

The Process

Heather Hanks, art instructor, and Jeremy Santy, the Gifted and Talented coordinator, at Bill Reed Middle School approached me about be the necessary third party in the GT identification evaluation process. We decided the most effective way to evaluate and also provide a memorable experience for the students was through a one day workshop where they would create a self-portrait and also help in the creation of a piece of mixed media artwork that would require them to work together in collage selection, designing, and collage creation. Students worked in groups to create, select and arrange the elements of the piece. Each self-portrait created by the students was copied and included in the piece as well. While they worked, I took notes and evaluated each student in areas of giftedness and talent. I also looked at attitude, cooperation, and innovation of technique. The piece the students created was then taken to my studio where I adhered the materials and embellished the piece to create a finished design.



The Purpose of the Project

The primary purpose of this collaborative workshop was to identify visually gifted and talented students within the middle school to give them additional support and opportunities for pursuing their gifting as they progress through middle school and continue on to high school. The Thompson Valley School District has a selected number of schools that are designated as Loveland area Integrated School of the Arts. These public schools proactively provide education experiences that celebrate creativity and innovation in students. And while identification of GT status was primary, another purpose included giving BR students opportunities to connect with other artistic classmates and learn about coming together over art and overcoming differences.



Funding

This project was funded from the arts department at BRMS and the Gifted and Talented department.



The final three pieces created by each grade level were 24 x 36 inches in size. Student class sizes ranged from 10-17. The pieces were completed and installed at the school by September 2022. The budget for the pieces and the workshop instruction was 1800.00





More to Come

The Bill Reed Middle School art department and GT program are already planning on creating another series of workshops for GT potential students for 2023. Each year that we complete this series of workshops and collaborative pieces, the process will evolve and change.

"OUR WOLF PACK"



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For questions regarding this project, please contact Heather Hanks at heather.hanks@tsd.org