



THE S.M.A.R.T PROJECT AT GLEBE ELEMENTARY

Get inspired.

Get s.m.art.

WHAT EXACTLY IS S.M.ART?

S.M.ART is a unique exemplary project that seeks to promote creative learning in science and math through inspiring experiences of modern visual art, music, dance and theater.

The Arlington County School Board encourages school communities to augment the strong Arlington Public School instructional program with distinctive educational offerings called exemplary projects. Each exemplary project must:

- » enhance instruction for all students enrolled at the school
- » strengthen the school's instructional coherence
- » build local community commitment to the school
- » include a clear evaluation plan and reporting schedule

Glebe Elementary has been developing such a project over the last several years. The arts were identified as a strong community value, and the choice was made to build the Glebe project around the arts. The core subjects of math and science, along with technology, were chosen as the other major components of the project. The underlying purpose of S.M.ART is creating a space for well composed, memorable, creative learning experiences for all Glebe students.



SAMPLE S.M.ART CORE UNITS

Transporation/Dance	K
In Flight /Kites	1
Geometric Totem Poles	2
Space/Alma Thomas	3
Pattern Blocks	4
Alexander Calder	5

Get unique.

WHAT MAKES S.M.ART SO GREAT?

1. Lively learning for students and teachers!

S.M.ART offers an engaging arena for students and teachers to learn new information in new ways.

2. Natural, elegant connections between subjects

Classroom teachers and arts specialists designing S.M.ART units look for real connections between subjects. This increases learning by the students and enables them to see relationships in their world.

3. Exciting relationships with museums, foundations and organizations

In the short time S.M.ART has been operating, connections have been made with a number of prominent museums, foundations and arts organizations, including the Drachen Foundation, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Hirshorn Museum and Montclair Museum. These ties bring outstanding resources into the school and broaden the horizons of the entire community.

4. Visiting artists, scientists and mathematicians, in the classroom as well as on the stage

A goal of the S.M.ART Project is for students to be introduced to a wide variety of art, science and math professionals. Research is done to find such specialists who are working in fields that pertain to the students' studies. These people and their work are introduced to the students. Whenever possible, these specialists are invited into the classroom and occasionally perform school wide assemblies.

5. An opportunity for students to use authentic art materials and methods

With the funds provided by Arlington Public Schools (APS) for S.M.ART, students have the opportunity to use authentic materials and work in methods used by professional artists, scientists and mathematicians.

6. Unique exhibition opportunities

An important component of each S.M.ART unit is a culminating exhibition or performance. This reinforces the learning for students and gives them an opportunity to see their work valued and respected. It also allows the entire school community to take part in each study unit.



Get modern.

WHY MODERN ART?

Art, science and math have always been interconnected. In the modern era, this connection became more obvious. For modern artists, basic art elements such as pattern and color became subjects in and of themselves. What was once strictly the territory of scientists and mathematicians now became direct sources of inspiration for artists. Artists working in all formats tackled new kinds of questions: How do we see? How can mathematical models be visualized? Or heard? How do living organisms work? The list goes on and on.

When students are exposed to artists who are creating work directly inspired by science and math concepts, these curriculum areas come alive in new ways. By encountering artists whose work clearly illustrates exploration of basic art elements—line, shape, color, space, pattern



and texture—fundamental artistic learning occurs.

When students are intentionally introduced to artists that create work integrating these factors, students and teachers are part of unique learning experiences that are meaningful and memorable. This is the goal of the S.M.ART Project.

Get involved.

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GLEBE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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