

GLOBALLY COMPETENT STUDENTS

A Case Study for ArtLink Programs in Greenwich, CT

Situation

Dr. **Cheryl Iozzo**, Ed.D, K-5 an Art Educator in Greenwich, CT had been looking for opportunities to promote Greenwich's "Vision of the Graduate" (a list of skills that will prepare students to function effectively in an interdependent global community) while creating learning experiences and opportunities for collaboration with other disciplines.

Challenges

- Lack of general understanding about what Global Competency means and how to implement new activities into the curriculum while meeting educational standards.
- Initial resistance from the principal and school administrators.
- Difficulty setting interdisciplinary work with peers from language, social studies and grade level teachers.
- Adoption of new technologies (HD videoconference) and use of current available technologies in the classroom for digital learning.



Dr. Iozzo students videoconferencing their partners overseas in 2015

Results

After 3 straight years participating in RainForest ArtLink, Dr. **Iozzo** have generated a unique learning experience for her students, colleagues, and her larger school community that no textbook could ever teach. 5th grade students have engaged in cross-cultural art exchanges with partner classes from Guatemala that end with a highly anticipated live HD videoconference. By using art as a communication tool, students gain a foundation for mastering 21st century global competency skills, skills needed to make meaning of their own cultural values and those expressed by their peers from other cultures. The integrated and interdisciplinary lessons encourage students to do so with an open mind. They have demonstrated the ability to work effectively and respectfully with diverse groups and assume shared responsibility for collaborative work, valuing the individual contributions made by each team member.

By participating in this program, Dr. **Iozzo** has been able to stay true to her ultimate teaching goal, "to promote authentic learning experiences for my students."

Dr. Iozzo was recognized with the

"2014 Greenwich Teacher of the Year Award".

