

Riverside Academy’s “Majestic Minds” Art Gallery

Student art is one product of a SASL funded service-learning project to engage students in their education by helping them experience success in school through art. Teacher Rachel Mathieu used the project to integrate the application of other academic skills into the process. The Majestic Minds project was developed by students and Ms. Mathieu at Riverside Academy a magnet high school in New Haven. Almost 50 students eventually participated to create an art gallery for their school with the potential to travel to outside venues.



Students participated in the business and creation of artwork. The business of art required students to budget for paints, canvases, easels, frames and communicate with community contacts for support and venues for display. Students also learned strategies to market their own artwork and studied options for careers in art. Thus the project integrated academic goals of math and English to support the creation of a school art gallery with the potential to travel to outside venues.

In the process of creating art, Ms. Mathieu engaged students’ minds through critical reflection that required students to describe analyze and interpret their work and the work of their peers. Service was provided to the school in the creation of a vibrant art gallery and to the community through the traveling exhibit, which celebrates and communicates the values of different cultures.

Students with little previous experience in art learned to excel in their own artistic ability while applying critical academic skills to help the project succeed. A small representation of the artwork is included here with one of the student artists standing by his work. A picture is truly worth more than a thousand words.

