



**Opportunity
Education
Foundation**

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January 2012

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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 add us as your friend or like us and we will randomly select winners who show up on our Facebook for a monthly drawing for an educational supplies gift certificate!

UGANDA EDUCATION EXPERIENCE TRIP - July 2012

***IMPORTANT TRIP UPDATES DETAILED BELOW!**



[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 - Note change, dates still to be finalized.**

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 everyday 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!](#)

FEATURED SISTER SCHOOL - GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

Congrats to St. Vincent de Paul, Seward, Nebraska

The winner of our monthly drawing! Thanks for the wonderful letter detailing all the good work happening in our Sister School Pen Pal Program!

Dear Opportunity Education,

St. Vincent de Paul School in Seward, Nebraska joined the Opportunity Education Foundation free Sister School Pen Pal Program the fall of 2010. We exchange letters with our pen pal school, St. Anne Marie Academy in Tanzania.

It has been an awesome experience for our students to share with our brothers and sisters in another country! Our students were excited to receive their letters and pictures. They were especially interested in what the children of Tanzania liked to eat and what they did for play.

We wanted to share more with our Sister School so we raised funds to ship six lap tops for their school. We were able to get older-model lap tops donated from the Lincoln Diocesan Tech Office. The St. Anne Marie students in Tanzania were delighted to receive them.



Last spring we decided to collect books for our Sister School. Our goal was to get a book for each student. Since we are a small school of 75 students from K through 4th grade, we asked the parish to help. Through their amazing generosity, we were able to collect approximately 700 books.

In the 2011-2012 school year we continue to enjoy writing to the students at St. Anne Marie Academy. During the Christmas season we collected school supplies. We had a lot of fun measuring our collection progress by encircling our school with different school supplies.

We reached our goal before the holiday break and shipped six boxes full of crayons, paper, pens, rulers, and more!



This is such a great opportunity for our students to give and it is a delight to see the joy that this brings to others. Thank you Opportunity Education Foundation for offering this program and God bless all you do in building up the Kingdom of God.

Sister Anne Joelle, C.K.

St. Vincent de Paul School, Seward, Nebraska

Start Writing to This School Now!

Tarkwa Islamic Basic School in Ghana is eagerly awaiting a sister school to respond to the letters we have waiting in our office to send to their new Sister School Pen Pal. If you know someone who would like to join our program - please forward this email to them!

Tarkwa Islamic Basic School, Ghana was established in September 1990 by the Islamic community to provide both secular and Islamic education for their children. Two years later it became a public school, jointly managed by the Ghana Education Service and the Islamic Education Unit. Today the school supports 225 students from kindergarten through junior high school with a staff of 12 teachers. The school has 9 classrooms, an office, and a storeroom. The school was awarded Best School in the 2009 Basic Education Certificate Examination. It also has a well-established drama and debating club, HIV/AIDS club and a soccer academy. All of the school's funding is from government grants as the students are not charged fees. The school seeks pen pal correspondence to enable all the students and teachers to share experiences and form lasting relationships.



New Help on our Website - Sister School 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](#)

Welcome New School - St. Xavier, Cincinnati Ohio



Welcome St. Xavier High School, Cincinnati, Ohio, to our Sister School Pen Pal Program. St. Xavier is a rigorous Jesuit College Prep Academy that has 1600 students, about 400 per grade. There is a strong emphasis on academics, service, and spirituality. They are located in Cincinnati OH, about 20 minutes away from the Cincinnati Zoo. They are paired with Shree Madhyamik Bidhyalaya, Barkulpur in Nepal. This is a secondary school that attends to the educational needs of 768 local children in grades nursery through 10. It is staffed by 16 teachers with 15 classrooms, a library and office. Challenges include the need for more teachers, a lack of toilet facilities, drinking water and classrooms for the children. We are grateful for both schools willingness to bridge the cultural divide with letters!

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 a 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!

Please visit our website for more information or [email schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) and we can connect you to an international pen pal today!

Quick Links

- [Our Website](#)
- [Sister School Program](#)
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