

GMLS Art Program

The **GMLS Art Explorers Program** taught by Victoria Polyak, M.A. (www.victoriapolyak.com) uses the great artists of the past to inspire and teach the great artists of the future. Students not only learn about major artists and movements in art history, they gain skills and confidence to BE a great artist!

The **GMLS Art Explorers Program** instills confidence by teaching how to see things the way artists see them. While students are offered a great variety of ways to explore art media and techniques, Mrs. Polyak primarily uses the guided or “direct” drawing method - breaking the drawing down into simple shapes and steps. This allows children to begin to see differently and to begin to awaken an artist within.

The guided drawing method, inspired by such important art educators as Mona Brooks and Betty Edwards, helps build children’s confidence. Students are taught how to approach drawing by breaking seemingly hard subject into lines and shapes that are familiar to young children. When students, some of whom emphatically declared that they “cannot draw that,” look at what they have accomplished, their confidence soars and they are glowing with the sense of accomplishment and joy in their creation!

In addition, throughout the school year, the art teacher works closely with Judaic studies teachers on integrated art projects that celebrate Jewish heritage and the richness of Jewish culture.