

NIATT – Safety Art Project



In the fall of 2017, NIATT funded an educator to go into twelve classrooms (grades 1st-8th) to teach about traffic safety. Each lesson consisted of 15 minutes of traffic safety education/discussion, then 20 minutes were allocated to art creation. Elementary grades used pastels for their art.

Middle school students used ink and traced their hand as they pledged to be more aware and put down their devices anytime they are in the street



All the student’s art focused on the various modes of transportation (cars, buses, bikes, pedestrians), the infrastructure that helps us stay safe (sidewalks, crosswalks, signs and traffic lights), and ways we can stay safe (not being a distracted walker, safe biking and safe crossing techniques). The course material was adjusted to be age-specific for each grade.



Key ideas & easy-to-remember phrases were taught in each class. Phrases such as “Stop, Look and Listen,” “Look Left, Right, Left Again” “Be Safe, Be Seen” “It Can Wait!” (the AT&T slogan to encourage people to stop texting while driving) were taught.



We emphasized that since children are the smallest participants in traffic, they need to be the most careful.



We found that the students internalized the instruction in a more in-depth way when they were asked to create art about the topic. To help students engage we did age-appropriate things like: asked open-ended questions, read a book was read or did team quizzes to review material taught.

Over 200 pieces of student art was created and then displayed in NIATT hallways. Leaders from the University, City and Schools were invited to attend the reception in February to celebrate and high-light the student’s work. Approximately 45 people attended the reception (19 students, 24 adults). 15 students were chosen by NIATT students



for exceptional art that portrayed clearly the aspects of safety that were taught during in-classroom instruction.

Special mention: A blind student in 4th grade created a car with styrofoam stickers for her art piece. Her classmates learned from her as she told them how she uses her ears only to cross the street safely by herself.



Ahmed Abdel-Rahim (Director of NIATT) had a mosaic created in the shape of an I (for UI) from the scanned artwork. At the reception, we gave these finished pieces to the teachers and schools who participated in this project.



All participating classes were also invited to come during school hours to do a field-trip in NIATT to view their art and see what it looks like to be an Engineering student at the University of Idaho. This project was meant to strengthen the relationships between Moscow School District and NIATT and help the schools identify NIATT as a resource for transportation safety in the community.



It Can Wait

Middle School Pledge

This Middle School project is based on the AT&T slogan “it can wait.”

Research shows 1 out of every 4 car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving. Middle School students (grades 6-8) are some of the first generations to have their own hand-held devices and therefore need to learn how to use them in ways that keep themselves and others safe.



Students within this project were first introduced to the idea of what is “distracted walking.” Then students were asked to pledge –by tracing their hands- to *put down their devices anytime they are in a road* (walking or driving in the future).

Students were also taught that even if they can’t drive yet, they can advocate for their own safety by telling driving adults “It can wait!” if they see an adult texting while driving.

As Middle School students learn what distracted walking and driving is, they can make those distinctions and decisions to put down their device now when in the roads, and not engage in distracted driving in the future.

This project (funded by NIATT at U Idaho) is the first of its kind meant to educate Middle School students about this important safety issue in Moscow.

For more information about this pledge, visit www.itcanwait.com

For more info about this project, contact NIATT of UI
(National Institute for Advanced Transportation and Technology)

Special mention

A blind student in 4th grade created this art piece. She has learned how to cross the street on her own. She shared with her classmates that at intersections she listens carefully to the direction and speed of passing cars. "I can tell if the cars are going parallel or crossing my path. When I hear them stop, I know I can cross safely."



