

Art Exploration: Investigating & Creating Art through Multiple Perspectives

Camp Navigate

Emily Crouch

Service - Learning Scholar 2019

Challenge and Opportunity:

Camp Navigate is a wonderful organization that has been established for several years. They offer many assets to children of all ages in the Wabash Valley. Camp Navigate was designed to offer extensive after school care that gave students a positive environment to work, grow and become better community members. Camp Navigate was established with emphasis on three key components; Employability skills, Healthy Habits and Servant Leadership. I bantered with what struggles may persist at Camp Navigate and what I could do to help alleviate such issues. Camp Navigate is always looking for student driven initiatives. This led me to believe that an Art project may be beneficial for Camp Navigate and its students. Due to Camp Navigate's unprecedented success, finding a project to fulfil a specific need ensued difficulties. I wanted to create a project that would engage, motivate and produce a meaningful and sustainable outcome. Students so often lack the ability to express their creative abilities. By implementing an art centered project, I could not only encourage creativity but offer insight into other areas of learning through art!

Service - Learning Response:

Throughout the course of this semester, I visited Camp Navigate on a weekly basis. This allowed me to work with the kids on various art projects centered on specific areas of learning. I decided to implement a Holiday theme due to the timeline of the project. I planned, prepared and implemented three main projects. The first was a "stained glass window". Students were given a large coloring sheet split into different pieces. Each child colored a page and then we pieced together our masterpiece. This helped teach the students about diversity and inclusion! The next project we completed was Christmas Around the World wreaths which helped us explore other cultures and learn about the concept of traditions. Lastly, we constructed a recycled Christmas tree to tie our project together. Each student made an ornament out of recycled material and together we studied the importance of reducing waste and reusing materials. After creating our three projects, we hosted an art exhibition to showcase the hard work each student accomplished within their work this semester.

Community Partner Perspective:

"Throughout the semester, Emily Crouch helped Camp Navigate students to create a stained glass window while learning about inclusivity and diversity. She also taught them about the different cultures through Christmas around the world wreaths. Finally, Emily and the students made a recycled Christmas tree and discussed the idea behind reusing materials. Camp Navigate's mission is to train up students to excel in our future workforce as we instill in them much needed soft skills. We also emphasize S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Art and Math). Many features of Emily's program this semester contributed to our mission. She taught them how to work together as a team, how to be creative, how to communicate with each other as they shared their ideas and to appreciate different cultures from around the world. Emily even planned a field trip to the SWOPE museum. This trip was great as it broadened their knowledge and appreciation of different forms of Art. We are so thankful that our students were exposed to all that Emily brought to our organization this semester." - Eleanor Ramseier Co-Founder/Executive Director of Camp Navigate

