Building A Bridge To China

Woodbridge School District
Connecticut superintendents go to China

Welcome to Beijing
Woodbridge joins delegation

Superintendent Guy Stella among the 17 Connecticut educators

- Nov. 2 - 12, 2007
- Purpose: To establish a Chinese sister school

It’s not all my luggage.
We covered a lot of miles

Shandong Province
Learning about China: Ancient and Modern

- The Great Wall
- Culture
- History
- Educational system

- Tomb of Mao Tse-Tung
- Modern Beijing
“Travel is fatal to prejudice.”

Teachings of Confucius, the “father” of Chinese education, continue to impact world thinking.

Lifelong learning, tolerance and harmony are basic tenets.

* Mark Twain
Heze Municipal Experimental School - Shandong Province

- 1400 students
- 1 of 15 primary schools in the city
- Considered “best” school
- Given permission to experiment

Dr. Stella and the school’s principal.
Formal introductions and conversations

- Top level school leaders

“Memorandum of Understanding”
Education is valued in Chinese society

“Passion - Survival - Urgency”
Classrooms connected to the outside world

Technology is a major tool for teaching and learning.

All children in China are expected to learn English.
Computers have opened China

Mao Tse-Tung died in 1976.

- Since then China has gone from mysterious isolation to world player.
- Chinese citizens under age 30 (200 million of them) have lived in a completely different society.
Typical school day

- **7:30:** everyone prepares and cleans the room
- **8:00:** practice reading in Chinese and/or English
- **8:40:** Chinese language arts
- **9:30:** whole school group exercise

9:30 in the courtyard
The day continues…

- 9:40: English class
- 10:30: math
- 11:30 - 2:00: lunch and rest at home
- 2:10: 1st afternoon academic class
- 3:00: 2nd afternoon academic class
- 3:50: arts, physical activities
- 4:30: leave for home
The arts have a high priority

choral singing

student artwork

instrumental music

dance
Physical education is prized

track and field

Chinese sport

American sport
Literature comes alive through drama

Chinese and English tales are enacted.
Poise and a sense of seriousness

Preschool class

Meeting with student leaders
Teachers are revered in Chinese society

- Teach three periods a day - plan and meet during the rest
- Collaboration among teachers
- Culture of mentoring
- Teachers have own offices

Meeting with teachers
Children building the bridge of trust

Gifts for our children from their children.

The dream of one world happens one school at a time.

Gifts for their children from our children.
We dream of one world.

Woodbridge School District
Woodbridge, Connecticut, USA
2007
Thank You