We live beneath the clouds. We look up and see them stand stationary or speed across the sky. We see them reflect the bright colors of the sunrise or sunset. They turn dark and purple, letting us know a storm is coming. We see almost every aspect of clouds, except what they look like from above.

Above the clouds is a space known only to those who dare to break the bounds of earth. Some soar in hot air balloons, gliders and hang gliders, floating across the sky with the clouds. Others fly in planes, as pilots or passengers, watching the clouds and earth race by below. Specially trained pilots in rugged aircraft fly into storm clouds, taking measurements that help those on the ground predict where the storm will go. Those in helicopters can stand still, like clouds on a still day, or can fly across the sky high and low. Aerobatic pilots love clear skies, so those below can watch their amazing feats of flight. Intrepid aviators on the ground send up weather balloons almost to space, both for science and for the amazing pictures that can be taken only when you get above the clouds.

The world of aviation is always changing as each new generation of pilots and designers bring their vision of flight to the world. This year students were invited to grab their favorite art supplies and turn their imagination loose by creating a work of art that celebrates the adventures and excitement only available in that special place beyond the clouds.

You can view the 2017 winning artwork below.
2017 – “Beyond the Clouds”

Sky Waters, Minnesota
Category III (Senior): 14 to 17 years old
U.S. Placement: 1st
2017 – “Beyond the Clouds”

Mira Hirabayashi, California
Category III (Senior): 14 to 17 years old
U.S. Placement: 2nd
2017 – “Beyond the Clouds”

Cameron Fitz, North Carolina
Category III (Senior): 14 to 17 years old
U.S. Placement: 3rd
Sophia Shin, California  
Category II (Intermediate): 10 to 13 years old  
U.S. Placement: 1st
2017 – “Beyond the Clouds”

Jennifer Meng, Michigan
Category II (Intermediate): 10 to 13 years old
U.S. Placement: 2nd
2017 – “Beyond the Clouds”

Kelly Xu, Texas
Category II (Intermediate): 10 to 13 years old
U.S. Placement: 3\textsuperscript{rd}
Katherine Lee, New Jersey
Category I (Junior): 6 to 9 years old
U.S. Placement: 1st
2017 – “Beyond the Clouds”

Gabriel Sanedrin, California
Category I (Junior): 6 to 9 years old
U.S. Placement: 2nd
2017 – “Beyond the Clouds”

Oliver Chen, New York
Category I (Junior): 6 to 9 years old
U.S. Placement: 3rd