

TOWER PROJECTS

APRIL 15, 2026

8th grade: 12:30–3 p.m.

12th grade: 1–3 p.m.

APRIL 16, 2026

4th grade: 6–7:15 p.m.



**UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
OF MILWAUKEE**

What is Tower Project?

Tower Project is a student-centered, teacher-mentored experiential learning program that encourages students to pursue their own interests and take their learning beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Participants in 4th, 8th, and 12th grades work on developing, researching, and creating a Tower Project on a topic of their choice for an entire academic term or longer.

They meet with teachers, members of the USM community, mentors, and local experts who help them define and refine their topic, conduct research, create presentations, and stay on track throughout the duration of the project.

By the end of the project, they have developed and deepened their confidence and competence in a wide variety of skills, such as research, writing, critical thinking, analysis and synthesis, and project creation. They also gain confidence and abilities in public speaking, problem solving, time management, relationship building, risk taking, and more, all in a supportive and encouraging environment.



Schedule of Events

April 15, 2026

12:30 to 3 p.m. - 8th Grade Presentations

Location: Middle School Makerspace

1 to 3 p.m. - 12th Grade Presentations

Locations: See page 4

April 16, 2026

6 to 7:15 p.m. - 4th Grade Presentations

Locations: See pages 5-7

8th Grade Tower Projects

Middle School Makerspace

Ehmet Dubner
Custom boogie
board design

Abe Herrick
Repurposing 3-D
Printer as a 2-D
Drawing Tool

Amare Howard
Pneumatic Power
Investigation
through LEGO

**Brian
McMahon**
Custom Superhero
Models in Scene

Nolan Simpson
A Study of Jet
Engines Through
Scale Modeling



12th Grade Tower Projects

| | Mellowes Hall | 4103 | Virginia Henes Young Theatre | Kohl Conference Room |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Session One: 1:05-1:35 p.m. | Gi Gi Cooks: "Students with Special Needs: Finding Personal Satisfaction in the Classroom and in Life Through Art Therapy" | Sydney Norman: "The Hardest Challenge - What We Adjust Before We Decide" | Zara Vaseem: "Leveraging Biomimicry to Reduce Math Anxiety" | Nora Miller: "Autism Spectrum Disorder's Effect on Adolescents" |
| Session Two: 1:40-2:10 p.m. | Noah Sulman: "Addressing and Improving Approaches to Student Mental Health" | Hope Piper: "Food Insecurities on Local Communities in Wisconsin" | Lesley Jimenez: "The Impact of Immigration Law on American Society" | Francesca Sturino: "Sustainable Transition: Discussion on Sustainability at USM & Current Environmental Affairs" |
| Session Three: 2:15-2:45 p.m. | Bethany Martin: "What Influences the Exercise Habits of Young People?" | Amarie Cannady: "The Impact of Modern Media on Adolescents" | Ella Scott: "Women's Pursuit of Political Leadership" | Charles Slocum: "The Public Art Process" |
| Session Four: 2:50-3:20 p.m. | Nina Goldberg: "The Benefits of Attending Summer Camp for Children of Low-Income Families" | | Elliott Flores: "What is the Relationship Between Media and the Political Influence of Celebrities?" | Eliana Igwike: "Using Machine Learning to Design Novel Ways to Reallocate Funding for Improved Literary Accessibility in Milwaukee" |

"It makes me happy to look back on, and think of so many students engaging with, the joy and growth that comes from asking and answering complex questions."

