

## Press Release

### Jennings School District Uses Distance Learning to Partner with School in Ghana

#### Jennings partners with Dutch Komenda Basic School in Central Ghana

(Jennings) Jennings is encouraging their students to become global leaders through community service projects while also learning about other cultures. In addition to the local community service projects, which has included coat drives, food drives, and later this month hosting a bone marrow sign up drive aimed at the African American community, the district has selected a school in Ghana to partner with as a sister school. Students will have a culminating project of skyping with the students in Ghana. "With the current technology, we want to expose our students to classrooms around the world and help them learn more about other cultures", shared Dr. Tiffany Anderson, the Jennings' superintendent.

The district's assessment coordinator, Mrs. Monica Barnes-Boateng, will travel to Ghana at her own expense to make this project come to life. Mrs. Barnes- Boateng began traveling to Ghana annually several years ago. She shared, "My passion for education and desire to connect with Africans on the continent has led me to find ways to bring gifts and resources to children abroad. " She shared that several years ago she partnered with a local St. Louis non-profit organization to deliver medical supplies to the Central Region in Ghana. After her first visit, the "Better Together" campaign grew to include school supplies and clothes.

This year, Jennings School District has joined in her efforts. At the beginning of the 2013-14 school year, Superintendent, Dr. Tiffany Anderson and Mrs. Barnes-Boateng planned ways for teachers to teach cultural lessons while encouraging students to donate needed supplies during first semester to students in Ghana. The school that collected the most, Jennings Junior High and Jennings Junior High College Prep, won the opportunity to use distance technology to communicate with the students in Ghana. In December of 2013, over 2700 pounds of school supplies collected by Jennings students were shipped to Dutch Komenda Basic School in the Central Region of Ghana. Jennings students will correspond with students via Skype on Monday, March 17, 2014 at 8 AM. Students will have an opportunity to have a cross-cultural educational experience. The Jennings Superintendent, Dr. Tiffany Anderson, shared, " In Jennings we are teaching students to learn about other cultures and serve others in and beyond their community."

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