



Plainfield High School Photography Students Experiment with Lighting

By PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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PLAINFIELD, NJ – Students in Jerry Lester’s photography class at Plainfield High School are learning to use external lighting to photograph an object. As part of their coursework, they embarked on a class project to build soft light boxes.

The class set up into teams to build the soft light boxes and experiment with them. The students learned that a soft light box is an instrument to control the light on an object. Soft

light boxes diffuse the light and create a more even source of light that soften the image. The students are using the light created in the soft light box to simulate daylight.

Yakim O'Connor, an 11th grader who says he mostly takes pictures for his family, said this project has taught him that lighting can make the picture look better and that building a soft light box is rather simple. "I can just go to the store and purchase home items to create the soft light box rather than purchasing it at the photography store where it could cost hundreds of dollars. This is way cheaper."

Each team of students constructed a soft light box from cardboard, using household materials such as aluminum foil, masking tape, electrical tape, hot glue, and Elmer's glue.

Adam Sounare, a 12th grader, said he wants to be a nurse but this experience has been fun. "I have enjoyed working on this project."

Lester said, "The students did an awesome job! They built the soft light boxes and took photographs they are very proud of."

For more information, call 908-731-4333 or email gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us.

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