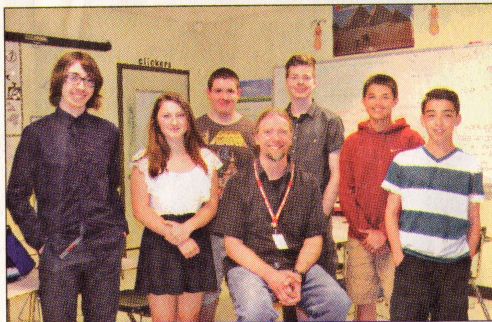


No Ordinary Lessons

For Feinstein's Albrecht, honor is humbling

School's Teacher of the Year out to change lives



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COVENTRY — Tao Albrecht, history teacher at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School for 16 years, recently received the honor of being named the school's Teacher of the Year, a honor that came

Devon Mellon, Sophia D'Imuccio, Ricky Leonard, History teacher Tao Albrecht, Blake Fraatz, Nick Fuentes and Lorenzo Zonfrilli.

Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

from his peers and students who call what he teaches in his classes, no ordinary history lesson.

Ricky Leonard admires Albrecht's teaching methods because he is unconventional.

"He never yells at us and he teaches in a way that no one expects," he said.

Sophia D'Imuccio said he teaches the material in a fun way.

"He gets us really involved and shows us different sides of the world," D'Imuccio said, "the struggling sides, and en-

courages us to take action. When he was a math teacher, he took the time to help me before a test, to make sure I understood the material and he helped me become a better speaker because he allows us to debate."

Nick Fuentes said Albrecht takes topics or issues from the present day and "shows us how it relates back to a time or event in history and history really does repeat itself," Fuentes said. "We play games and

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Albrecht named Feinstein MS Teacher of the Year

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do simulations.”

Fuentes explained one of the games that uses dice and the game of basketball. Whatever a person rolls for dice, they have to stand a certain distance from the hoop.

“Whoever gets a better number, can stand closer,” he said. “It demonstrates the advantage that some have over others.”

Devon Mellon appreciates Albrecht’s guidance and the fact that he doesn’t try to influence anyone’s thinking.

“He’ll present the information and we break up into groups often and have debates,” he said. “He doesn’t lecture.”

“He presents a multitude of articles that he finds and we talk about the issues,” said Blake Fraatz.

“His motto has been to teach us how to advocate for the world,” Lorenzo Zonfrilli explained. “It’s not just about history, but how you apply

what you’re learning.”

Albrecht said he was very surprised when he received the honor.

“I work with people who are so great, and to be honored when there are so many is very humbling,” he said. “I pick up little things every time I visit other classrooms.”

He became a teacher because he wanted to change the world.

“The more people I knew I could inspire, I saw being a teacher as a great way to do that,” he said.

His philosophy is to get his students a better understanding of the world, through history.

“I remember what my class was like growing up and the best compliment I can get is when I see a past student and they tell me they remember something they did in the classroom,” he said. “And to be able to connect ancient history to now is a great experience — and to see something finally click for them and see that look on their face that they get it is great.”