



Opportunity Education Foundation

February 2012

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FEATURED SISTER SCHOOL - GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER



Congrats to Menallen Elementary, Uniontown, Pennsylvania

The winner of our monthly drawing! [Click Here](#) to check out the newspaper article highlighting their experience with our international pen pal program!

According to Michelle Komacek, a language arts teacher at Menallen,

"My students wanted to do something for their pen pals, so how could I say no?" A student suggested a penny war to raise money for their pen pals. While it only lasted two weeks, they collected \$350! Writing letters has made them curious about the food, language, and typical school day of their pen pals. Ms. Komacek's original goal was to improve communication skills and cultural experience; however she feels that she and her students have gained much more.

"The children of Buryansungwe Primary have made such a difference in our lives," Komacek said. "The sister school project has far exceeded my expectations by bringing out the very best in my students and building a strong sense of community among our learners. Leaders have emerged, student vision has grown beyond their world and they have taken action to make a difference, no matter how small, to others half-way across the world. I couldn't be more proud of them," she added.

And Opportunity Education couldn't be more proud of them all!



Buryansungwe Primary School, Uganda

Start Writing to This School Now!

St. Anne School in Tanzania was founded in 1999 as a private school that teaches subjects in English. Its 150 students include 68 boarders. The school has only 8 classrooms staffed by 12 teachers. Construction work on school buildings is slow due to the lack of funds, which are raised through tuition. The school staff is working to complete construction of classrooms, dormitories, administration and dining facilities. While they may lack school resources - they have an abundance of eager students excited to write pen pals!



Please email, "I want a pen pal" to schools@opportunityeducation.org and you can start writing today!

Welcome New Schools



We are excited to welcome the following schools to our international pen pal program.

- Quail Valley Middle School, Missouri City, TX. Their pen pal school is, Swift Primary School in Tanzania.
- College View Elementary, Council Bluffs, IA. Their pen pal school is St. Joseph Rutabo in Tanzania.
- Ferriday Upper Elementary, Ferriday, LA. Their pen pal school is Tarkwa Islamic in Ghana.

We applaud all of our schools,
who are willing to bridge the cultural divide with letters!

Meet Our Partners



Louisiana College's School of Education has collaborated with Opportunity Education on curriculum design and professional development. Specific projects include:

- Researching East Africa elementary and secondary schools, colleges and government departments of education for design of Opportunity Education secondary program
- Awarding five scholarships to Opportunity Education African teachers for the TEACH Summer Institute program. This six week program on the campus of Louisiana College is an intense best practice course for teachers.
- Department of Education faculty presenting three days of professional development seminars for teachers in the Opportunity Education program.

We are grateful to Louisiana College for all the good work they do for Opportunity Education Foundation.

UGANDA EDUCATION EXPERIENCE TRIP - July 2012

YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP - DEADLINE IS 3/15/12!

Who Should Go? Educators, high school/college students, parents or anyone willing to share their time and experience.



What Is Planned? A trip of a lifetime!

The 10-day trip to Uganda features an orientation, 4 days in Ugandan schools and a 3 day safari to Murchison Falls National Park on the Nile River. Participants will stay at Ggaba National Seminary, a secured college campus located on the northern shore of Lake Victoria outside of Kampala. OEF will pay for housing and meals at Ggaba and in-country transportation. Participants will be responsible for airfare, off-site meals and the safari transportation and excursion. Based on current airfare, an estimate of trip expenses, including the safari would be \$3000-\$3500.

* We are offering an optional extension of the trip to include 5 days of observing the professional development program we provide to Ugandan teachers. The program is hosted on the Ggaba campus, so no additional travel or arrangements are needed. If you chose to extend your stay - AT NO EXTRA COST - you can chose a departure date anytime from Sunday July 15 to Friday July 20th. We welcome all trip participants to stay the extra days to learn more about Uganda and the wonderful people who teach there!

When? **July 6 - 15, 2012**

Why You Should Go? This is the most important question!

The main focus: to foster cultural awareness and professional development outreach through visiting African schools. You will experience the successes and struggles that African teachers face every day as you work with students to improve their English skills. Connecting to classrooms not only promotes cultural understanding but also provides motivation - to all of the participants - to share & learn more. While aimed at educators, we welcome participants from all vocations to share their experience.

If you have questions or would like or to place your reservation, please email:

Schools@OpportunityEducation.org

[Click here for a printable trip brochure!](#)

OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION IS ON FACEBOOK!

Visit us on Facebook & Win a Gift Certificate!

Like us on Facebook 

We created a Facebook page just for you! With interesting ideas, stories, and links to help generate enthusiasm and discussion about education and integrating pen pal letters into your mission and curriculum.

Simply "Like" us and we will randomly select winners who show up on our Facebook for a monthly drawing for an educational supplies gift certificate!

Congrats to Chris Proulx, from Omaha Public Schools, who won the gift certificate for Liking Opportunity Education Foundation on Facebook.

More About Opportunity Education Foundation

The mission of Opportunity Education Foundation is to make quality education accessible to all children in order to improve their standards of living and work toward a brighter future.

Opportunity Education Foundation is an international, non-profit organization that provides educational curricula, teaching materials, audio-visual equipment and educational assessments at no cost to nearly 1,100 schools throughout Africa and Asia.

To further support our mission, we facilitate a **Free Sister School Pen Pal Program** that connects schools we support with schools around the world. Both students and teachers can exchange letters and learn more about each other. We have schools in our program eagerly awaiting a Sister School Pen Pal to share correspondence.

It's fun, free and easy to sign up!

Forward this to a friend!

We appreciate your help sharing our program. Your referral of a school to our pen pal program can earn you a gift certificate. Have your friend email "I want a pen pal" to schools@opportunityeducation.org

Quick Links

- [Our Website](#)
- [Sister School Program](#)
- [Our Staff](#)
- [More about us!](#)

Pen Pal Program Resources

[Click here](#) to check out our Sister School Resources page. Here you can verify mailing directions, get ideas on integrating letters into your lesson plans and more!

- [Letter Writing Guidelines](#)
- [Mailing Directions for Pen Pal Letters](#)
- [Curriculum Ideas](#)
- [Find My Target School](#)

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