

Transylvania County Schools Brevard Elementary School

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bud and Billie Lawing Donate Funds for Interactive Art Gallery Display at Brevard Elementary
-Community Donation Provides funds for Purchase and Installation

Things are looking colorful for Brevard Elementary School as the 2017-2018 school year approaches. In addition to new staff members, new students, and new year excitement, the school will be buzzing with the implementation of the A+ Schools Program. In January 2017, Brevard Elementary School was selected to become an A+ School, an Arts Integration program that is made possible through a partnership between The North Carolina Arts Council and The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The central vision of this program is to build enhanced, creative arts, and integrated learning opportunities for all students.

As the Brevard Elementary School staff celebrated the acceptance into the A+ program, they also began ferociously planning what this new program and renewed interest in the arts would look like for the students and school. Not far into planning, a family in the community with a love and appreciation of the arts reached out hoping to help. Bud and Billie Lawing approached the school's principal, April Gaydosh, with a desire to donate funds to help create something special at the school supporting the arts. Gaydosh immediately began to seek out ideas from staff members and other stakeholders about something that could honor Bud and Billie's donation.

The proposed Bud and Billie Lawing Interactive Art Gallery, would consist of 20 framed fine art prints hung at student eye level throughout the school building. The project is still in the planning stages and subject to approval by the board of education. In addition to the frames to hold the artwork for display, study materials and gallery guides can be created and made available to visitors and teachers to introduce the prints through a variety of lenses. As a former art teacher, Gaydosh explains how powerful visual connections to vocabulary can be for a student, "students can creatively and critically read a painting in the same way they read a book." Theme, balance, tone, and point of view are just a few examples of the concepts and vocabulary that students could translate to the gallery works. Students could learn about making inferences from a text in the classroom and then take that academic conversation to the gallery to discuss how to make inferences in the context of a work of art. With front loading frames that are easy to access, there are possibilities for special exhibits and for student artwork to be displayed for special events. Excitement for the install this summer is building as teachers and students anticipate the many possibilities the gallery could bring.

Bud and Billie Lawing have four children and two grandchildren who were educated in Transylvania County Schools. They have always appreciated living in an arts-oriented

community and wanted to do something to promote the arts at the elementary school level. In addition to their children attending Transylvania County Schools, Billie worked as a librarian at Pisgah Forest Elementary, Penrose, T.C.Henderson, Brevard Elementary, and Brevard Middle during her 20+ year career in education. Their daughter-in-law, Nancy, currently works at Brevard Elementary School. The teachers and students at Brevard Elementary School want to sincerely thank Mr. and Mrs. Lawing for their generous gift to the school.

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Images: (2)



Nancy Frady (BES Art teacher) makes adjustments to a newly purchased frame, making sure it is hung at exactly the correct height.



Family Portrait of Bud and Billie Lawing