



## Experiential Learning in the Virtual Space

Teaching in a fully virtual learning environment regardless of the subject requires a fair share of commitment, creativity, passion, flexibility, and patience. Our Crew has done an exceptional job in adapting to the changes and challenges of teaching and learning virtually to ensure our scholars are engaged, challenged and receive an excellent education in all topics.

In this story, we are sharing some of the teaching and learning that is taking place on subjects and assignments that are more experiential such as with our Pathways Programs, Art & Design and Music. In sharing examples of how our Crew and students participate in virtual field trips , lab experiments, learn art and design concepts, and music provides a greater understanding and appreciation of the teaching and learning that is taking place in the virtual space.

We applaud the efforts of our Crew, parents and partners for their work in delivering experiential subjects and assignments virtually to our scholars to ensure they receive an engaging, well-rounded and excellent education this school year.

Please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages to see more examples of the creative and excellent experiential teaching and learning that is taking place in U Prep virtual classrooms.

### Art & Design

#### UPAD Elementary- Mrs. Jones, Art Instructor

“Elementary art is all about development and grasping the basic principles of art. Virtual learning has been a challenge with getting scholars the supplies and to attend my virtual art studio regularly. I have been very creative with figuring out how to get scholars engaged and attend as attendance is key. Scholars have become resourceful and will use paper such as a piece of mail or a page from their notebook to complete an assignment. I have also found virtual resources for scholars to utilize to assist with those who may not have access to art supplies. It's challenging but it has opened up the door to tap more new digital resources to expose scholars to this year.”

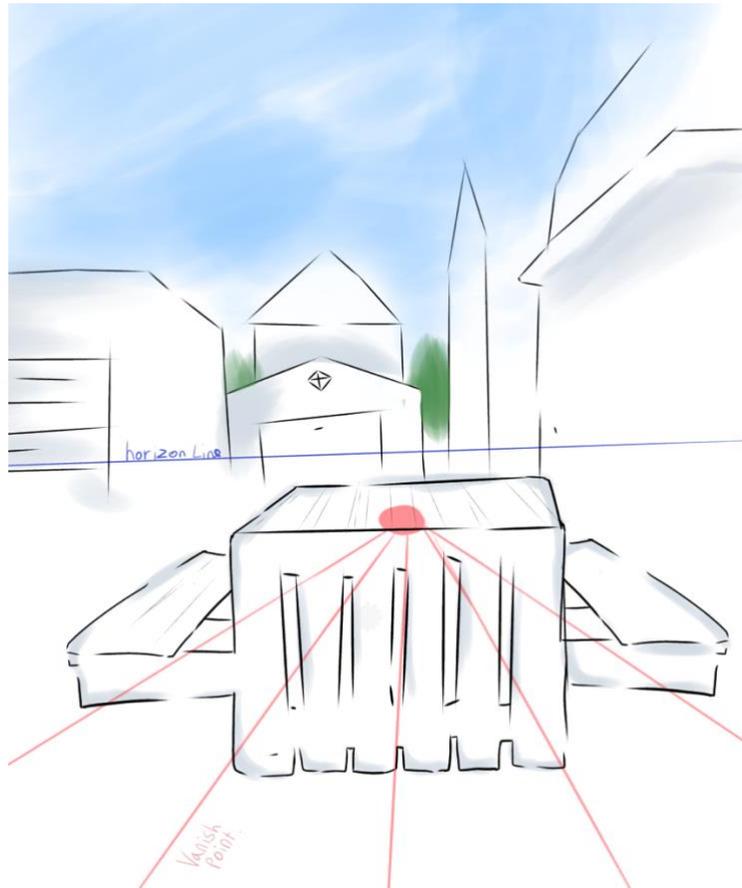
In the example below, Mrs. Jones students identify the geometric shape of a dot/circle. “Each scholar will be able to recreate their personal version of dots. They also will be able to understand how to utilize dots in an art form, recognizing that dots are art too!”



