

Harrison Elementary: Kindergarten, Michelle Grzebyk's class and 3rd grade, Suzanne Vinel's class — STEAM buddies

In a novel approach, Kindergarten students were matched with third graders for one-on-one weekly STEAM projects. Such hands-on activities ranged from creating a design from construction paper shapes to creating a tall tower of apples (using only donated apples and Playdoh). Students always work with the same buddy.

According to Suzanne Vinel, "We're seeing great relationships develop among the students. My 3rd graders are the 'helpers,' assisting the Kindergartners with their ideas/problem solving skills. So far, we've seen only positive results. As my 3rd graders are working on their own 3rd grade STEAM projects in our classroom, they have faced emotions from frustration to elation. I talk with my students each week prior to meeting with our Buddies about how to be leaders and help Kindergartners work through these same feelings. Everyone involved are truly enjoying our STEAM buddies projects!

