

Local painter is inspired by academy's mission

By Irene Bowers
Correspondent

BAYSIDE

Chesapeake Bay Academy bridges the divide for students with learning differences, a connection made clear to Ryan Jones.

The successful artist was asked by the private school to be its featured artist in Gallery CBA, which runs Thursday through Oct. 29.

"I'd never been there, so I went over for a visit," he said. "Right away, I thought of my grandfather Herb Jones, who struggled with school, and my own frustration with academics. What they are doing is so important for kids who process information differently."

Jones, 30, a Kempsville High and Virginia Wesleyan College graduate, committed

Want to go?

What Gallery CBA

When Thursday reception, 6 to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Oct. 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Oct. 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where Chesapeake Bay Academy, 821 Baker Road

Info Call 497-6200 or visit www.cba-va.org

to the show and went home inspired.

"He created an original painting as the featured piece for Gallery CBA," said Mary Morgan, CBA technology curriculum specialist and gallery coordinator. "And he is coming here for two days to teach painting to our stu-

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ARTIST

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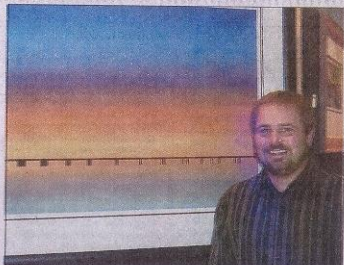
dents."

The featured watercolor, "Rising," was inspired by a sunrise over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. "It's simple but strong, and symbolizes the connection made between student and teacher," he said. The painting is protected by conservation glass and is valued at \$5,000. Additionally, Jones will sell other paintings, including "Harrison's," painted in memory of the old Harrison's Pier at Ocean View.

Later, Jones will teach eight classes at the K-12 school. "I'm looking forward to it. I always learn something new from working with students," he said.

Jones shares gallery space and instructional time with his parents, Louis and Susan Jones, at Jones Art Gallery in Town Center.

Chesapeake Bay Academy, founded in 1989, is licensed by the commonwealth of Virginia and accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools to serve a unique student population with specific learning differences. About 30 percent of its students depend upon fi-



IRENE BOWERS

Ryan Jones, seen here with "Rising," is the featured artist of this year's Gallery CBA, which runs Oct. 25-29.

nancial assistance to attend, and Gallery CBA is a major fundraiser for scholarships.

Susan Sharak said CBA has been a school like none other for her son, Stefan Sharak. "It feels like home for students who don't feel at home in other places."

She said the calm atmosphere, positive re-enforcement and individually paced instruction make it conducive to learning. "The Gallery raises funds for students who could not otherwise attend CBA, and I hope the whole community comes out to sup-

port them."

Returning artists Sheila Giolitti, Emilio Santini, Jeff Taggart and Q Evon are among the artists scheduled to participate in Gallery CBA.

New this year are mixed media artist Letitia Lee of Hampton, painter Angela Bounds and figurative oil painter Karen Kinser of Chesapeake.

Sculptor Matthew Fine and furniture crafter Kate Callahan each donated a piece to the show.

bedroom : simplified