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The Arts in STEM

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Art Integration Paper

The art form I am planning to incorporate is drawing. Drawing is an art form that involves creating a picture from pencil, crayon, pen, or another writing implement. I plan to use this art form because I feel that it is very broad and allows students to express themselves freely with tools they are using in their everyday life. Many students are drawing on their notes during their other classes and at home, so I believe that it is a more accessible art form than say sculpting or painting.

This art form can enhance many of my lessons, but there is one way in particular that I believe would be a valuable experience for students. I am constantly thinking of fun and creative ways to introduce new repertoire to my students. Sometimes they listen, sometimes they dance, and sometimes we will discuss it as a class and reflect on it. However, I believe adding drawing to the introduction of the song would make the experience more meaningful. For the first listen of the song, I would ask the students to draw what they hear - whether it be a scene they are imagining, some shapes, multiple drawings, or something else. I would ask them to share what they drew with the class and listen to the song one more time. I think that introducing the song in this manner would be a great way to incorporate another art form into my lesson.

The integration of the arts into other subject areas is very important to me. As a music teacher, my subject area falls into the arts category. Due to this, I often have

much less time with students and the validity of my subject area is often questioned. I want to continue to assert the importance of the arts in curriculums whenever I can. I believe that the integration of the arts and stem, as well as cross curricular lessons not only support the arts, but also work to provide a well-rounded and balanced education to our students. Having subject matter and concepts presented from multiple perspectives and lenses provides students with more context and will allow more students to understand.

Drawing and art in general can be used to create interdisciplinary lessons and activities in the classroom in a multitude of ways. One activity that I did with my students in the past was write a song about penguins, which was an animal that they had discussed in their science class. They used facts they learned to write the lyrics for the song, and as a class, we wrote it and sung it together. Other activities that can be used to create cross-curricular activities and lessons can be listening to music or musicals about historical events while learning about the events in history class. For example, we may listen to and watch parts of the musical *Hamilton* while learning about the historical events that the musical is based on.