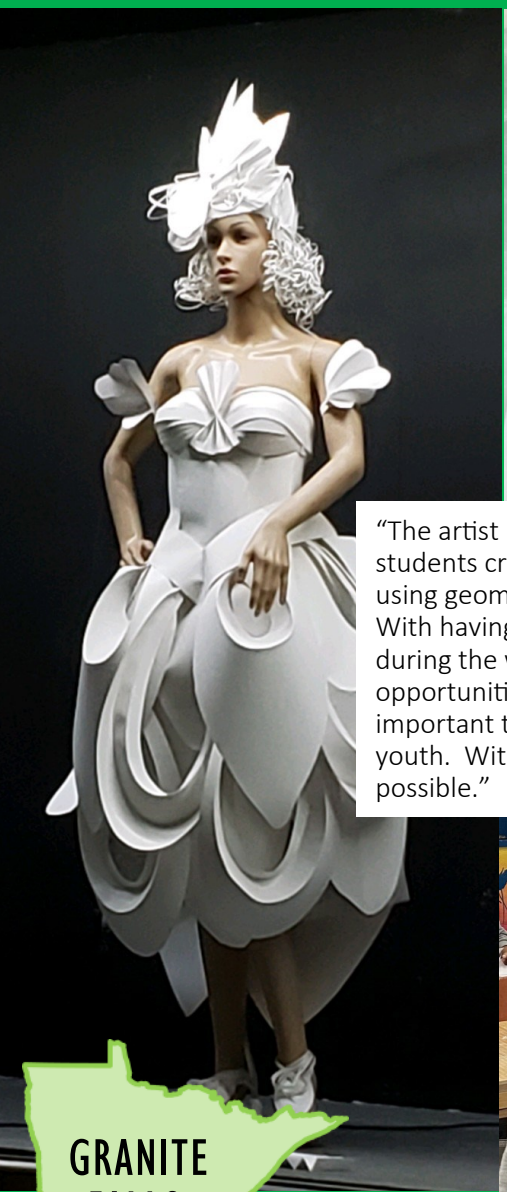
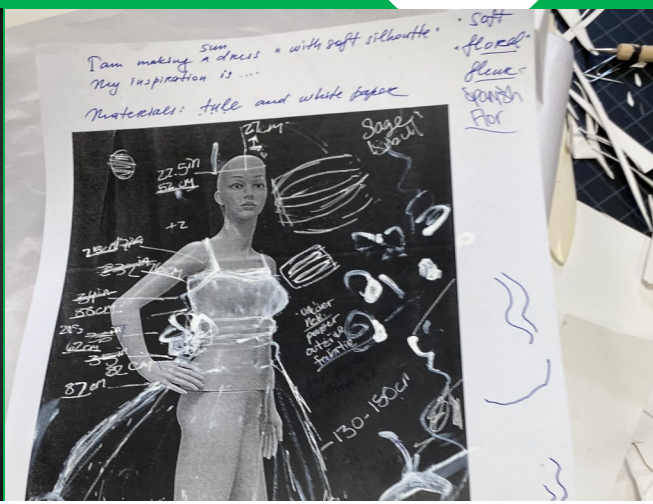
# ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS:

## Yellow Medicine East Schools

### PAPER: Cut, Fold, Sculpt—Winter 2020-2021
### with artist Olga Krasovska

$4,000
Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds






"The artist met weekly with the students for 5 weeks. The students created 6 paper dresses without a pattern to follow using geometry, origami, and other methods of paper folding. With having a very qualified local artist, it was easy to schedule during the winter and also follow covid protocols. Having these opportunities especially in a small remote community is so important to the creative and cultural development of our youth. Without these funds, art opportunities just wouldn't be possible." *~ Tamara Isfeld, YME art teacher/project coordinator*

GRANITE FALLS MN

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# Paper: Cut, Fold, Sculpt

Granite Falls artist and high school art teacher Tamara Isfeld is constantly looking for creative ways to engage her students and her community. Isfeld wanted to explore possibilities using paper to create form in a three-dimensional way. As she explained, "using paper has infinite possibility- it can tear, it has memory and an awareness." Tamara said she "wanted her students to start looking at ordinary things in a new way- like flat versus sculpted." To help her accomplish this she enlisted the help of award-winning artist and teacher Olga Krasovska.

Working in pairs, the twelve girls worked on six mannequins to design dresses out of paper. While it was very labor intensive, the exercise taught these students to collaborate and how to fix mistakes and redo processes. Students learned about different types of paper and how to think about it from a sculptural sense. They saw how the organic and geometric folds can change the texture, strength and light passing through paper.

When the project was completed, the dresses were displayed at Heather's Book Nook and Sew Much More in downtown Granite Falls. The Granite Falls Area Arts Council hosted a reception when Covid restrictions were lessened. This exposure to the community had a huge impact on the student artists. As Olga Krasovska tells it, "The kids are very proud of their work. They got to work with their hands and create something beautiful that they were able to share with their friends, family, and fellow community members." This really helped build confidence and inspired many of the students to continue to pursue their artistic talents.

"Having these opportunities especially in a small remote community is so important to the creative and cultural development of our youth. Without these funds, these creative opportunities just won't be possible," said Ms. Isfeld. "This project was like a magnet with many 'aha' moments that drew people in." New partnerships were created with the City of Granite Falls and the Yellow Medicine Historical Society. "We asked ourselves how can we make a bigger impact?" The answers continue to unfold with public murals funded by SMAC grants, community theater, music venues and the like. Ultimately, it's about people stepping up and making a difference in their schools and towns. It all started with a vision and access to resources made all the difference in the world.