-Lily Wilson '16



4th Grade Tower Projects

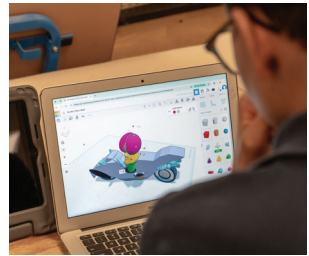
| Room | Students | Topic |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| L325 Moderator: Jill Stephanie | Mabel Culver Warner | Field Hockey |
| | Madelyn Chun | Famous Authors |
| | Thomas Solis | Lionel Messi |
| | Ollie King | Beluga Whales |
| | Colby Ann Morgan | Art-o-Mats |
| L320 Moderator: Kelley Sovol | Colton Ness | History of Basketball |
| | Zoe Dixon | Michelle Obama's Fashion |
| | Abby Jacinto | Tap Dance |
| | Mae Herbst | African Elephants |
| | Grayson Snisky | Whales |
| L322 Moderator: Chloé Adams and Gina Bongiorno | Elliott Plamann | The Navy in World War 2 |
| | Emma Mellowes | Italian Culture |
| | Scarlett Smith | Persian Cats |
| | Augie Sadoff | Kites |
| | Dash Thayer | Beluga Whales and Snowy Owls |
| L316 Moderator: Leann Erickson | Brielle Katz | Jewish Holidays |
| | Henlee Robertstad | Michigan Football |
| | Kento Edstrom | Investment |
| | Teddy Gannett | History of Golf |
| | Jaylissa Pehowski | Olivia Rodrigo |
| L222 Moderator: Elina Kats | Parker Wickler | Currencies in Different Countries |
| | Madeleine Jacinto | Minecraft |
| | Gabriel Fitzpatrick | Axolotos |
| | Jack Huffman | How Music is Made |
| | Payton Bester | Candy |
| L106 Moderator: Patti Ptak | Sophia Brennan | Hammerhead Sharks |
| | Mila Lasic | Contemporary and Hiphop Dance |
| | Reagan Anderson | Fashion |
| | Nina Ragalie | Dogs |
| | Madison Skulborstad | History of Tennis |

4th Grade Tower Projects con't.

| Room | Students | Topic |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| L144 Moderator: Erica Melick | Mehar Sindhu | Composting |
| | Amelia Timm | Broadway |
| | Nahla Godonou | Jazz and Hiphop Dance |
| | Auggie Carley | History of Cars |
| | Atticus Heron | Building Computers |
| L220 Moderator: Mark Conner | Georgia Skinner | Plastic Pollution in our Waterways |
| | Berch Hopper | USM: Past & Present |
| | Eleanor Vandiepenbeeck | Pugs |
| | Jackson Barton | History and Benefits of Fishing |
| | Sami Sachse | Ariana Grande |
| L216 Moderator: Laura Blanchet | Emma Mackey | Bees |
| | Jack Gervais | Video Games |
| | Beau Jaszewski | Special Forces |
| | Meara Eilbes | Thresher Sharks |
| | Evin Wanigatunga | Diamonds |
| L125 Moderator: Katie Brister | Vivian Bazelon | Benson Boone |
| | Kingstyn Jones | Toronto History |
| | Colin Swain | Basketball History |
| | Charlie D'Acquisto | Manga |
| | Ella Engroff | Lionel Messi |
| L125 Moderator: Cindy Stott | Frances Major | Greek Goddesses |
| | Genevieve Haas | Ballet History |
| | Violet Lucey | Alexander Hamilton |
| | Eloise Knaflic | Australian Shepherds |
| | Eliza Lantz | Mythical Creatures |
| L116 Moderator: Cathy Stressing | Ayla Mantel | Paris Architecture |
| | Margot Vandiepenbeeck | K-Pop Demon Hunters |
| | Bear Krohm | Taylor Swift |
| | Elyse Sommer | Care of Horses |
| | Patrice Ellsworth | Emma Watson |

4th Grade Tower Projects con't.

| Room | Students | Topic |
|--|---------------------|---|
| L115 Moderator: Mike Tauscher | Whitaker Bloom | Bears |
| | Oliver Lemann | Origami |
| | Boe Raube | Basketball Shoes |
| | Talia Satanovsky | Labubus |
| | Sasha Mullin | Japanese Food and Candy |
| L141 Moderator: Sarah Koehn | Winnie Bowie | Aspects of Theater |
| | Tiffany Kilian | Evolution of McDonalds |
| | Charlie Roberts | Birj Khalifa |
| | Alex Amiot | Ragdoll Cats |
| | Zoa Peri | Generations |
| L142 Moderator: Claudia Fritz | Ayla Heaney | Wolves |
| | Wally Handler | Snow Leopards |
| | Emmaline D'Acquisto | 4-H Clubs |
| | Xavier Manna | Shohei Ohtani, Christian Yelich, Jackson Chourio |
| | Griff Oplinger | Motorcycles |



Thank you!

We'd like to thank the many individuals who make Tower Projects possible, including the mentors who guide and support the students.

In addition, thank you to the following teachers who lead the Tower Projects in their divisions and provide further expertise and encouragement:

Chloé Adams, Leann Erickson,
Matthew Gagnier, Laura Klein,
Tom Lewandowski, Drew Mullen,
Kelley Sovol, and Jill Stephanie.



“I’m very grateful for my experience doing the Tower Project. I believe it was the final push I needed to pursue animation. And now thanks to it, I’m working as an animator at a game studio!”

-Annie Filali '17