*UPAD Elementary Student Artist- Isaiah Journigan, Kindergarten*

### **UPAD Middle School- Ms. McKinney, Art Instructor**

“This is my first year teaching and I must say, it is truly a very real challenge teaching art virtually. Everyday my student artists and I learn to adapt as best we can to the changes that we are facing teaching and learning art in the virtual space. In Middle School, the concepts in art education become more advanced, such as the 1 point perspective. In order to teach students about 1 point perspective effectively, I presented a few images from students to work from virtually. I used pictures that I had taken around my neighborhood and then shared them on a virtually interactive platform, where students would draw on the screen in real time, showing me their understanding of horizon line-vanishing point and perspective lines.”



*UPAD Middle School student artist -Nydia Croskey, 7th grade.  
Street level view from her digital sketchbook of using the 1-point perspective.*

## Music

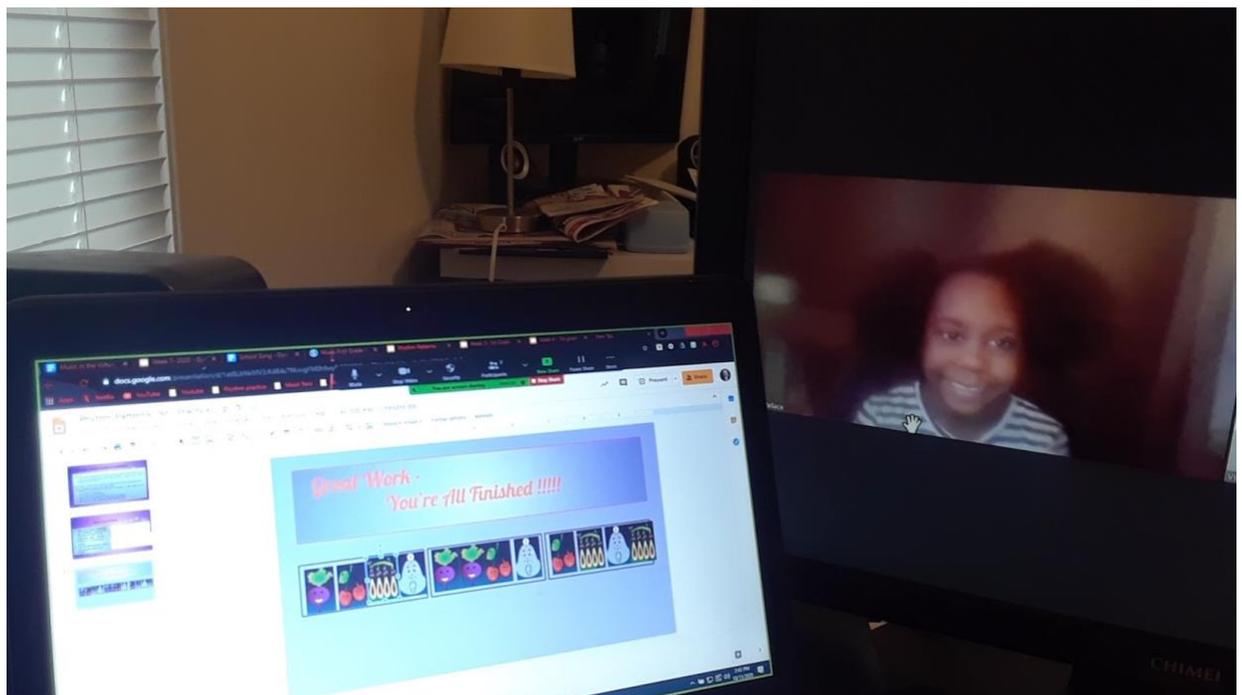
### **UPA Elementary (Mark Murray)- Mr. Halkey, Music Instructor**

“I have continued this year with using music as a means to encourage, motivate, and activate students. Whether we are doing warm-ups, tapping and counting rhythms, singing melodies, or putting dance moves to our EL module songs, I have tried to keep motion in each lesson. It has been a challenge during this time to bring our voices together, as the audio technology has not yet caught up with the video quality and technology in general. Our scholars in 1st grade are continuing to work toward their goal of reading quarter, eighth and sixteenth notes and quarter rests, using symbols of a beet - for quarter notes, cher-ries for eighth notes, a-vo-ca-dos for sixteenth notes, and the “Shh” bell for a quarter rest. Scholars must move the icon into the boxes below to create four measures. Along with the assignment, they can use the discussion

feature in Schoology, which allows them to record the rhythm that they have created. It's challenging but also fun."



