



Contributed photo

Mr. Neumann's sculpture class poses in front of their work on exhibit in the Taconic Hills High School Library. Students pictured, from left, are Morgan Adriance, Alex Scoda, Kara Williams, Will Parmalee, Alan O'Hara, Miles Keil, Elizabeth Hamm, Emily Robertson, Amanda Balleau, Cody Spurge, Cody Speed, Debbie Quijada and Catlyn Vanetten.

## Taconic Hills sculpture class explores Haitian culture

"The Haitian Connection" was the title of a recent unit undertaken by Mr. Neumann's sculpture class of 10th through 12th grade art students at Taconic Hills High School.

This unit explored the relationship between African art, Haitian art and African American art. Understanding the origins and evolution of Haitian art and its direct influence on African American art is of significant impor-

tance to the understanding of the people of Haiti and also African American culture in the United States.

The students created vibrant three-dimensional paper maché masks in the style and tradition of Haitian carnival masks. In lessons on key elements of Haitian and African American art, students were introduced to the work of several important Haitian and African American artists. Students exercised

skills in drawing, painting and sculpture and interpreted symbolism and meaning in art through the creation of their own art work in the style of Haitian art.

In a Web-based "scavenger hunt," the class was also introduced to the "shotgun house," an architectural form which originated in Haiti. The shotgun house style of architecture is one of the connections of Haitian culture and history to American history.