The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art announces the “On Target Traveling Observation Station”
Connecting Middle School Language Arts and Science through the Art of Observation

In the fall of 2011, the Beach Museum of Art had the unique opportunity to bring the Biobus, a traveling science observation station equipped with microscopes, to the Manhattan, Kansas, seventh grade classrooms. The Biobus was part of a multi-visit program that integrated language arts and science through visual art and was part of the museum’s initiatives to add art to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum to create STEAM. Based on the success of the pilot program we are offering a new outreach program to area middle schools.

The program includes two visits to the school:
• An initial visit to the language arts classroom to work on visual observation skills and rich language development using digital photographs of artworks from the museum’s permanent collection of Kansas artists. (tailored to ELA curriculum)
• A second visit to the science classroom by the “On Target Observation Station” allowing students to use observational and descriptive language skills to create scientific drawings from nature (local plants and insects) with a macro point of view followed by a chance to observe and create scientific drawings using a digital microscope. (Life Sciences/cell biology)

Students will receive a journal at the beginning of the program to record observations, writings, and drawings.

“I can’t impress upon you enough my desire to have this event again. I honestly believe that we are at a very critical time in our specific region, with the arrival of NBAF and all of the tertiary businesses that are predicted to envelop this region, that we need to engage, expose, and empower our young students to the possibilities that will be available to them as they graduate high school, specifically in the science related arena. As far as my perspective goes, this far exceeded my expectations, largely due to the work that you and your staff put into this activity. We, as a building, are always looking for ways to partner with our community. Each and every opportunity to bring something to our student population, and connect our students and our staff to the community is vital.”

Greg Hoyt, principal of Eisenhower Middle School, in reference to the fall 2011 pilot program

This free program is funded by an Art Education grant from Target.
Please contact Kathrine Schlageck, Beach Museum of Art Senior Educator at (785)532-7718 or klwalk@ksu.edu for more information or to book tours.