What opportunities do students have to make math? Given that many mathematicians agree that what motivates them is the drive to create mathematics they experience as beautiful, this is an important question for math educators. At Saint Ann’s School, in Brooklyn, NY, our experience has been that creative math can have its greatest effect in the earlier stages of math education. Choice-making, experimentation, and imagination - all of which are part and parcel of working like a mathematician - should have a large role in school math.

I began the mathematical art program in 2011 to better incorporate these ways of interacting with math into our curriculum. The program has grown to include electives for middle and high school students, an annual, school-wide festival, and informal making of math art in classrooms, hallways, and lunchrooms all over the school, for students in third through twelfth grades. The blog Math Munch also provides students with ways to interact with math art outside of school. Through this program, we have watched students begin to see themselves as mathematicians in ways that go beyond the usual habits and practices of a math classroom. We hope our program can serve as an example of a way to build mathematical community and encourage engagement with math. (Received September 16, 2013)