

NDCA Arts in Education Newsletter

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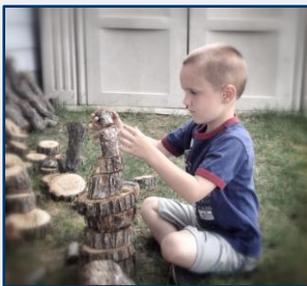
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A student participating in the STE[A]Mc program from Roosevelt Elementary in Jamestown, ND uses a copy of *Mit und Gegen* by Wassily Kandinsky to find and identify various shapes.

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For more information on *No Child Left Inside* contact: Joseph Kolosky, Executive Director, West River Head Start, jkolosky@hitinc.org



NDCA Teacher/Artist Teams Move From SALT to STE[A]Mc

Formerly known as SALT (Schools and Artists Learning Teams,) NDCA's STE[A]Mc Team grant program is a means of providing financial assistance, time, professional development, and support to teacher/artist teams who are committed to teaching the whole student and nurturing both sides of the brain to enhance creativity and 21st Century thinking and learning.

Why the move from SALT to STE[A]Mc? Recognizing SALT as an opportunity for teachers, teaching artists and students to collaborate and work deeply to explore thematic teaching and learning across the curriculum over an extended period of time, it seemed logical to transform SALT to STE[A]Mc; to create a specific space for exploring the interconnectedness between 21st Century skills, STEM, the Arts, and

Core curriculum.

"Problem-solving in the 'real world' requires integrated solutions, in which science, language, mathematics, engineering, visualization, scientific reasoning, and technology are regularly intermingled in various combinations, sequences, proportions, and durations. Similarly, the components of STEM can merge into a [...] model of connected learning, where science, technology, thematic instruction, reading/language arts, engineering, art (visual/spatial thinking), and mathematics converge to reveal not only what "human knowledge" is, but how we know it is so. Critical and creative thinking come by way of one's ability to mentally manipulate information and to do so from a broad range of divergent perspectives."¹ (cont. p.2)

No Child Left Inside

Exploring the Intersection of STEM +Art in an Outdoor Classroom

This fall, children enrolled at West River Head Start in Mandan, ND returned to school to find something new, exciting, and innovative. Under the direction of Joseph Kolosky, West River's Executive Director, teachers, parents, and other volunteers spent the summer months creating *No Child Left Inside*, an outside classroom that infuses Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math - STEAM.

West River Head Start enrolls preschool aged children who are often at risk and lack opportunities for regular outdoor activities. Through this interactive outdoor space, West River hopes to provide a healthy, creative, and engaging learning environment that can be utilized year round.

This outdoor classroom includes several climbing and play structures created from free materials, including stone and tree stumps. Other items, such as outside worktables and

creative spaces for music and art, were secured through donations and grants.

As word traveled about this innovative project, community-minded groups stepped up to offer additional items and services. Contributors included: Lowe's Home Improvement, Boy Scouts of America, Basaraba Excavating, and True North Steel.

NDCA will partner with West River to provide artistic services for the design and creation of interactive garden sculptures, and the design and implementation of learning experiences that infuse dance, movement, music, and visual arts into STEM disciplines. To support the goals of this project, NDCA's Arts in Education Director will be working on several fronts to provide expertise in arts-integrated lesson planning and guidance in applying to the NDCA Teacher Incentive and Artist in Residence grant programs.

What can a STE[A]Mc Team project look like?

Last year, 2nd grade students and teachers at Roosevelt Elementary School in Jamestown, ND explored the intersection of Visual Arts, Geometry and Fractions.



Problem:

Assessment tests indicated that 2nd and 3rd grade students were struggling with the concept of shapes, how they can be divided into portions (halves, thirds, fourths) and how this translates into fractions ($\frac{1}{2}$, etc.).

TEAM PROJECT

Enduring Idea:

Understanding and using shape helps us to make sense of how we think and live.

Essential Questions:

- What are the attributes and properties of shape?
- How are shapes (geometry) and numbers connected?
- What tools can we use to create shapes?
- How can shapes be combined or divided to create more complex shapes, patterns, designs, and images?

Process:

Teachers Emma Mickelson, Mari Stilwell, and Mary Rachel teamed with teaching artist Bonnie Tressler to create scaffold, standards-based, assessed, art-integrated lessons that enabled their students to develop understanding of shapes and how they relate to geometry, fractions, and art making.

To see the full results and final report for this project, follow this link:

http://www.nd.gov/arts/arts_ed/images-pdfs/Jamestown-STEAMc-FinalReport2013.pdf

Artist in Residence and Teacher Incentive Grants Due November 1, 2013

Don't miss out! Applications are now being accepted for the Artist in Residence and Teacher Incentive Grants Programs.

The Artist in Residence Grant provides matching funds of up to \$5,000 for schools and other non-profit organizations to bring artists into North Dakota schools and communities to conduct residencies of three days or longer.

The Teacher Incentive Grant is a means of providing financial assistance to teachers who wish to explore new and creative ways of integrating the arts into

the non-arts curriculum in their classroom. Maximum grant amount is \$300 and no match is required.

[More information concerning the Artist in Residence Grant is available via this link.](#)

[The current list of NDCA Teaching Artists is available via this link](#)

[More information concerning the Teacher Incentive Grant is available via this link.](#)

Roosevelt Elementary in Bismarck Capitalizes on SALT+

As reported in our October, 2012 newsletter, Roosevelt Elementary in Bismarck, a six-year participant in the former SALT program, received a \$6,000 SALT+ Grant to explore how the program might extend into whole-school, professional development.

With an additional \$6,000 Education Grant from Basin Electric Cooperative and support from Principal Shawn Oban, veteran SALT instructors, Barb Sandstrom and Janel Speath, teamed up with teaching artist Ali LaRock to provide

year-long professional development to Roosevelt's entire teaching staff.

Techniques for working in and through the visual arts were explored along with guidance for developing arts-integrated lesson plans. All SALT+ lesson plans have been posted on the Bismarck Moodle site where they can be accessed by Bismarck teachers.

To see the full results and final report from this project, follow this link: http://www.nd.gov/arts/arts_ed/images-pdfs/Bismarck_Salt4_FinalPresentation2013.pdf

(cont.) SALT to STE[A]Mc

With this understanding in mind, changing the program's name from SALT to STE[A]Mc was the first step for meeting the needs of teachers and schools in North Dakota and pushing the program to the next level.

Through STE[A]Mc, teacher/artist teams work with NDCA Instructional Coaches over a three year period to:

- Build collaborations between teachers and artists;
- Increase capacity of both teachers and artists for teaching in and through the arts;
- Develop and implement curriculum that is intentional and bridges the concepts of STEM, Art and Core Curricula;
- Integrate the use of Teaching for Understanding and Visible Thinking frameworks; and
- Implement reflective teaching practice as a tool for inspiring change, innovation, and collaboration.

Two teams, one from South Heart Elementary (South Heart, ND) and one from Washington Elementary (Jamestown, ND) will pilot the program for 2013-14. Each team received a \$6000 NDCA grant, which upon successful completion of all grant requirements, is renewable for a total of three years.

Team projects include:

- Exploring 2-D and 3-D shapes, spatial reasoning, transformations, and engineering through the visual arts; and
- Exploring, defining, and expressing community through photography, language arts, and technology.

Schools interested in pursuing the STE[A]Mc Grant are encouraged to contact the Arts in Education Director at: rengelman@nd.gov.

¹Wesson, K. (2012). From stem to st2ream: Reassembling our disaggregated curriculum. (2012). Education Week, 32(09), 25-27.