

# **Thomas Jefferson School**

## **Morristown to Scale**

### **Appreciating Morristown History through Architecture**

Thomas Jefferson 5<sup>th</sup> grade students created a detailed scale model of Morristown. The project incorporated math skills, (measurement, multiplying, dividing, & ratios) social studies (history of Morristown), research skills, and use of technology. Google Earth was used to measure the length, width, height & elevation of each structure in town.

“Measure twice, cut once” was an important lesson learned, and it is one that applies metaphorically to many situations. Students worked collaboratively to recreate a town that took hundreds of years to build. “Some buildings were easier to create than others,” said teacher, Mr. Diego Salas. “Headquarters Plaza was definitely a monster of a building and took up a lot of space and time, but it came out great.”

The students were amazed at the differences in sizes for the buildings and they expressed astonishment regarding how small some buildings, like Anthony’s Pizzeria, were compared to others. This design project also helped students discover new things about their town and it connected them to Morristown’s history through the architecture. This innovative lesson was an excellent method to integrate STEAM concepts such as using math and art in a real world scenario.

Fostering an appreciation for architecture and community as well as developing a concrete mastery of math, the arts and design skills are important district goals consistent with the district’s Theory of Action.

