

2017 IIME REPORT

Country/Region [United States]

School [Scales Mound Junior High School] Teacher [Karen Kelly] Grade (8) Member ()

JP school [Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya International Secondary School 3B] Teacher [Ota Ryohei and Shinkai Miyuki]

Subjects, Activities and Hours of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Hours
Social Studies	Physical geography of Japan	5
Social Studies	Cultural understanding of Japan	4
Social Studies	History of Japan	6

Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	Harmony (culture, our world, peace, life as a teenager)
Message United thoughts to share with the world	Our message was things that cause teenagers stress in their daily lives and the things that bring them joy
	
	

Effects and the Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
The students understand teenagers from other countries also have many things in their lives that cause them stress. Students from both countries share many of the same stresses and things that create joy in their lives.	It would be nice if the students could contact each other directly, instead of the teachers writing the posts on the forum. I think it would be a great interaction for students to freely communicate with each other.

How has your impression toward your partner's country/region and the world changed?

Changes in the students	Changes in the teachers
The students have a better understanding of being a teenager outside of the United States. They also have learned many things about the country of Japan and the people.	Teachers around the world work very hard to bring the best educational experiences to their students.

Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students attitude/reflection	Subject
MEET Self-introduction	Aug Sept.	Sent introductions and created videos about our school and community We did a video conference to talk about what things cause us stress and brought us joy	The students enjoyed the videos from our partner school, they learned so much about the country and people. They very much enjoyed the video conference	Social Studies
SHARE Research on the theme	Oct. Nov.	We messaged through the forum talking about theme and mural ideas	The students were nervous they would not create a beautiful piece of art	Social Studies
UNITE United message/ Mural design	Nov.	We messaged through the forum sharing design ideas and finalizing the design plan	Students started analyzing what things in our lives cause us stress and bring us joy and how can we use pictures to describe our feelings	Social Studies
CREATE Mural painting	Jan. Feb.	Working in groups, students designed each area of the mural, selecting pictures or drawing pictures. Students drew the mural ideas and then painted the images	Students were very stressed during the drawing of mural, they were afraid they did not have good artistic skills. All students in the group had to help with the painting. Some of the students found out they can be artistic.	Social Studies
APPRECIATE Reflection/ Appreciation	Feb.	We hung the mural in the school hallway for students and community to enjoy	They students realized they do have artistic abilities and are very proud of their partner mural	Social Studies

Effect and evaluation gained through the collaborative learning

Evaluation: Rank 5 to 1 (5: very effective / 4: effective / 3: so- so / 2: not so effective / 1: not effective at all)

Expected effect	Evaluation	Scenes / points teachers felt the effects
Understanding your own cultures	5	Students selecting symbols to represent our country, such as the flag or eagle, also identifying stress and joy in our lives
Understanding your partner's cultures	5	The videos created by our partners were very helpful to understand culture and their lives, also the video conference was a wonderful experience
Information literacy (research, share)	5	Students were able to ask questions through the forum to learn more about the students
Communication ability (interactive exchange)	5	We shared very well through the forum, email and during the video conference
Critical thinking (objective, critical views)	5	Students did a lot of critical thinking about what brings us stress and makes us feel joy. Then they decided on how to symbolize these concepts on the mural
Active learning and action	5	Students were actively learning about their own lives and the lives of teenagers in Japan, Talking about the things that bring them stress made them realize they needed to work to reduce these things in their lives
Collaboration (in the class, with partners)	5	Students did a great job collaborating in class with fellow students to make final decisions, also the collaboration with our partners through the forum and video conference were very successful
Expression ability (in words, in pictures)	5	The pictures on the mural very much express their ideas of what brings stress and creates joy. The students did a great job selecting images to convey their ideas.
Appreciation ability (the mural, the whole collaborative learning)	5	The students discussed their final impressions, they were proud of the finished mural and sad to send it back to Japan.