

Young Rembrandts classes reflect March as National Youth Art Month in Avon, Avon Lake and North Ridgeville

By Linda Gandee March 18, 2019



AVON, Ohio -- March is National Youth Art Month, and Young Rembrandts of Northeast Ohio is looking to “emphasize the value to children of participating in visual education,” according to Bette Fetter, who founded the local program in 1988.

“Engaging children in art-related activities plays a key role in the development of cognitive skills, scholastic ability and emotional intelligence,” said Fetter. “At Young Rembrandts Northeast Ohio, we have seen the power of artistic expression in our young artists and encourage students to utilize resources outside of the classroom to get artsy.”

Recently, according to Fetter, “a new study found that elementary students’ art educational experiences reduced the proportion of those receiving disciplinary infractions by 3.6 percentage points. It also improved students’ writing achievement and compassion, and boosted school engagement, college aspirations and arts-facilitated empathy.”

Avon, Avon Lake and North Ridgeville schools that offer the Young Rembrandts program include Avon Early Learning Center, Avon East Elementary School, Avon Heritage Elementary School, Eastview Elementary School, Erieview Elementary School, Redwood Elementary School, Westview Elementary School and St. Peter School.

The Young Rembrandts curriculum focuses on teaching children to draw using demonstration and a structured step-by-step process. Classes are taught to children ages 5 to 12. The 2019 theme is “Your Art, Your Story.”

“Our elementary-age curriculum is designed to teach basic to advanced drawing skills, art techniques and vocabulary,” said Fetter. “We believe that drawing is the bedrock skill required for future artistic success. We give them skills to express their creativity, and believe all children can, and should, learn to draw. You’ll see increased art abilities, learning skills, self-confidence and self-esteem.”

Fetter offers the following tips for parents:

- Understand that you, as the parent, don’t need to be “artsy.” Anyone can set up fun art projects.
- Create a space where children are allowed to make a mess, and come to terms with the fact that there will be a mess.
- Find projects that your kids are interested in and match their age/skill level.
- Experiment with different materials outside of crayons and markers.
- Don’t focus on the end result. Allow children to be creative and explore what a “finished product” should look like. The process is more important!

There are more than 100 Young Rembrandts franchise partners in the U.S. and around the globe. To find out more, visit <https://www.youngrembrandts.com>.