

This year I mainly use StemScopes for resources for my Gifted & Talented classes, but art is either not included or very limited in these lessons. I think I could enhance many of these lessons by integrating the National Core Arts Standards. One topic that came to mind was ratio concepts, so I attached an overview of the ratios unit. I could use art to help students gain a better understanding of what a ratio means and why learning ratios can be valuable. This is a concept that my students have found confusing in the past. They have misconceptions about ratios (e.g. ratios being the actual amounts) and also struggle to make equivalent ratios when it is not an easy one step problem. I think the concept of mixing paints to make different colors could help students understand ratios and their purpose better. They can learn about the color wheel at the same time as building knowledge of ratios. This can even be used to teach ratio equivalency, by mixing different amounts of two colors and seeing if it comes out to be the same shade. I could align these ideas with the standards for Visual Arts, specifically the Anchor Standards for "Creating" and "Connecting". Students can create paintings based on the colors they are mixing, and they can make connections between ratios and art. I could even see how the "Responding" standards could apply- students could look at art pieces, try to recreate the colors, and consider the ratio used to make those colors. Not only will students gain a better understanding of ratios, integrating art can also make learning about ratios more interesting to them. They will enjoy doing something hands on and it will be a more memorable experience.