

The W.I.D.E School

A thriving, learner-centered, art-inspired program

LOCATION Missouri City, TX

PROFILE Private School inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach

STUDENT IMPACT Serves 135 Students, infancy through middle school

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Background

The W.I.D.E School, located outside of Houston, TX, is a preschool through middle school program that is expanding into high school. Their project and art-based program keeps students at the center of everything they do. With a unique blend of traditional academic blocks and dedicated chunks of time for projects and “think tank” classes, students gain the knowledge and build the skills they need to be successful in the world.



Our Work Together

At the W.I.D.E School art serves as a “language” for students to communicate their learning. For example, as students are learning about the sun’s energy in science class, they simultaneously create solar dye in textile class to reinforce and extend their learning. When working on poetry, students create pieces of art to represent their writing. Even cooking is a form of art at the W.I.D.E school! Students bake bread in their “Food as a Language” class to better understand the fungi kingdom and the chemistry of yeast and sugar. Students at the W.I.D.E School collaborate with local artists, including their own Art Director, Marjon F. Aucoin, at the Yellow House Atelier Studio as well as through their Think Tank classes that explore music, art, food, nature, and language.

In this unprecedented year of school closures and distance learning, one might think that such hands-on, interdisciplinary learning came to a screeching halt. However, what actually transpired was a thriving, learner-centered, art-inspired program that spanned in-person and online learning. Building upon a three year partnership with Altitude Learning, the W.I.D.E School has an established practice of documenting the breadth of students’ learning and sharing it with their families through the Altitude Learning platform. This allowed their teachers, students, and families to more easily transition in and out of distance learning.

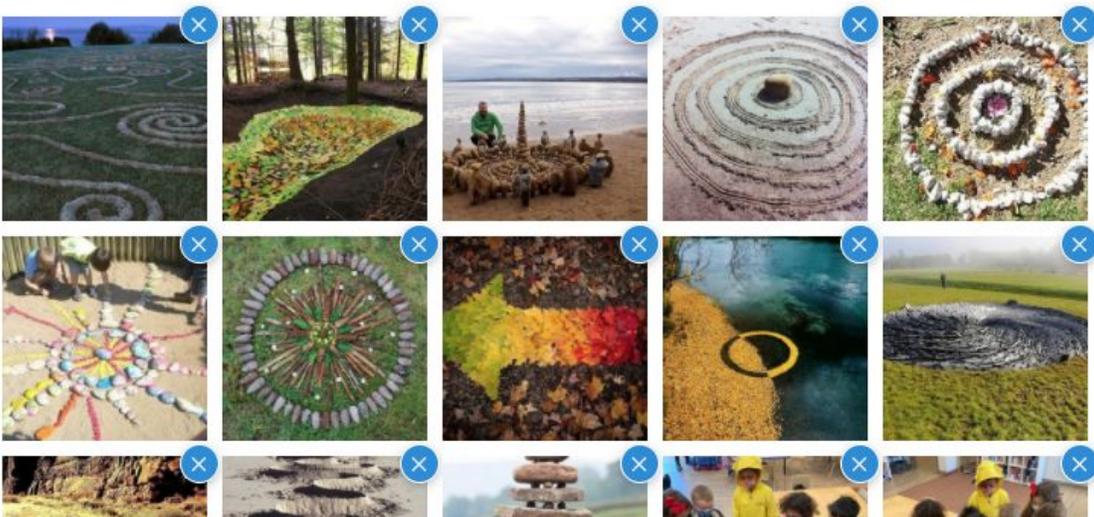
“For many, the switch from in-person learning to remote learning was a stressful experience. Our teachers and older elementary and middle school students had an easier transition to remote learning thanks to the Altitude Learning platform,” said Maryam Lumpkin, Director of the W.I.D.E School. “Our circumstances found that some of our families were ready for in-person learning while others needed to stay as remote learners. Having the platform allowed our teachers to provide rich learning experiences and valuable feedback for all our learners regardless of where they resided.”



Landscape Art

Landscape art, is the depiction of natural scenery such as mountains, valleys, trees, rivers, and forests, especially where the main subject is a wide view—with its elements arranged into a coherent composition. We will discuss the different types of landscape art and the materials the artists used to create these masterpieces.

After our class, the students explored their surroundings and gathered materials from outside to create their own landscape art! We will capture and upload their final pieces to this card.



This Card was assigned to students in the Altitude Learning platform to help guide their learning, offer examples of landscape art, and create a shared space for students to add their own photos from the learning experience.

The Altitude Learning platform also provided the much needed space for teachers to virtually collaborate on lessons to ensure that W.I.D.E’s vision of interdisciplinary, student-centered learning lived on in distance learning. For example, the nutrition teacher created a card for her cooking class and the ELA teacher added onto the card with ELA assignments that supported the cooking class.

This Card is associated with students and may have work attached.

Sandwich Blog - NEXT STEP CARD

Choose a type of sandwich to research.

Objectives

- ELA
 - (7.12.I) display academic citations and use source materials ethically
 - (8.12.J) use an appropriate mode of delivery, whether written, oral, or multimodal, to present results.
- Health
 - (8.4) The student knows how to research, access, analyze, and use health information.

Steps Required

- On a google doc create a flyer. Name the selected sandwich you choose, you can be as creative as you want on your flyer.
- In your blog/ flyer you create you will have to include:
 - Title (Sandwich Name)
 - History of your sandwich
 - How it got its name
 - Recipe for your sandwich (link if space is an issue)
 - Photo(s) of your sandwich
 - Food Groups your sandwich represents
 - Poem about your sandwich (any style)
 - Citations for information/pictures used (copy & paste URL's)
- In addition to the blog...
Type up 5 questions about your sandwich to use if someone were to judge your dish.

This single card, developed collaboratively by the Health and ELA teachers, addresses both ELA and Health standards for a rich, interdisciplinary student learning experience.

Impact and Next Steps

Building on their success, the W.I.D.E School is preparing to expand their impact into high school. In collaboration with Altitude Learning they are developing their Graduate Profile and implementation strategy rooted in a culture of reflection and evidence-based, student-driven, authentic learning. With strategic consulting, pedagogical support, and a learner-centered technology platform from Altitude Learning the W.I.D.E School is able to continue to provide its art-inspired learning model to even more students.

The W.I.D.E School gives us one model of how to incorporate art and other authentic learning experiences into the classroom. How has your school created interdisciplinary, authentic learning opportunities for your students?

To learn more about partnering with Altitude Learning, please email partners@altitudelearning.com