VIRTUAL CLASSROOM PROJECT

PH International is partnering with the Turkish Education Association (TED) to implement the Virtual Classroom Project (VCP). VCP is funded by the U.S. Department of State/U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

VCP is designed to connect students and teachers from Turkey and New England **to develop new insights and understanding of current events, international issues, and cross-cultural perspectives.** By participating in VCP, students and teachers will develop transformative 21st century skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork while integrating the use of technology as part of the learning process.

VCP is geared towards freshman and sophomore students and will take place during the 2014 spring academic semester. VCP consists of 4 online sessions from January-May, 2014 that will focus on a topic of interest to teens in both countries. Turkish and U.S. schools will be joined as partners in the project.

The final outcome of the VCP project will be a virtual compilation of digital stories between Turkish and U.S. partners that recaps discussions, perspectives, and community-based project experiences. The final project will enable students and teachers to reflect on their new insights and understanding of global issues and cross-cultural perspectives, helping to break down stereotypes and build international relationships.

To learn more about PH International, please visit us at www.ph-int.org. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call Program Manager Stacie Clemens or Senior Program Manager Renee Berrian at (802) 496-4545.

PH international
ADVANCING SOCIETIES, CONNECTING PEOPLE

	SESSION #1	SESSION #2	SESSION #3	SESSION #4
	Jan 13- March 9	March10 – April 6	April 7 – May 4	May 5 – May 31

SESSION TIMELLINE AND INFORMATION

Each Session Consists of the Following:

- **An Initial Topic Discussion:** Supplemental materials and discussion questions will be provided online to each school. Schools will individually create dialog around the topic using materials and discussion questions as a launching point for further conversation.
(20-30 min)

- **A Cross-Cultural Discussion:** Once each school has become familiar with the topic and has completed their individual discussions, students and teachers from Turkey and the U.S. will meet virtually using real-time videoconferencing technologies to further discuss the topic, share their perspectives and explore ways youth can be engaged on these issues within their communities. Discussion questions and guidelines will be provided. During this discussion the partnered groups will brainstorm community-based projects related to each topic (the projects may vary in the U.S. and Turkey but must remain rooted in the session topic).
(30 min)

- **A Community-Based Project:** After brainstorming community-based projects with overseas partners, each school will individually plan and implement their project. Students will use an online story telling platform to report on their project activities and experience.
(Depending on project: 30 min planning in the classroom and 2 hours completing the project in or out of school)

- **Digital Story:** Turkish and U.S. schools will create digital stories that summarize the implementation of their community based projects. Each school will upload their story to the VCP Online Classroom Platform.
(Depending on how a class would like to report on their Community-Based Project, students could be assigned different roles like reporter, photographer, videographer and upload their work to the website on their own time or in class.)

- **A Community-Based Project Report Out:** Turkish and U.S. partners will meet virtually to report on their community-based project, share their digital story and discuss their experiences to gain better understanding and global perspectives on issues that affect each.
(Students can sign onto the VCP platform on their own time or in class to post comments about their overseas counterpart's digital story - essentially they would comment like they would on a blog to create additional back and forth dialog).

ENROLLMENT AND ORIENTATION

- PH staff will facilitate face-to-face orientations in mid-December for all confirmed schools. During orientation, PH staff will:
  - Introduce themselves and the project to the class;
  - Provide training on the VCP Online Classroom platform; and
  - Assist with any needed technology/software setup and training.