

# What's the Deal with Projects?

Miss Roberts explains how projects are used in her classroom



## What are Projects Anyway?

Students in Miss Roberts' social studies class are about to begin a project in which they assume the role of advisors to the U.S. ambassador of a developing nation and create a proposal for a volunteer program. Projects like these help students learn basic skills and social studies content by asking them to take on a real-world role to work through a problem, issue, or job in a similar fashion as an adult would. Students meet the standards prescribed for each subject area, often with a much better understanding of the concepts and how the different subjects connect and support each other.

## A Day in the Life of a Student in Miss Roberts' Class

Mary walks into the classroom that is already abuzz with activity. Although she has arrived 15 minutes before school starts, she sees that all her team members are already there. Tatiana has received an e-mail from a Peace Corps volunteer answering her questions about the daily life of the Mayan people, and Juan Has found a good Web site with some useful information. They



Mary works with Tatiana to compose an email to a Peace Corps volunteer.

finalize their plans on how they will use the computer lab time later that morning. The class starts and Miss Roberts reminds them that they need to update their project plan and upload it to the class folder today since she will be meeting with each group tomorrow to touch base on their progress. During the computer lab time, Mary and her teammates work on each of their tasks. Juan finalizes his research. Tatiana reads the e-mail from the Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala. Mary drafts the outline for their presentation. Later that evening, as Mary finishes the outline, she gets an instant message from Tatiana with an idea for their project of the results of the cost projection. It comes under budget! She sets up a quick chat with the team members who happen to be online, and they agree that it sounds like a good idea. They're excited to share their progress with Miss Roberts tomorrow.

## Reminders to Parents

Besides the standard school supplies, your child will need the following this year:

1. Appointment/calendar book
2. Access to an Internet-connected computer—either at home, library, or after-school lab
3. A School Internet Pass, which requires a
  - a. Signed parental consent form for Internet use, and
  - b. Passing score on the Computer Use quiz

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