

Grade

8

Voices of the Village

MICROCAMPUS



Driving Question: What is service learning?

Project Description:

During their time in Xizhou, Microcampus students were involved in a student-directed, authentic Service Learning experience. Students gained a deeper understanding of themselves, their new community, and society as they applied academic, social, and personal skills to show their appreciation to the village of Xizhou. The focus on the service learning project was capturing an oral history of the active elders of Xizhou. Students learned the major events that shaped China, our village, and the people living there over the past 100 years. Students built connections with local members of the community, and practiced informal conversations about their lives. The final product included a short video shared with the community, featuring students' Service Learning partners, which included English and Chinese subtitles.



Student Products

- ▶ Find a service learning partner in the community willing to share their story and film conversations with that partner
- ▶ Produce a film to share with community and reflect on the overall project

Teacher Reflection

"The level of trust and connection between SAS students and their Service Learning partners is something that requires time, care, patience, and sensitivity on the part of all participants. In the end, this "Voices of the Village" project has resulted in capturing the words and stories of dozens of members in the community that is kind enough to host Microcampus students for their four-week learning adventures. The hope is that these videos serve as a small form of giving thanks to the people of Xizhou as students work to honor and preserve the history of its people."

- Craig Tafel

Student Reflection

"I learned that even though Xizhou was not a big city, it still got impacted by the Cultural Revolution. When we were talking to Mr. Dong, his sister showed us the damages the red guards made the "old" carvings on the door and the wall. Also, Mr. Dong told us that there was a lake nearby his house when he was young, which told us that Xizhou has changed a lot since the 1960s and the 1950s, and environmental changes are a part of them, since Mr. Dong's house is far away from water." - Bill

Find out more at:

<http://cards.buildingculturebybuildingpractice.com>