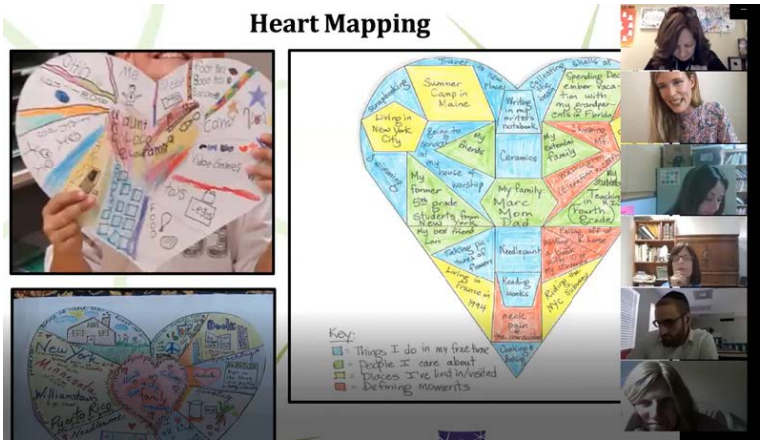

SunSentinel

Jewish school teachers trained in social-emotional learning

By Sergio Carmona, South Florida Sun Sentinel Sep 10, 2020

Teachers from a Jewish school in North Miami Beach participated in a virtual training program focused on social-emotional learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hidden Sparks, an organization that trains educators in Jewish day schools, conducted the program for the participating teachers who work at Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes-Klurman Elementary School.

As part of the training, Hidden Sparks SEL coach Lily Howard Scott worked with the teachers, who learned strategies to help them support their students' emotional responses to the pandemic. They were also trained on how to establish new classroom routines and practices that are intended to boost students sense of connection, engagement and investment at school.

Rabbi Yitzchok Schiff, a teacher at Klurman Elementary School, thought the program was interesting for him.

“I teach third grade boys, and it’s always a challenge to get them to share what they’re feeling or to get them to solve their problems for things that have to do with behavior or emotions,” Schiff said. “I found the webinar very helpful because it gave me some teacher language that I could introduce to my classroom so that we could have a common language to talk about emotions, and then figure out what’s the best way to continue."

The school began the academic year through a hybrid platform where most of the students are learning in-person and some are on Zoom.

Visit ytcte.org for more information on the school, or **hiddensparks.org** for the organization.

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