



ART IS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE:

Incorporating Education through Art in Thailand

Amy Halverson, Debbie Reese, Jessica Dippel, Julia Saxton, Kallie Spackman, Kelsie Buchanan, Melissa Eisert, Stephanie Lloyd, and Sydney Tanner

ABSTRACT

Weber State University students will be undertaking a humanitarian project in Thailand May 2015. This will include building a kitchen/dining hall for an orphanage located in Northern Thailand. Students will also be teaching the children, who live at the orphanage, about the world around them through music, dance, arts, and crafts based on innovative lesson plans. For music, the children will experience melodies and dance from a variety of cultures. For crafts, we will be helping the children make jewelry similar to those found in different world nations. Art will also be implemented by having the children draw animals on recycled paper. The animals will be representative of fauna from different geographical locations. The planned activities will help children use their imagination and promote creativity which can help them to become better problem solvers. Understanding rhythm, pitch, and time in music can assist children with basic math skills, such as counting. Art projects will help children learn about creativity and they will feel proud of their accomplishments. The children who participate in the lessons will be able to gain important cultural awareness, as well as an understanding of the geographical areas in which different cultures reside. Weber State participants will learn how to interact with children through barriers, such as language. This will increase our capacity for human compassion and patience. Development of innovative lesson plans will help us improve organizational skills and document creation. We will learn how to plan educational modules that will be most beneficial for each age group of the children. Students in our group will gain experience in devising/creating lesson plans which experience can be incorporated into personal career paths.



WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY



Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Eight MDGs were established by U.N. member states to alleviate poverty throughout the world.

We will focus on promoting two of the eight millennium development goals.

1. Achieve Universal Primary Education

Through art we are hoping to help expand their secondary education. One of challenges is creative and critical thinking, which helps people learn in all ages.

2. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

We are promoting global partnership by teaching and showing the children different parts of the world. We can show them the tourism part by teaching them about the different cultures and trade between countries.

BENEFITS Professionally

We will learn to think critically, complete tasks using group work, and implement our organized plans to action. Our experience working in Thailand will prepare us for any work atmosphere.

Academically

While in Thailand, we will become immersed in Thai culture through our teaching and interaction with those we serve. Therefore, better preparing us for academic success.

Personally

Our trip to Thailand and implementation of art will enable us to become more aware and civically engaged in our own community. Art is a universal language, and therefore, will better connect us to each other and those that we serve.