

Local Artist Offers Innovative Academy Class



Under the direction of Dr. Lubin, school-head at the Hebrew Academy (standing - left), the school has implemented an innovative art program instructed by local artist Joyce Straus (standing - right).

An art program that helps students, grades 1-9, recognize values through creative thinking and artistic work such as drawing, painting, and clay work is a new component in the Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy's wide-ranging program of music, drama, and art.

In contrast to traditional classes limited to paint, paper and ink, this class offers a wider range of artistic concepts. Under local artist Joyce Straus' direction, students use wood, glass and batik - a process that transfers colored inks and

designs from wood blocks to cloth or clothing. Sculpy III, a color modeling compound that is pliable and can be baked in conventional ovens, is used so students have flexibility in creating specific projects such as ornament or jewelry making.

To instill creative thinking skills, students are presented with a variety of processes helping to integrate the continuing curriculum of ethics and values. Straus uses specific examples within the context of creativity to illustrate various ethical ideas.

When describing clay-type modeling, for example, Straus explains how initial appearances can be deceiving by showing a solid one-color Sculpy III block that she then cuts open to reveal separate layers of multi-colored pieces. "What is on the outside is never as important as what is inside," she says.

Straus says the blend of art and academics is necessary if students are to develop different ways of thinking that will help them discover creative solutions to problems both in school and in everyday life.

The Hebrew Academy is Nevada State licensed, and the first Las Vegas accredited private elementary school by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. For more information, call 255-4500.