

Testimonials, Facebook Comments, Blogs and Videos

The Edu Tour to Finland was a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore Finnish schools, culture and food. The trip was well planned including many opportunities to explore and ask questions that were built into our daily schedule. The last night we had a unique Finnish dinner that allowed us to reminisce about our trip and share discoveries we had learned while enjoying Finnish delicacies.

Patricia Martin, Vermont



Jacek Jp Polubiec

April 17 · 

My trip to Finland was a great success. I have learned a lot and made valuable connections with educators from around the world, many of which have the potential to last a lifetime. I would like to thank all of you who supported me through the GoFundMe campaign and in any other less tangible, but nevertheless very important ways. Your efforts to invest in my professional and professional growth and selflessness of your efforts to do so will never be forgotten. Kiitos paljon

A blog from the Edu Tour to Finland, 2016

<http://loisfinland2016.blogspot.com/> Lois Knapton, Connecticut



Cynthia Carver



April 14 · Tuusula, Finland · 

Finland Report, Day 5: Teachers are the experts. Why should I tell them what to do? My job is to support their excellence. - Principal





Cynthia Carver added 4 new photos.

April 11 · Tuusula, Finland · 

Finland Report, Day 2: The worst teacher stays in her classroom. The schoolyard, the forest and lake are fantastic learning environments for children.

Connecting globally gave me an opportunity to see how educators outside of Vermont are striving to answer: "How can we help our students?" I am grateful to Dr. U for introducing my educational tour group to her friends and colleagues in Finland. We started our tour meeting the Honorary President of European School Heads' Association, Eeva. Her explanation of education policy, practice, and development in Finland was so clear. Dr. U truly provided an educational tour experience! I reveled in having an entire week with Dr. U to visit classrooms and meet teachers and students! All of her local guides for our tourist stops were outstanding too! Dr. U's tour was rewarding, motivating, and memorable! It was the perfect way to work on my Master's program with Southern New Hampshire University. Thanks again to a wonderful teacher!

Hilary French, Vermont

Videos of the Edu Tour to Finland, 2017

<https://www.facebook.com/hbuddoo/videos/10156079301066632/>

<https://www.facebook.com/hbuddoo/videos/10156079310686632/>

<https://www.facebook.com/hbuddoo/videos/10156025983036632/>

Additional commentary in Facebook, April 13-16, 2017

Horace Mullings Buddoo, Florida



Shannon George

April 14 · 

It's hard to believe that seven days ago we were strangers, arriving in Helsinki from all around the world. With education being a common bond and Dr U having a vision, our lives are forever changed.



My experience on the Edu Tour to Finland in April 2016 was truly inspiring. The visits to the schools included lectures, workshop-like sessions, classroom observations and the invaluable chance to talk to teachers, principals and students. The whole tour was flawlessly put together so as to allow us to enjoy the Finnish way of life besides all the professional development involved in the visits and sessions. The fact that the tour includes participants from different parts of the world adds to it as well, since the comparison is constantly being made between Finland and several other educational systems, not just your own. As a teacher, teacher educator and school board member, I highly recommend the experience to anyone interested in education.

Prof. Leandro E Paladino, La Plata, Argentina



Ellie Vargas added 8 new photos.



April 23, 2016 · 

Yesterday we visited Upper Secondary (grades 10-12) school Turun Lyseon Lukio in the city of Turku. This school has 350 students, 50 of whom are from other countries. Teaching multicultural students is still very new to many Finnish schools and they identify this as a challenge mostly with behavior. Interestingly not bad behavior just different personalities. Finnish by nature are quiet, reserved and soft spoken. Whereas as the immigrants in their school have been described as "lively" with difficulties in sitting still. No problems with bullying related to culture or race which I thought was wonderful.



Jacqueline J. Gale



April 25, 2016 · 

Feeling appreciative for having such an amazing opportunity to learn about the education system and culture on this tour through Finland. My utmost gratitude to all the teachers, Marja for organizing it and to our SNHU VT Field-based Graduate Program for providing us with such an exhilarating chance to explore, grow in our professional awareness and make new lifelong friends from around the world. In my personal opinion there is no greater expansion of perspective of life and work outside our own realm of knowledge than travel-near or far. Lastly, I greatly valued the enthusiasm, dedication and gracious and humble hospitality of our new Finnish colleagues and friends. Looking forward to the next great adventure! Many thanks! Kiitos is thanks in Finnish!



Cynthia Carver added 3 new photos.



April 16 · Vihti, Finland · 

So grateful for the opportunity to spend a week learning about Finnish education with this wonderful group of talented educators. I take away new insights, as well as an appreciation for the many good things we do in our American schools.





Shannon George added 7 new photos.



April 11 · 

Pictures from a first grade classroom. This is the first year students to learn to read. The teacher told the students to take out a book and read for five minutes. I asked in surprise if the students could really read the books they had. She said yes and then had students read to me. I'm a believer, it's real!

