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BIO >>

Milford High School art project shows classmates' inner beauty

Project photos displayed at Keiser Photography in Old Milford

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MILFORD, Ohio — Milford High School students are learning life lessons through an art class.

"He took them, and he exposed how beautiful they were on the inside and on the outside. And how he showed how they're just like us and how everyone is the same in the end," said Milford High School freshman Erika House.

House said she was inspired by award-winning photographer Rick Guidotti, who spoke at her school months ago. His photos capture people's true character instead of focusing on their disabilities.

House used that same inspiration in her art class for a photography project, along with several other students.

The Milford High School art students were paired with students from the multiple disabilities classroom.

"Working with Kyle has been very fun and I'm really glad I got to know him. And the project was really life changing," said House.

The photos of the students with disabilities were displayed at Keiser Photography in Old Milford.

"When I found out he was nonverbal I was really nervous but once we actually got into it (it) was just so much fun. When we were taking pictures he was smiling and looking at the camera," said freshman Lea Brewer.

The project was not only about photography, but opening up new friendships.

"Before I had never really talked to the kids in the MD unit but then after this project I know all of their names, and stuff and I say hi to them in the hallway," said Brewer.

A life lesson learned at an early age.

"When they got the opportunity to interact and get to know them, all the barriers were broken down. And they treat them just like normal teenagers and got to know them for who they are, got to know their strengths, and their abilities and they're just like them," said teacher Jerry Comello.