



Savannah Murphy, '24, shares her melted crayon art at the Make and Share Fair

In 2015, Librarians Kristin Uptmor and Laurie Mitchell attended the Innovation Institute at the Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Through this professional development experience (supported by the St. Mark's Annual Fund), Mrs. Uptmor and Mrs. Mitchell learned about the concept of "makerspaces," a concept that they were thrilled to bring back to St. Mark's. We now have two design labs on campus, where students can tinker, explore, and test theories.

Inspired by the excitement of our St. Mark's students for tinkering, Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Uptmor hosted the first Make and Share Fair at St. Mark's in the fall of 2016. The Make and Share Fair celebrates a "Do-It-Yourself" mindset and encourages tinkering and exploring new concepts.

The first fair was a huge success! In the 2017-2018 school year, the Make and Share Fair was moved under the umbrella of the IDEA Program at St. Mark's. Students in 1st through 8th grade were invited to participate in our Make and Share Fair and worked on creating something of their own by learning a new skill, working to solve a problem, or exploring a new technology. This year, we had over 125 students participate in the Make and Share Fair, and their work was incredible! We can't wait to see what next year holds!