

Grade Three STAR-W KeyPal Connection Lesson Plans

Lesson One: Where in the World?

Tell the students that they are going to become keypals with another third grade class that has also received a STAR-W grant. A keypal is someone who communicates with someone using email. Explain that the teachers will be sending and receiving the emails between the classes and reading them to the class.

Go to Yahoo maps (www.yahoo.com...click on Maps) and use Mapquest to locate Denbo and Roebing Schools.

Here are the addresses of both schools:

Roebing School
1330 Hornberger Avenue
Roebing, NJ 08554
School website: <http://www.florence.k12.nj.us/roebing/res.htm>

Denbo School
One Learning Way
Browns Mills, NJ 08015
School website: <http://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/denbo/>

Warning: the Denbo School address is so rural that Yahoo will return directions to the city center only. This could lead to an interesting discussion if you choose.

Use Mapquest's turn by turn driving directions feature to create a way to get from one school to another. Share using the SmartBoard so that the students will see where in Burlington County both schools are. Check out the distance in miles. Look at some of the geographical elements (Florence's closeness to water; Brown's Mills' closeness to military bases.) End the lesson by visiting the keypal school's website and invite the students to consider comparisons and differences between the two that come to mind.

Lesson Two: All About Us Writing Brainstorm

Use either MS Word or Kidspiration to hold your brainstorming ideas. Invite the students to create their personal lists. Use the SmartBoard to share the ideas in front of the whole class:

Three Things You Need to Know About Our Class

Three Things You Need to Know About Our School

Lesson Three: Questions I Need Answers to About My New Keypals

Use either MS Word or Kidspiration to think up questions related to your new virtual acquaintances in the other school. Invite the students to create their own personal list of

questions they want answers to. Use the SmartBoard to share the ideas in front of the whole class:

Here are some questions to get the process started: (reminder that the best questions to ask are ones that don't get answered with a "yes" or "no.")

How many students are in your class?

How many boys are there?

How many girls are there?

What are the grade levels in your school?

What time do you start school every morning?

Do you walk to school or ride a bus?

What is the best thing about your school?

Do you have a mascot?

What kind of technology do you have in your classroom?

Use the students' natural curiosity to come up with one big list of things they want to ask their keypals.

Lesson Four: Writing a Friendly Letter type of email to our Keypal

Work together using the SmartBoard to collectively draft a friendly letter type of communication that follows this basic organization:

Dear Third Grade KeyPals at School Name Here:

We are so excited to communicate with you by email. As your new keypals, we would like to tell you a little bit about our class first and then we'd like to ask you some questions.

Please write back when you can with some answers to our questions so that we can learn more about you.

Your information here about the class, the teacher, the school, etc.

(Think of some different digital ways to display the information about your own class which can be shared as an email attachment when you communicate with your keypals. Two examples: use Excel to create a chart, use Powerpoint to create a slide show.)

Students' questions here so that they can learn about their keypals.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Teacher name, school name, room number, etc.

Send the email to your KeyPAL Teacher. Here are the teacher matches and their email addresses:

Jen England & Rebecca Swanson

jengland@pemb.org

rswanon@florence.k12.nj.us

Lasandra Johns & Ronnie Chorba

ljohns@pemb.org

rchorba@florence.k12.nj.us

Lesson Five: They Wrote Back!

Print out the email so that each student has a copy or hook a projector to the PC that will enable the students to see the email up on the SmartBoard. Either way, it should be read aloud and the students should be moved to collaborate on drafting one response for the entire class.

Repeat this process as long as the students on either end have the interest to continue. Save documentation of the emails so that the grants administrators can use them in their quarterly reports.