

KDSL

World Class Education

K D S L
Know. Do. Serve. Learn.

Global Educational
Consulting Services

KDSL Values

*Knowledge
Action
Achievement
Relationships*

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Global, international, and multicultural are a few terms you will hear quite frequently in education today. What is a world class education? Today this phrase is quite common in education circles. Many boast that their school, county, or district is world class, but is it a reality or a façade? Sponsoring an international day or night does not make ones educational institution global nor simply offering students the opportunity to learn another language. Here is some food for thought....

- What should a world class education look like daily?
- What should administrators, teachers, students, and parents be doing in a world class education system?
- What does a world class curriculum and standards look like?

The first newsletter asked readers to consider what a world class education means to them. Their responses are on page two along with an Education from Around the World reflective article from Lenny Compton, who taught in Sudan for two years. This newsletter will focus on world class education.

When I think world class the following comes to mind...students engaged in essential questions which impact them now and in the future (global warming), litera-

ture—of a wide range reflecting the student diversity and beyond—read aloud and in classroom libraries, mathematical approaches and strategies from around the world, global history and current events explored and debated, ongoing service learning with local and global organizations, proficiency in a foreign language and connected with peers of the same age around the world, and daily students are exposed to problem solving, critical thinking, multiple perspectives, and working on teams. Just stating in mission statements and brochures that a school system is “world class” is not enough. We have to live it and be it. How world class is your system?

Upcoming KDSL work:

Podcast Project with the U.S. Department of Education

Quote

“The adults in what I call “It’s Being Done” schools expect *all* students to learn to meaningful levels, and they work really hard to master knowledge and skills to teach them.”

-Karin Chenoweth

New Book Look!

Karin Chenoweth’s *It’s Being Done: Academic Success in Unexpected Schools* chronicles 15 schools of a wide range where students are achieving in spite of poverty and limited resources. So what does it take for schools to excel in the midst of challenges? You will have to read the book to find out.



Education by the Numbers

About 7% of low-income students will ever earn a college degree (Katie Haycock)

In Africa, 38% of school-aged children, mostly girls, do not attend primary school.

(USAID Africa)

Nearly 50 million students headed off to approximately 97,000 public elementary and secondary schools for the fall term, and before the school year is out, an estimated \$489 billion will be spent related to their education.

(<http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/>)

World Class Education Reader Responses

Readers were asked what does world class education mean to you? Here are some responses.

Inspired, I write that to me a world class education is one:

- From which I am able to develop into a global citizen.
- From which I am equipped to mentor in those in succession to adapt to the changing global landscape.
- From which I am able to mentor those who are to make positive change in the evolution of the global landscape.

Alister J. Aranha, DuBai

My definition of a world class education consists of being a member of a learning environment where the art of teaching goes from teacher to student, student to student as well as student to teacher. Adding the "world class" descriptor to the term education invokes the idea of learning to the extent of being able to compete/measure up to students in the same/equal disciplines around the world. A world class education also instills a life-long desire to continually build upon the formalized education received through traditional educational methods (K-12, collegiate and graduate studies, continuing education, etc.).
Mark Forrest, Virginia (USA)

In my humble opinion a world class education is one which meets the need of every single student. It is very much a 'holistic' education of the whole child - building self-esteem and respect, learning about social and emotional literacy, obtaining the skills to overcome obstacles or barriers and teaching students to be inspired by every single aspect that life has to offer. A world class education puts the needs of the child first and financial and/or political constraints a distant two.

Don Tingley, Canada

A world class education is the one that every child in the world deserves. It is the education the world needs its future citizens to have, if they are to survive together. It is a training in curiosity, compassion, and cooperation, the cultivation of ingenuity, reflective thinking, and adaptability. It is not based on a laundry list of facts to know or skills to master, but rather on the intellectual, spiritual, and emotional processes which enable a person to develop a burning interest in a deep question, and to seek out whatever information and cultivate whatever abilities are needed to answer it. A world class education creates a community of world class learners, people of all ages who believe that the pursuit of understanding is the highest goal in life and whose commitment is to create a world more whole, more peaceful, and more just than the one they have inherited. Laura Arnow, California

Education Around the World: Sudan

This month's Education Around the World article comes from Lenny Compton, an 8th grade Civics Teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools. He recently returned to the U.S. after teaching for two years in Sudan. This is a northern African country between Egypt and Eritrea bordering the Red Sea. Lenny taught in the capital of Khartoum. Lenny provides a reflection on his professional experience.

I did not know of the countless benefits that accompanied teaching overseas. Besides meeting staff and students from over 45 countries and every habitable continent, I also had a chance to be immersed in a different culture as well as travel to throughout the Middle East and Africa. More than anything, how-

ever, I felt as if I were a true contributor to a professional learning community (PLC).

How? Our director at Khartoum American School

in Khartoum, Sudan felt our school's curriculum was static and in need of immediate repair. Within the first month, he selected a review committee for each core subject and requested that our teachers – who know the content and our students' background much more than a textbook company- design a more appropriate curriculum that would prepare our students for current and future issues. Among our adjust-



ments in the new innovative curriculum was making sure students focused more on essential questions and intended their understanding as all curricular subjects. It fostered a true spirit of cooperation both vertically and horizontally. Just as important as revamping our curriculum was making sure our library was adequately funded to support our new curriculum. This was also decided by our staff when we outlined where most of our funding should be concentrated.

Clearly, there are many benefits teaching overseas...are you interested?

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The mission of KDSL is to serve schools and educators by providing high quality, sustained professional learning connected to student achievement.



Kevin Simpson has been in the education field since 1998. He has taught in parochial, public, and international schools located in Washington, D.C., Michigan, Virginia, and Laos. Simpson has also served as a countywide elementary social studies curriculum teacher, preschool to twelfth grade curriculum coordinator, and elementary math specialist. He is a National Consultant with the U.S. Department of Education's *Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative* which provides effective, research-based practices to educators across the country. Simpson specializes in educating teachers, curriculum writing, and data-driven instruction. He believes that providing teachers with high quality, collaborative professional learning is essential to student achievement. Currently, he is a Senior Associate (Math) with America's Choice in Washington, DC.

Educational Consulting Services

Services are individualized and tailored to the needs of the schools, teachers, grade level teams, and student achievement data. KDSL firmly believes the best professional learning is ongoing and sustained. Therefore, schools must commit to working with KDSL one or more times each marking period throughout the academic year. No one shot deals. For complete consulting service descriptions, please email KDSL07@hotmail.com.

Got History?

Math that Works

Assessment: The Remix

Learning While Doing: Teachers as Readers

Show Me Don't Tell Me: Modeling and co-teaching lessons

Same, Same. Differentiate, Differentiate: Differentiating Instruction

Follow the Curriculum Map Road: Curriculum Mapping, Planning, and Pacing

Show me the Data! Accessing, analyzing, and acting on numbers

Somebody's Watching Me: Peer observation and feedback

Hands-on, Minds-on: Instructional Strategies that Work

The Secret: Teacher Collaboration



Other Services Available:

Curriculum Writing

School Improvement Plans

Instructional Walkthroughs