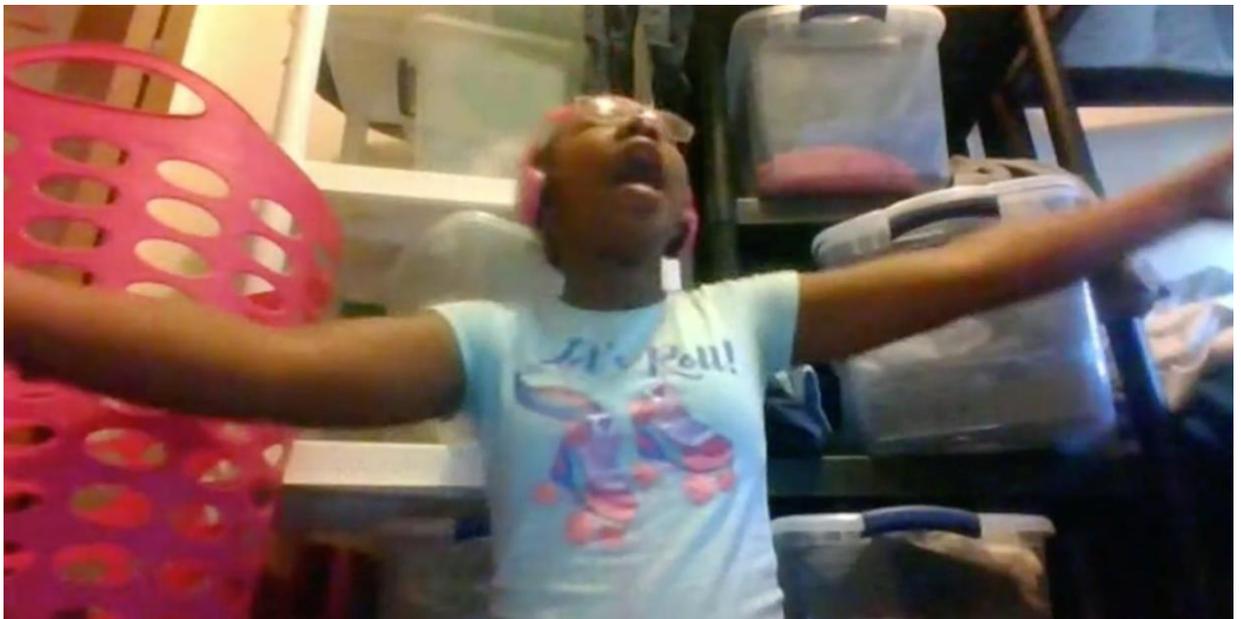
Lilia Wallace, 1st grader at Mark Murray, a says - "Music Class is fun." When asked what she likes most about the class she said, "the assignments." She has fun creating her own rhythms and enjoys moving the notes in measures. An example of her assignment is above.



## **UPAD Elementary- Ms. Jordan, Music Instructor**

“The switch to virtual education has definitely presented challenges, but as is often the case, change also forces us to find creative solutions. In the end, some of the challenges have pushed me to create new ways to encourage out of the box thinking, deepened connections with scholars, and welcomed new technologies to my music pedagogy. Believe it or not, some of these things would not have been possible without this experience in the virtual learning studio. As Maya Angelou said, "Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness." In these uncertain times, music remains a constant source of refuge and safe space for us as teachers as well as for our scholars.”

“One of the ways I have opened the door for relationship building in the virtual setting is by creating an open FlipGrid. Scholars can send a video any time they wish and just let me know how they’re feeling, what they would like to learn, a song or rhythm they have created, or a favorite song. The sky’s the limit. I have received all sorts of videos back including original compositions. One scholar told me that even though she was scared to sing, she felt safe sharing her song because I was the only one who believed in her. She sang all those words to me in a song that she created. Listening to her sing reinforced my belief in the importance of arts education. So many of our scholars are talented in the arts and need a safe place to create and express those talents. I will definitely keep using FlipGrid as that safe place once we are back to face to face learning.”



*UPAD Elementary School student artist - Jenay Styles, 5th grade*