

What Happens to a Plot of Land When 6th Graders Choose Its Fate? Feb. 6 Event Showcases what Wood Middle School Students Would Build to Benefit Alameda

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The public is invited to the Wood Middle School multi-purpose room (420 Grand St., Alameda) on Wednesday, Feb. 6 from 2:15 - 3:00 PM for a Gallery Walk to view projects and meet the student engineers who created "Plot of Land," a showcase of what students would build to benefit Alameda if they were given a 900 square foot plot of land. This event is free and open to the public.

The project was devised after Wood Middle School 6th graders visited The Disney Museum in San Francisco last October. Students were enthralled with the models that Walt Disney built, including planning replicas of Disneyland and iterations of Mickey Mouse. Math teacher Kasey Brown came up with the idea to leverage student interest along with incorporating the rich math concepts that would be naturally embedded in such a project.

Students are using many 21st Century skills on this project, such as collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Real-life math connections are being practiced and learned, including ratio, scale factor, estimation, measurement, geometry, and problem solving. Students work in groups coming up with interesting ideas that show that students care about their community, such as creating a drop-in space for the homeless, an animal shelter to support overflow at FAAS and an outdoor garden and mural space to highlight local student and adult artists.

Wood Middle School is a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts integration, math) school that incorporates SHOM (Studio Habits of Mind), which helps students to be reflective about their work. SHOM categories include: Engage and Persist, Envision, Develop Craft and more. This project highlights the benefits of an integrated learning approach.