

Digital photography clicks with high school students

By Charlie Breitrose / News Staff Writer
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HOLLISTON -- Dozens of budding artists from Holliston High School scoured the town yesterday looking for interesting architecture to use in a digital photography project made possible by a grant from the Department of Education.

Students in Lisa Bynoe's computer imaging class looked for modern and older examples of architecture in Holliston. The students shot 15 buildings in town, including schools, police and fire stations, Town Hall, St. Mary's Church, Congregational Church and some private homes.

"They are focusing on what makes a building have structure and a sense of place," Bynoe said.

Senior Heather Caouette found the best way to get a picture of Town Hall was by standing in the adjacent cemetery. Some of the best pictures to be had, she said, were inside.

"I like the inside of Town Hall -- the detail in the ceiling, and there is a spiral staircase," Caouette said.

Taking photos inside requires some more sophisticated techniques, said senior Luke Kelly, because they do not use flashes to brighten the area.

"You look for the best light, like from a window," Kelly said. "Then we use a tripod."

The students learned about taking pictures from a pro, Framingham photographer Lynne Damianos, who meets with the class once a week.

"They started by learning how to use the camera," Damianos said.

The idea for the class came from Holliston High School's Kathy Dooley, after she saw some of Damianos' work at an open studio at Fountain Street Studios in Framingham.

"I saw Lynne's work and thought, 'What a good combination -- her art and our class,'" Dooley said.

The school, however, had only two digital cameras last year, so it would not have been easy to do, Bynoe said.

"I wanted to show how technology can be used in art," Bynoe said. "In order to do that we needed to get more equipment."

Holliston joined with Framingham High School to get the grant, Dooley said. The \$30,000 grant will be split between the schools, and provides Holliston High with money to buy 15 Nikon Coolpix 3200 hand-held digital cameras, three high-quality color printers, tripods and the means to bring Damianos in once a week.

The students said they were glad to have Damianos' help.

"I have a digital camera, but a lot of things are new to me," said student Skyler Chick.

When the students return to the classroom they will begin working with images, Damianos said, and change them using the computer photo editing program Adobe Photoshop.

"You know how buildings look tilted when you look straight up at them? They will straighten them out," Damianos said. "You can adjust the color, so if you have dead grass, you can touch it up."

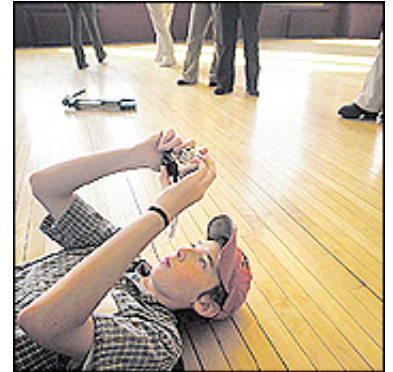
Working on the computer posed a bit of a challenge, said senior Regina Avallone, but she has gotten better at it.

"You can use it to do so much," Avallone said. "We learned how to take a picture of ourself and put in a different background so it looks like we were there."

Eventually students will choose a single picture from the dozens they took yesterday to appear in small books. These books will be presented to the owners of the buildings and kept on display, Bynoe said.




The school also plans an exhibit of the pictures in the school art gallery, probably this spring. They may even create a coffee table book to sell as a fund-raiser, Bynoe said.

Photo Gallery



Luke Kelly gets the low-angle shot on a chandelier hanging from the ceiling on the second floor of Holliston Town Hall during a class in digital photography. (Staff Photo by Allan Jung)






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