

# The Global Classroom

## Who We Are & How We Work

### An Executive Summary

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## The Global Classroom

Thank you for your interest in the **Global Classroom Design Projects**. Our Spring project will bring students from around the world together to discuss the topic of global warming and design local community solutions to help mitigate the impact of greenhouse gas emissions with the help of industry experts.

This project, **Healthy Planet, Healthy Me**, is one in a series of 5 projects offered throughout the course of the year for Middle and High School students. The Education Design Center, LLC designs the projects and implements them in direct collaboration with Colossal Academy, a progressive micro-school in Florida, USA, and the schools that decide to partner with us. There is absolutely no cost for participating in these projects.

There are 5 projects offered yearly. Our projects are **Healthy Planet, Healthy Me**, **How to Improve the Life of Captive Animals**, **Make a Sustainable Fashion Clothing Line**, **Design the Future of Social Media**, **Who We Are Through Art and Music**, and one project that is specifically directed to the student population of the USA called, **To Heal a Nation**.

## Who We Are

This free project was created by the Education Design Center, LLC and first implemented at Colossal Academy, a progressive micro-school in Florida, USA.

The Education Design Center was founded by Courtney Nicolaidis, a long time educator, curriculum designer, and school principal, and is supported by a select group of education experts, that include school owners, school psychologists, materials designers, and teachers who donate their time and expertise to planning and carrying out Global Classroom Design Projects with middle and high school students around the world.

## What We Believe

We do this because we believe that modern technological capabilities provide an unprecedented opportunity to create a new standard for international project-based learning, defined by students:

- collaborating in a global community of their peers.
- strengthening empathy and appreciation for nature and people.
- developing agency to use their interdisciplinary understandings to innovate solutions to real-world topics.
- dialoguing with experts about tacit and cutting-edge knowledge.

and in doing so, learn more about who they are and who they want to become as people.

## Our Project Methodology

**First**, students study with their home teacher using materials provided by The Education Design Center can be adapted to meet the local context, curriculum guidelines, and student interests. Teachers are provided with bi-weekly presentations, lesson plans, and digital workbooks to guide student learning. They are also provided with extra resource materials (videos, articles etc) and optional small group tutoring sessions with experts to refine and deepen their own understanding of the topic.

**Then**, every two weeks students from different parts of the world meet online for 50 minutes to share their learnings and perspectives. Seven schools from different parts of the world join each project iteration. Every two weeks two of the schools meet online to discuss and debate what they learned. Students will get the opportunity to meet different schools throughout the duration of the project. There are a total of five online meetings.

**Also,** students meet online three times for one hour with experts on different aspects of global warming. Some of experts that are available for this project are:

- Catalina Londono PhD in Environmental Ecology from the University of Illinois: Impact of Global Warming on Migratory Birds
- Ximena Yanez Soto: Co-founder of Mexican Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife
- Park Rangers at Glacier National Park
- Robert Noriega: Industrial Cow Farmer
- The Bangladesh Environment and Development Society Community Waste Management Project
- Brician Gomez: Lead Consultant at PIC Canada: Large Scale Pork Production and the Impacts on the Environment
- SOI DOG: The Impact of Global Warming on our Pets
- Biogas : Turning Food Waste into Natural Gas

**After that,** students at each school decide, plan and implement a project based on their interests and the essential understandings they acquired during the project. Each school decides what project is relevant and sustainable for their community. In the past some schools working on the Healthy Planet, Healthy Me Project have planted school gardens, made an International Healthy Planet Cookbook free for download on Amazon.com, helped build a biodigester and raised insects to use as an alternative source of protein.

**Finally,** students meet one last time online to share and celebrate their project plans.

## Recognition of Successful Participation

Students who participated in a minimum of 80% of the online sessions with students and experts will receive a Certificate of Participation issued by The Education Design Center describing the learning outcomes, key skills and attitudes strengthened throughout the project. The certificates may also make reference to institutional or national curricular standards and evaluation policy if requested.

Teachers that successfully guide their students' group participation in the project are invited to attend our elite Global Classroom Teacher Community. The Global Classroom Teacher Community brings teachers, school leaders, and university researchers around the world together to dialogue with each other and expert panels about topics related to the following four dimensions: Pedagogy, How the Brain Learns, Cutting Edge Developments in the Content We Teach and Teacher Wellness.

Teachers also are provided with a Certificate of Participation and an Online Badge upon the successful completion of the project.

We hope teachers can support the successful completion of the project in three different aspects:

### Pedagogy and Preparedness

- Create the group evidence specified in the materials to share in the online Student Global Classroom Workshops every two weeks.
- Prepare students to participate with questions and comments in Expert Global Classroom Workshops.
- Help students comply with the Global Classroom Communication Policy treating all students, topics, and comments with respect and openness.
- Stimulate and keep the conversation on track between students when they join Student Global Classroom Workshop Zoom rooms.
- Help students create a sustainable context-relevant project for their community.

## Administration and Logistics:

- Manage the logistics of student participation in online sessions in such a way that students arrive on time, with only their first name and country in Zoom id, microphones off, and ready to participate fully in the session.
- Proactively engage with the Education Design Center, providing dates and times that their students can connect and reach out with the maximum amount of time possible if logistical complications arise and providing the full list of student names to create certificates in a timely fashion.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who can participate?** Students should be in Middle School or High School and have a minimum B1 level of English based on the Common European Framework.
- **Cost:** There is no cost to participate.
- **When does the project start?** March and finishes in May
- **What are the tech requirements?** Students can connect through their own devices or as a group from their classroom.
- **What about scheduling meetings for students in different time zones?** We try to balance out the time zones. Some schools may be asked 1 time during the project to connect at an alternative time.

## Why is this project beneficial for my school?

- **Leaders** have an innovative project to showcase to stakeholders.
- **Teachers** become part of a Global Teacher´s Community.
- **Students** learn to collaborate with peers around the world, develop empathy for nature, practice agency, and self-reflection. And of course, they practice all those skills in English in real-time.
- **Parents** feel their students are experiencing a world-class education.

## Data Privacy and Compliance with International Law

When an institution decides to collaborate on one of our Global Classroom Design projects, we ask for a school project manager and the teacher's personal data such as name, email, phone, and job title, so that we can effectively manage communication and provide the best user experience. We only ask for student names to fill out certificate information. Teachers provide a list in a Google Doc and delete the information when they receive the certificates. Students are not allowed to share personal information in the chat.

Students are not allowed to put their full name or any distinguishing features of their location in their Zoom picture. The type of information we request is connected to a specific purpose, namely to:

- To suggest content from our website, such as demos, whitepapers, or webcasts.
- Provide receipt and confirmation of participation.
- Send important messages about our service, such as any changes to logistics.
- Provide additional project and service support as needed.

[Reference our full Data Privacy Policy .](#)

**For More Information Contact:**

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