



"Successful Schools:
Beating the Odds".

Successful Schools Start
One Classroom at a Time



A Preschool Built by USA Students

because of a social studies elective

The Alberta Ruth Murray

Early Childhood Education Center

How did this all begin?

-A Frustrated First Year teacher-

- Is it possible to engage at-risk students?
- Experiment with non-traditional methods.
- Enroll in graduate classes to find a solution.

Teacher-Centered Control or
Student-Centered Team Work



An Opportunity Presents Itself

- A social studies elective focused on real life and people, not books
- Students are trusted and coached to success
- A student written book is published
- Pride & rigor swell to unprecedented levels



The Long Journey Begins

- Each year builds on the first
 - Photos and music lead the way
 - Email is magical
 - Personal guests present themselves
 - A State of Florida Service Learning Grant expands the work
 - Students make the difference
 - A web site with life beyond the classroom



Results that are hard to believe

- GPA was 1.71 – now 2.67, then 2.55
- Absences drastically changed
- State wide scores increase for graduation
- www.fcit.usf.edu/vietnam



A Trip with a Global Perspective 2005

- A teacher sees everything through someone else's eyes
- Teaching English
- A new global cultural perspective
- Friends to return to in the future



Concepts implemented in a 6th thru 12th struggling school

- Three books published – one international
- Ninth grade project succeeds in spite of insurmountable odds
- Graduation rate goes from 37% to 67%



University Students get involved

Pre-service Teachers' Learn Real Life Lessons

- Four future teachers see the world through the eyes of Asian college students
- The understanding of culture and ESOL challenges in USA k-12 classrooms are clear
- Life-long friendships are built

Study Abroad 2006





Service Learning 2007 in Viet Nam and Kenya

- A Colleague expands our work to Kenya
- A former student moves to VN for six months
- 10 students raise \$3,000 each and travel to do charitable work with the funds
- Left over funds saved to build school



WELCOME TO...

CONNECTY

Central Middle School
Washington
2002

HIV/AIDS Orphan Clinic



The Team this December



2008

School is constructed and opened in Viet Nam
Health Clinic is constructed in Kenya for HIV/AIDS orphans

- 50 children who have never had a school get a chance to learn
- A love of learning and respect for school starts
- A hot meal each day means a lot
- Opening day video speaks volumes to teachers





2009

Student creates Micro-Loan program

- A 2006 Study Abroad student returns
- 50 Vietnamese students may have their lives changed forever
- Can something sustainable be built?



The next major step

School year 2009/2010

- High schools are implementing a global cultural curriculum
- School clubs raise funds to make a difference
- One student per school travels to VN in the summer of 2010 to implement programs chosen by USA students



Step by step the real world is the teacher

- Students find a desire to learn and act like never before
- Lives are changed every step of the way
- Life-long learning is established
- Rigorous work is enjoyed and actually pursued



Contact me anytime

Thomas E. Murray, Ph. D.

The University of Central Florida

813-480-5490

tmurray@mail.ucf.edu