

Headline: Ruling the Pool

Subhead: Teammates teach swim lessons to children

After being in a pool almost all year round, senior **Yaseen EI-Demerdash** spent even more time in the pool with children. During the school year and summer, EI-Demerdash said he taught children how to swim at Blue Valley Recreation and The Jewish Community Center.

“I started by teaching for family friends at my neighborhood pool,” EI-Demerdash said. “Then from there, I decided that I’d get my lifeguard certification and I started teaching year-round.”

Senior **Tyler Specht** said he taught children of a pretty wide range of ages how to swim.

“There are a couple of kids I taught over the summer that are around four and then I teach 12 and 13-year-olds as well,” Specht said. “With younger kids, they learn how to float and how to move their arms in the water, and then you learn the different strokes as you go.”

EI-Demerdash said teaching children consisted of mostly teaching them how to swim to survive.

“I’ll teach them basic things like how to float and how to swim, freestyle and backstroke. So swimming on your stomach and on your back,” EI-Demerdash said. “If they’re looking to swim competitively, I’ll start teaching them more technical stuff and all the different strokes.”

Junior **Nathan Kaestner** said his favorite part about teaching swim lessons was seeing how excited the children were to come to lessons.

“My favorite part of teaching little kids is when they get really excited about getting ready to learn stuff,” Kaestner said. “It’s just really cool to see the excitement in them when they really want to learn how to swim.”

Specht said his favorite part was watching their faces when they finally got something down.

“It’s a great experience,” Specht said. “I get to learn how to teach, not to high schoolers, but to younger kids.”

EI-Demerdash said his favorite part was when he got to see the children go from not knowing how to swim to being able to swim at great distances.

“Especially when their parents don’t expect it and their parents just want [the kids] to be able to swim to survive,” EI-Demerdash said. “The next thing you know, their parents realize that their kid can go all over the pool without a problem.”