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Garden Street Academy unveils sculpture

By AARON BANDLER, NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT
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Students and faculty gathered around on the Garden Street Academy school deck to witness the unveiling of a sculpture that 12 art students had been working on for the past six months.

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The sculpture, titled "Reverse Entropy," consists of 19 separate parts, several hundred equilateral triangles, cardboard, Tyvek tape, liquid nails and polyurethane.

It weighs 200 to 300 pounds and is painted, as one student described it, a "Nickelodeon slime-green."

Students wanted the sculpture to inspire wonder.

"I wanted to encourage the students to think large-scale," art teacher Patrick Faulk said.

The students were placed in specialty groups, including fabricators, designers,

painters and a group determining the concept of why they were building the sculpture.

At one point, it looked like the sculpture wouldn't stand.

"When we took the sculpture and stood it up, it wasn't ready to stand and it actually fell apart," Mr. Faulk said. "It was devastating. It was like watching our sculpture die."

It became emotional for many of the students, and they started Operation Resurrection to solve the problem and put the sculpture back together.

"We had to make many adjustments to it," ninth-grader Max Sweeny said. "Now that it's standing there painted and not falling, it feels great."

"Reverse Entropy" will be on display on the



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"Reverse Entropy" will be on display on the deck for a year, where a camera will take a picture of it once every minute to show a time-lapse of the sculpture's decay from being exposed to nature's elements.



"Reverse Entropy" will be left to decay in the elements for a year at Garden Street Academy.

KENNETH SONG/NEWS-PRESS

The name "Reverse Entropy," which students decided on two days earlier, derives from Mr. Faulk having his students say random words and spell them backwards in order to come up with a name. They started to talk about entropy, and asked why they wanted entropy backwards.

"That was the name we decided on," Max said. "When we first stood it up it fell over, and that was kind of like decaying. After a few rainy nights — if we ever have any in Santa Barbara — it will start the entropic decay."

Entropy is defined as the lack of order and predictability.

Overall, Mr. Faulk and his students are happy with the sculpture.

"We're going to have a critique," Mr. Faulk said. "We're going to discuss the success of the project. If we were to give the kids a grade, it's an A-plus."

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