

MESI Puts the “ARTS” in STEAM

We are excited to have the opportunity to share a quarterly glimpse into the student experience at Montrose Elementary School of Innovation! Each quarter, we will share information about different aspects of our magnet school programming. As a STEAM magnet school, students at Montrose Elementary School of Innovation engage in learning opportunities that emphasize or integrate science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics. This quarter we will feature ways in which students engage in the arts.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, art is defined as “something that is created with imagination and skill and that is beautiful or that expresses important ideas or feelings”.

Each classroom teacher provides instruction in the ***VISUAL ARTS*** as prescribed by the BHM Schools elementary art curriculum. Student learning in visual art include the use of a variety of creative mediums to experience the artistic process (independently or guided by the teacher). Products vary based on grade level, and may include drawings, paintings, sculptures, or crafts. Additionally, students are invited to share their academic learning with others through visual representations and designs to demonstrate understanding and solve problems.

MEDIA ARTS is the study of human communication through technology. Students at MESI create art in the form of photographs, digital presentations, videos, and digital drawings routinely in their classrooms. The school’s Innovation Specialist, Tanya Remer, provides students with developmentally appropriate instruction with a variety of digital tools on Chromebooks and iPads. Each grade each has a media arts unit as part of their Innovation class. Kindergarteners create and record a weather forecast using the green screen and broadcasting studio. First grade students persuade their audience to buy their classroom created shoe adaptation in a commercial advertisement. A

written script is performed using props and the green screen by second graders. Third grade students share their expertise by developing and animating a stop-motion video. In fourth grade students create their own podcast. Fifth grade students have the opportunity to collaborate with, learn from, and create broadcasts with a youth media producer in MESI's partnership with PBS Student Reporting Labs.

In addition to the general *MUSIC* education experience with music teacher, Andrea Ihnken and the BHM Schools elementary music curriculum, all students participate in units of keyboard performance and composition and percussion/mallet instruments. Third through fifth grade students are provided with additional unique experiences including ukuleles, World Music Drumming, and a *THEATER* performance. This theater performance is an interpretation and guided analysis of a famous opera. Rehearsal and performance allow students to apply reading and language arts skills from the classroom on stage.

Every MESI student has a boundless imagination, important and innovative ideas, and treasured feelings as unique as themselves. MESI believes that every child deserves to creatively express these through the **VISUAL and MEDIA ARTS, MUSIC, and THEATER.**

For additional information about STEAM programming at MESI or to schedule a visit, please contact us at 763-682-8345.