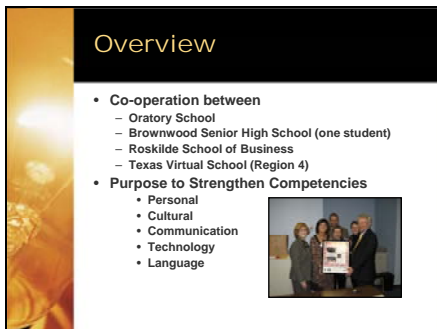




Bright Ideas can come when you least expect it. Thus, could be said for the Denmark/Texas Collaborative Project.

This Power Point presentation is a brief overview of the project, its purpose and goals. It also describes the expectations and requirements of the first collaboration.

I am Linda Behling Gillis, the TVS coordinator, from Region 4 ESC in Houston, Texas.



The Denmark/Texas Project is a collaborative project between three schools, the Oratory Athenaeum School for University Preparation in Pharr, Texas, Brownwood Senior High School, in Brownwood, Texas, and the Roskilde School of Business Preparation in Roskilde, Denmark. The Texas Virtual School is serving as the coordinator between the two schools.

The purpose of this project is to strengthen competencies in personal, cultural, communication, technology and language areas among all participants.



It is hoped students who are participating will be able to:

To compare different cultures to their own

To learn about globalization in an authentic way

To learn ways to communicate via distance media

To learn to use technology to present information


Phase One

During phase one the following was completed:

- Bb Account Set up
- Greetings sent between teachers
- Discussion about project ensued
- Background information between schools and Region 4 was provided

During Phase One, a Bb account was set up on the Danish Bb server. Greetings were sent between the participating school's teachers, liaisons, and administrators. A discussion as to how the project would look ensued. Background information about each participating entity was shared.

Phase Two



- Students were identified
- A Bb account set up at Region 4
- Students sent messages to each other
- Students prepared Web Quests
 - Introduced themselves
 - Toured the school
 - Toured the area
- Students responded to an interest survey

During Phase Two of the project, students were identified, a Bb account was set up on the Region 4 server, students began to communicate with each other using internal messaging, students at each school designed and developed a Web Quest that introduce themselves, gave a tour of each school, and a tour of the general area around the respective city where the school was located.

Students were given an interest survey to help set up project possibilities.

Phase Three, contd.

Students selected one of the following topics unique to each culture:

- Holidays, Foods, Traditions, Festivities
- Music, Arts, and Festivals
- Lifestyle, Ethics, Religion and Values
- Families and Friendships

The survey identified the following areas of interest among the selected students.

Holidays, foods, traditions, and festivities


Music, art and festivals

Lifestyles, ethics, religion, and values

Family life and friendships

Phase Three, contd.

- After selecting the topic,
 - students researched and collected data about each topic
 - Students developed a presentation using at least one form of multimedia




During this phase, students selected one of the interest topics
 Collected data about that topic
 Developed a presentation using at least one form of multimedia.

Phase Three, contd.

Students

- communicated with each other via the discussion area
- gave their project a unique name
- developed an overview of their topic
- provided data and research
- provided external links that support their topic
- designed a culminating multimedia presentation.



Students were required to do the following within the Organization Bb account:
 Communicate with each other via the discussion area
 Give their project a unique name
 Develop an overview of their topic
 Provide data and research to support their topic
 Provide external links that support their topic
 Provide the culminating multimedia presentation to all participants for viewing

Phase Four

Danish visited:

- Monday, January 22, visited Region 4
 - Discussed project goals and objectives
 - Discussed lessons learned
- Tuesday, January 23, attended Bb training at Region 4
- Wednesday, January 24 visited Oratory School in Pharr, Texas
 - Meet with school faculty
 - Meet with students who participated
- Thursday, January 25
 - Student presented their final products




On Monday, January 22, 2007, a delegation from the Roskilde School in Denmark arrived in Texas. The members of this delegation were
 Lars Jensen, project coordinator
 Ulla Sorenson, Director of
 Carstens Nielson, Director of Projects
 Jan Nielson, Teacher
 Bente Jensen, Teacher and Bb Coordinator
 The delegation spent two days at Region 4 discussing the project and attended a one day Bb training session. On Wednesday, Jan. 24, the delegation arrived in Pharr, Texas and met with both faculty and students. On Thursday, Jan. 25th...Oratory students presented their projects. The student from Brownwood Senior High School was unable to attend this meeting.

Phase Four

Participating students reflected they learned:

- To communicate across different time zones
- To collaborate with a group who had different social and cultural values
- To realize how easy it is to be misunderstood through written language
- To work with students who are of different ages
- To that consensus takes time and effort on everyone's part



The students who participated in this project were asked to reflect on what they learned.

The expressed that they learned to appreciate the difficulties in communicating across different time zones.

The learned to collaborate with a group who had different social and cultural values

The learned to realize how easy it is to be misunderstood through written language


They learned to work with students who are of different ages

They learned that consensus takes time and effort on everyone's part

Phase Four, contd.

- To be receptive all ideas submitted
- To work as a team and pull equal weight
- To be careful with examples that might be misinterpreted as generic to American or Danish life
- To always be polite when conversing with each other.

When participants were asked if they would do it over again...every student answered "yes." They agreed they wanted to pursue a second year with a more robust theme.



They learned

To be receptive to all ideas submitted

To work as a team and pull equal weight

To be careful with examples that might be misinterpreted as generic to American or Danish life

To always be polite when conversing with each other

When participants were asked if they would do it over again...everyone answered "yes." They agreed they wanted to pursue a second year with a more robust theme.

What's Next?

- Articles will be written about the project by both parties
- Discussions will be conducted about continuing the project
- A major presentation will be made at the 2007 Blackboard World Conference in Boston, MA




What's next?

Articles will be written about the project by both coordinating parties

Discussions will be conducted about continuing the project

A major presentation will be made at the 2007 Blackboard World Conference in Boston, MA



For More Information

For more information about this and other online collaborative projects contact:

Linda Behling Gillis, Ed.S.
Region 4 ESC
lgillis@esc4.net
or
Lars Jensen
Roskilde School of Business
larsj@RHS.DK

For further information about this project and other online collaborative possibilities contact: Linda Behling Gillis at Region 4 Education Service Center in Houston, Texas or Lars Jensen at Roskilde School of Business in Roskilde, Denmark