

About This DVD

Service Learning in International Schools: A World of Possibilities



Greetings! I am Cathryn Berger Kaye, author of *The Complete Guide to Service Learning* and the developer of this DVD that is now a companion to my book all about service learning in international schools.

An ethos of service clearly belongs within international schools. From my first encounter with international school administrators and teachers at an ECIS (European Council for International Schools) conference, this became apparent. The work I have had the privilege to do with CEESA (Central and Eastern European Schools Association) and through onsite visits at numerous international schools and many association conference confirms this many times over.

What makes this so evident? Every mission statement includes creating citizens of the world. “Citizens” automatically implies active engaged participants within a community context.

I was charmed by a story I heard on one of my visits at the American International School in Johannesburg. At this school elementary students gather daily for a welcome and to begin their day together. And here is where they were introduced to the idea, the mission of being “caring, sharing citizens of the world.” However we all know that any mission statement can be just that. A statement. What brings them to life?

A family had returned from a holiday and the parent related a story to a teacher. When they were on an outing her young daughter noticed that nearby an elderly person who needed assistance, something had been dropped. The child immediately went over, picked up the item returning it to its owner. The parent complimented the child who immediately answered, “I am just being a caring, sharing citizen of the world.” And indeed she was.

Service learning provides a steady vehicle for carrying forth this idea. For taking words of a mission and transforming them into action.

Service learning also has increasingly been recognized as a valued and valuable teaching and learning strategy. A way to bring academics to life. To elevate learning beyond grades and test scores to purposeful application of knowledge and skills, exactly what is needed to prepare students for this 21st century world of complex issues. Through service learning experiences students find relevance, meaning, purpose, and often the intrinsic drive to go above and beyond what they “had” to do to what they “want” to do. Many international schools have already discovered this important connection—how applied learning elevates the experience for students *and* teachers.

International school communities already are dedicated to preparing youth as future leaders and change makers. Service learning avails young people of all ages the opportunity to begin, and to begin now.

This DVD project grew from the idea of building on priorities already present within international schools:

- An integrated vision of global citizenry
- Strong approach to academics, with growing emphasis on cross-curricular opportunities
- Desire to educate the whole child
- Infusing relevance for students and faculty
- Responding to authenticated needs in local and distant settings
- Engaging students in the life of the community where they are presently living
- Moving beyond community service to service learning that aligns specifically with the school’s mission

With each of these priorities, service learning affords practical means to make sustainable advancements, using research-based approaches already being applied successfully within international school settings.

While many international students may travel the world, we want them to know the world with open eyes, with the understanding and means to interact with communities in ways that are mutually respectful and beneficial. Our children already care. Now, with service learning, we connect caring of the heart with the learning of the mind. We enable them to be active citizens now.

Explore the wealth of information on this DVD.

Beginnings:

A Welcome by David Cobb, Executive Director of CEESA

This Introduction

Introducing *The Complete Guide to Service Learning* with many documents to download from this exceptional resource

Information from Free Spirit Publishing, publisher of *The Complete Guide to Service Learning*

Part One: Questions and Comments

Here you will find answers to your Frequently Asked Questions, and a section on Professional Development. Also there is an essay submitted about service learning from Dr. Gregory A. Hedger, Director, Qatar Academy

Part Two: Case Studies from International Schools

Here you find submissions from international schools that provide a wealth of examples and ideas that are worth considering as you plan to launch or advance service learning at your school.

Part Three: Organizations and Resources

What an expansive selection to examine! Many organizations have provided a cornucopia of information that can augment academics and plans already in process. You will find organizations you know and likely many you are unfamiliar with. All have international reach and are delighted to be in partnership with international schools.

Part Four: Articles and Supplements

Interested in how the International Baccalaureate program is changing from CAS—Creativity Action, Service—to be more about service learning? Would you like to read published articles by experts and share these with your school community? These and several additional supplemental topics await in this section.

Remember this DVD is a supplement to the vast amount of information provided in *The Complete Guide to Service Learning*. Do review this book for the foundations of service learning. You will see the book is in three parts.

Part One *What is Service Learning?* has three chapters with a detailed overview of the practice and process of service learning.

Part Two *Service Learning Themes* has thirteen chapters each with comprehensive information that can help you address

- AIDS Education and Awareness
- Animal Protection and Care
- Elders
- Emergency Readiness
- The Environment
- Gardening
- Healthy Lives, Healthy Choices
- Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty
- Immigrants
- Literacy
- Safe and Strong Communities

Social Justice: Issues and Action
Special Needs and Disabilities

Each thematic chapter includes an introduction, preparation activities, curricular connections, examples of service learning scenarios, and an annotated bibliography of fiction and nonfiction books to weave literature right into the process.

Part Three *Creating a Culture of Service* includes pedagogy and a myriad of ideas for advancing your ideas and plans and is filled with suggestions or professional development experiences.

You will also find a CD-Rom in the back of this book that has another 200 pages of reproducible forms and organizers to help you at every stage of service learning planning and implementation, 39 completed lesson plans for your reference and use, and a continuation of the annotated bibliography – yes more books! As a bonus, you will also find interview with 28 authors of some of my favorite books to further inspire your students to be the writers they were born to be.

Now, dive in. Many ideas are here to be found. And the promise and practice of service learning? This is for you and your students and your entire school community to experience.