

New EHS Art Program Begins with a Splash!



EHS' newly implemented art program is off to a terrific start. Funded by **Dr. Eileen Guggenheim** and her Mereville Foundation, the program features two new additions to the school: teachers **Viviane Silvera** and **Michael Peery**, MFA graduates of the New York Academy of Art. Viviane, a sculptor, began teaching a drawing/sculpture class during the past summer. This class engaged students in sketching and sculpting self-portraits in clay. Students worked from a collection of plaster casts donated to EHS by the Fantasy Fund Foundation at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, an organization which provides grants to artists and gifts

to schools. In addition to the studio work, the summer course offered several field trips, including a visit to the Alexander Bonin Gallery with a private lecture and tour by the owner, a trip to sculptor John Ahearn's studio, and a day trip to the Socrates Sculpture Park.

The goal of the school's new art program is to emphasize drawing skills in sketching the human figure from observation. The

approach is layered and sequential, engaging students in a relective, comparative consideration of the human figure across a multi-cultural global landscape. These techniques provide a great deal of information that is critical in building students' confidence in drawing. As eighth grade student Jennelle Williams says, "I've learned that I have talent in art; I never knew that I was able to draw." For Shelby Simpson, 8th grade, drawing is providing a means of self-expression: "You really get to feel yourself come out when you draw."

Along with studio art instruction, slide presentations, visits to artist studios, and gallery and museum field trips will also be part of the art curriculum. Additionally, the program strives to use art skills to convey curricular narratives discussed in humanities classes. EHS is thrilled to introduce formal art instruction to its curriculum and thanks Dr. Eileen Guggenheim and the Mereville Foundation for supporting such a critical addition to the EHS curriculum.

New Art Teacher Viviane Silvera works with EHS Students

