GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM RECOGNIZE “LANGUAGE ARTISTS”

GRPS students to be recognized at GRAM for Language Artists Program May 14, 2014.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., May 9, 2014 – The Grand Rapids Art Museum, Kendall College of Art and Design, and Grand Rapids Public School's Language Artists Program is a complete unit of study geared to 3rd and 4th grade students that impacts student achievement by linking visual arts and language arts.

Rather than an isolated field trip experience, the unit begins with a two-week introduction to art in the classroom, followed by a museum visit where students engage in activities with trained docents based on what they've learned in the previous weeks at school. Students return to school and create their own images of hybrid animals in the art classroom. This image is then used as a visual prompt in the classroom to write a story about their animal in its habitat. Students are asked to compare, in writing, their image with one they studied in GRAM's collection. Throughout the unit all activities are based on the Michigan state standards: compare and contrast, problem and solution, beginning/middle/end, and description, all of which support higher levels of thinking.

When students have completed the unit, schools are encouraged to have a celebration where all students are given the opportunity to share their image and writings with a caring audience of family and friends in a presentation format. These school celebrations act as a prelude to GRAM’s exhibition of participating student work and evening celebration honoring selected participants.

In order to successfully implement the program, all classroom teachers and art teachers receive professional development from GRAM staff.

The Language Artists program impacts over 1,800 students annually from Grand Rapids Public, Godfrey Lee Public, West Ottawa Public, East Grand Rapids Public, Ellington Academy of Arts and Technology, and the schools of the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

GRAM will host a private after hours celebration featuring the work of 44 Language Artist participants from the Grand Rapids Public Schools on the evening of May 14, 2014. This special event allows the students a chance to share their experience with family and friends while honoring their achievements.

By having art as the center of the lesson, student engagement and excitement for writing increases and students' writing is positively impacted. To learn more about the program or to participate in professional development please contact Christopher Bruce, GRAM's School Programs Senior Coordinator at cbruce@artmuseumgr.org

Learn more about GRAM’s educational programming at artmuseumgr.org/learning.
Event:
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Grand Rapids Art Museum

About the Grand Rapids Art Museum
The mission of the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) is: to inspire discovery, enjoyment, and learning about art; to serve as a welcoming and inclusive cultural resource; to collect, conserve, and interpret works of art of the finest quality. Established in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, the new Art Museum is internationally known for its distinguished design and LEED® Gold certified status. Established in 1910 as the Grand Rapids Art Association, GRAM has grown to include more than 5,000 works of art, including American and European 19th and 20th century painting and sculpture and more than 3,000 works on paper. Embracing the city's legacy as a leading center of design and manufacturing, GRAM has a growing collection in the area of design and modern craft.

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