

Everyday Data

The McGillis School and the Phillips Gallery have teamed up for a third year on a dynamic and engaging integrative learning project to combine Math and Art in an entirely new way. This project is designed to provide participating 6th Grade students with a unique educational experience that encourages collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. Throughout the project, students worked with participating Phillips Gallery artists: Steve Dayton, Meri DeCaria, and Liberty Blake.

McGillis 6th graders spent two days collecting data based on a statistical question they created about their daily interactions. The students met with Phillips Gallery artists to brainstorm ways they could visually depict the data they collected. Then, each Art class transformed the ideas generated during the brainstorming session into a collective material-based work.

“What the heck does math have to do with art?”

- anonymous 6th Grade
McGillis student

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The students were actively involved in leading and guiding the project every step of the way. From the initial planning stages to the final execution, the students were empowered to make decisions and take ownership of their work.

This approach allows students to explore the intersection of Math and Art while enabling them to see firsthand how each subject can inform and enrich the other. Integrating Art and Math helps students develop a deeper understanding of Math concepts while fostering a greater appreciation for the role art can play in communicating concepts in creative unexpected ways.

By working collaboratively with these artists and the Phillips Gallery, the students were able to develop a greater understanding of the artistic process, experiment with new techniques and mediums, and have a platform to share their work with the Salt Lake community. This project is an innovative and exciting initiative that has the potential to transform the way we think about education and the way students approach learning!

