



Digging-in to Jurassic Arts

"Jurassic Arts: Looking at Dinosaurs Through an Artistic Lens" is an IPEI grant-funded program spanning between three elementary schools: Cayuga Heights, South Hill and BJM. Allison Scott, the band teacher at these schools, requested the grant to bring the dinosaur-themed piece she had planned for her band students to life. Then the project took on a life of its own, and expanded at all three schools.

The funding mainly covered the cost of eight presentations from the Samantha Lesser of the Museum of the Earth: two at Cayuga Heights and BJM, and four at South Hill. In these presentations, students learned what dinosaurs were, how they moved, and how they fought each other. They also held artificial fossils to better understand the size, shape and weight of these creatures. The project was tailored to the needs of each school, but every school involved a combination of Kindergarten, 1st, 4th, and 5th grade students.

Over the next few weeks, students will also learn dinosaur songs in their general music classes, and create accompanying visual art projects in art classes. The advanced orchestras at Cayuga Heights and South Hill will also learn a dinosaur-themed piece. The students involved will present what they learned through music and visual arts at a variety of events in the coming weeks and months.