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Girls STEAM Project Talladega County, AL

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

The Girls STEAM Project goal is to help seventh and eighth grade girls in Talladega County expand their horizons in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) with an Art Component.

Art Instructor Natalie Davis Hired

Natalie Davis was hired as the art instructor for the Girls STEAM Project. She comes well qualified in working with all ages of children as well as adults. Following graduation with a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Auburn



University in December 2013, she worked at Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, Auburn. Serving as the Education Curator's Assistant, her experience includes art programs for K-12 students, docent training, and more. Davis also taught weekly art classes to students age 5-13 for Auburn CityKids, Auburn.

Her first art class for Talladega County seventh and eighth grade girls was February 25, 2017, at Comer Museum and Arts Center. Students gained technical knowledge of sculpture techniques and created works of art utilizing balance and form.

“Sculpture is the branch of the visual arts that operates in three dimensions,” said Davis. “The sculptural materials in this lesson were wood and wire used as the actual sculpture.”

The student's artistic wire sculptures will be on display at the museum from May 16 – 19, 2017.

Talladega County seventh and eighth grade girls can still sign up for the two remaining art classes in this series on Saturday, March 11, and April 8, 2017. In March, the students will experiment in printmaking techniques. In April, students will learn the history of murals and the idea of cultural expression in art while collectively creating a mural. There is no cost for classes. All materials will be

provided. Applications are available at www.comermuseum.org/apply, or at the museum, 711N. Broadway, Sylacauga, AL 35150. Questions, call 205 249-7788.

*Art Classes at Comer
Museum and Arts
Center on March 11
and April 8. Register
online at
comermuseum.org*



TALLADEGA COUNTY
Girls STEAM

Girls STEAM at Fayetteville and Winterboro Schools

On Friday, February 24, 2017, 87 Fayetteville and Winterboro seventh and eighth grade girls were issued the following challenging problem. How can art be more engaging? These young ladies were divided into groups and collaborated to create an engaging art piece using a variety of art supplies and Hummingbird robotics kits at Winterboro School.

“This event completes three sessions of the Talladega County Girls STEAM Project at these two schools,” reported Audrey L. Salgado, project director.

At Fayetteville Middle School, lessons started with Kelli Earley, PTA art volunteer, and 39 seventh and eighth grade girls exploring various types of art and artists with a focus on sculptures. The class ended with their creations of mini sculptures made with modeling clay. Next students were introduced to the Hummingbird robotics kits and learned how to connect, create expressions, and sequences.

At Winterboro, their kickoff activity was 48 seventh and eighth grade girls viewing the movie *Hidden Figures*. This is an incredible untold story of three brilliant African-American women working at NASA, who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation’s confidence, turned around the Space Race, and galvanized the world. The visionary crossed all gender and race lines to inspire generations to dream big.

These same students were then pulled into the Winterboro STEAM Lab to discuss and explore different ways in which they can express themselves through art. The final session focused on teaching the students how to connect and program the Hummingbird robotics kits, which they used in their last session to bring their artwork to life! Videos of the artwork coming to life were recorded and “aurasmatized” so when the artwork is scanned with the Aruasma app, the artwork becomes active. The results of their project will be exhibited at the museum on May 9 – 12, 2017, where visitors can see the artwork in motion.

“Stephanie Brooks, Fayetteville School Digital Learning Specialist, Emily Nestor, Winterboro School Technology Integration Specialist, and Mindy Kirkland, Winterboro Math Instructor, are the teachers responsible for making this happen,” said Salgado. Partial funding is provided by an AAUW Community Action Project Grant.