

Service-Learning in Art

Course: **Fiber Arts and Fabric Design**

School: **South Division High School (summer)**

Community Partners:

Walker's Point Center for the Arts, local artist Taylor Easton, and 53rd Street School occupational therapist and school social worker

Project Name: **Weighted Lap Covers for Sensory Integration**



Project Snapshot

Working with an occupational therapist and school social worker, fiber arts students explored the benefits of weighted lap covers for young students who have a variety of sensory challenges. They also researched ways to make weighted lap covers that are safe for classroom use and easy to clean.

With guidance from a local artist, students then used techniques like sun printing, dyeing, embroidery, and appliqué to design a variety of beautiful fabrics to use to make lap covers.

The 15–20 weighted lap covers that the high school students created are now being used by younger students in several schools across the district. Teachers, support staff, and the children themselves are pleased with the results!

Community Need/Issue Addressed

Quality Education*

Many students with ADHD, autism, or sensory processing problems struggle to stay calm and focused in the classroom. This makes it hard for them to learn.

Weighted lap pads (lap covers) can have a calming effect that helps students process information and handle emotions better. This makes it easier for them to learn.

**from United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development <https://www.globalgoals.org>*

[View the student presentation.](#)