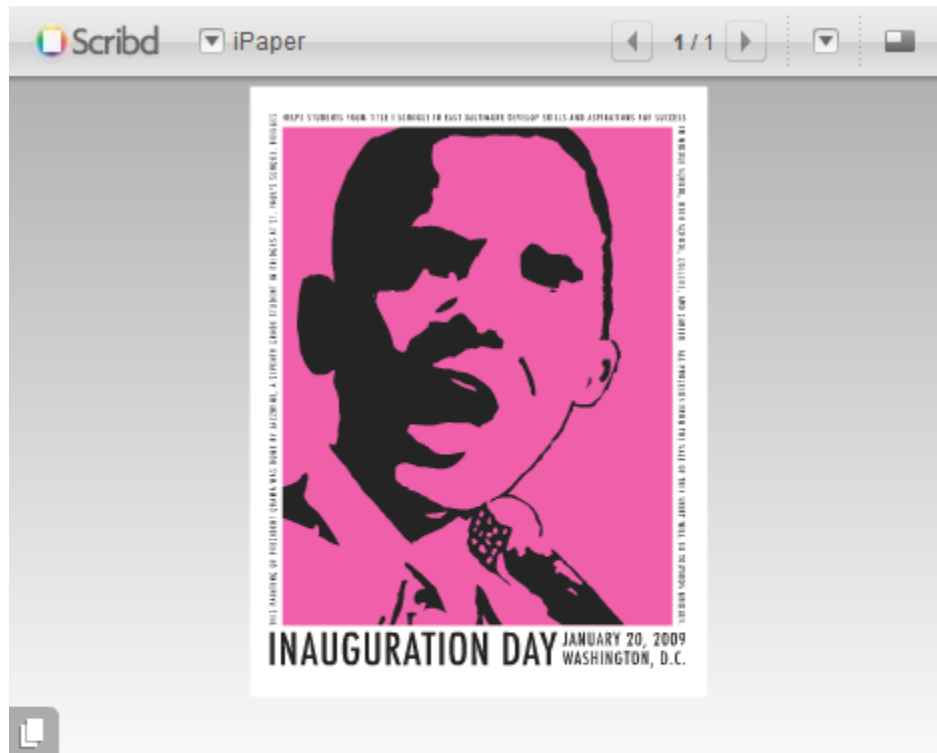


January 2009, Obama T-Shirts on the Baltimore Sun education blog

T-shirt helps kids, commemorates history



The hottest T-shirt in town to commemorate Barack Obama's inauguration is designed by ... a seventh-grader from East Baltimore. Jazzmine Alson, who now attends Pikesville Middle School after her mother's move from the city to the county, painted an amazing portrait of Obama last summer while participating in the Bridges program at St. Paul's School.

Bridges is a summer program at the private school serving 124 rising fourth- through ninth-graders from Title 1 schools in East Baltimore. It's also starting a job placement component for older kids. During the academic year, it has after-school tutoring, mentoring and sports for about 30 fourth- and fifth-graders. Jazzmine was at Govans Elementary when she entered the program.

So, about this portrait Jazzmine painted. You can see for yourself. Incredible, right? So much so that the folks at Bridges decided to have it turned into a T-shirt. They had 400 printed off the bat and they sold like hotcakes for \$12 apiece -- at the mayor's office, the Mt. Washington Whole Foods, Evergreen Cafe, Greg's Bagels, and on the streets of Washington.

Now, they're setting their sights higher. Amid the economic downturn, the sale of the shirts will help keep Bridges afloat and send Jazzmine to college one day. The shirts cost \$4.50 each to make. A dollar from each sale is going into a college scholarship fund for Jazzmine; the remaining \$6.50 goes to Bridges.

Want to buy one? The shirts will be [available for order here](#) starting later today.