

BBFASD Partners with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

This year, BBFASD partnered with The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust in the K-12 Residency Arts Integration Program. This is an opportunity where professional teaching artists collaborate with teachers to engage students in a creative process to connect an art form with subject matter to enhance learning. In planning sessions, Trust Art staff, teaching artists, administrators, and teachers work together to connect curriculum to an appropriate art form, identify standards and objectives, and customize art to deepen learning.

“Research shows that arts integration practices foster deep learning of core academic content, encourage collaboration and creative problem solving, build social emotional learning, improve the classroom climate, and so much more!” (Pittsburgh Cultural Trust)

BBFASD Art Integration activities implemented include:

- At Big Beaver Elementary, Mrs. Angie Henderickson’s 2nd grade class worked with Ms. Joanna Gaines, professional dancer, to incorporate dance/movement to their Poetry Unit focusing on figurative language. Over the eight session residency, Ms. Gaines engaged students in dance/movement to deepen their learning of figurative language, such as idioms.
- At the BFMS, Mrs. Sarah Troyan’s 8th grade Social Studies class partnered with Mr. Randall Coleman in a six week residency working with the students on their projects. Mr. Coleman specializes in photography, videography and podcasts. He worked with the students to implement one or more of these forms of media into their projects.
- The BFHS had two local artists for eight weeks. The artists worked with Mr. Mike Woods and Ms. Bettina Nero in their ninth grade United States History classes. They focused on the 1920’s, during the Pre-World War I Era, societal changes, and the emergence of mass media and Jazz.
- At Central Elementary, Mrs. Dana Hoover, 3rd grade teacher, collaborated with Miss Candice Walker to incorporate dance, music and singing into her classroom to help deepen the understanding of Expository text and Realistic Fiction Units.

This Pittsburgh Cultural Trust opportunity was a huge success in deepening student’s learning and exposing students to various art forms.

