate and embrace their differences. We hope this mural will encourage present and future students to ensure M-A is a place where unity, service, and diversity can thrive. Just as students were the ones to create this mural, students must be the ones to unify and support the diverse perspectives at M-A.