

Creation of Bilingual Learning Environment and Interschool Collaboration to Facilitate Self-Directed Learning

(Courtesy of Ching-Chih Chen at the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



To implement the spirit of “spontaneity, interaction, and the common good” under the curriculum guidelines of 12-Year Basic Education and promote the use of English for learning in multiple fields at senior high school and below, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has continued to assist schools with resources, through the "Increase of Students' Self-Directed Learning Spaces and Facilities" and the "Increase of Library and Information" programs, to facilitate students' self-directed learning and improve on the environment, while motivating students to plan their learning contents by themselves, thereby expanding the breadth and depth of their learning, cultivating their inquiry and creativity, and helping them become resilient and adaptable lifelong learners.

The National Nantou Senior High School has developed spaces and courses for students to act independently, communicate and interact with each other, engage in society, and apply knowledge they have learned at school to the community, while promoting the bilingual learning in the education system and creating diverse learning achievements. For example, with the

assistance of the International Video Conferencing Team of the Affiliated Senior High School of National Chung Hsing University (SHCH), Ms. Chia-Chen Lo offered a course on International Vision to lead students to help small cancer patients in the United States by holding a charity sale at the Ruru Stroll Market, Zhongxing New Village, to cheer for them. In addition, student I-Che Liao filmed a video entitled "Grandma's Smoked Longan" to express his feelings about his family and hometown and, subsequently, won the National Senior High School and Vocational English Literacy Achievement Award.

Furthermore, Ms. Li-Ya Wang has collaborated with the Taipei Municipal Datong High School, a school in Sendai, Japan, and the Northeastern University to launch a Cherry Blossom Project, to allow students to study social and natural science issues together in English via the Internet during the club activity and self-directed learning sessions. Moreover, Mr. Chin-Fu Chou has combined self-directed learning and professional vocational courses to enable students to present their learning achievements in a bilingual news reporting model at an interschool event.

The SHCH's self-directed learning courses handled by different departments and offices are integrated by its library. Support meetings for teachers and student plan writing and empowerment sessions are held on a regular basis. The SHCH Hall guides students to explore their learning themes, while the SHCH Lecture allows students to present their self-directed learning achievements, to continuously improve on self-directed learning. For example, the International Video Conferencing Team chaired by Ms. Mei-Mei Shih took the international moot court as their self-directed learning theme. In addition to taking international universities' online courses in relevant fields, students needed to read the law books and files in English and formed peer-guided study groups to seek guidance and acquire relevant professional skill from domestic and international instructors. At the end of the semester, they signed up to participate in an international English moot court competition for senior high school students, in which they effectively and flexibly applied what they have learned in self-directed learning, International Vision, and bilingual learning courses.

Considering that most of the students have no self-directed learning experience at junior high school, the National Chung-Hsing Senior High School adopted a program to implement self-directed learning step by step. The school's library formulated a self-directed learning manual, while the school developed the basic self-directed learning courses. With the self-directed learning manual that serves as the teaching material, teachers teach research methods and various topics of the manual to students to enhance their understanding of self-directed learning. In addition, the school has incorporated international education and bilingual learning in its required curriculum. Teachers developed teaching materials by themselves to guide students to introduce and describe the famous tourist attractions and cultural traditions at the Zhongxing New Village in English. Students read English books and took field trips through the art and culture chapter of the Chung-Hsing Studies. This has integrated life experience with learning from books, implemented the bilingual learning policy, and promoted local culture.

The school is also the host of Nantou County's Program for the Implementation of Schools' Curriculum and Flexible Learning Sessions and Collaboration with Colleges and Universities for the Common Good by Senior High Schools' Adaptive Learning Community. In addition to assisting senior high schools in the county in matching students with universities' resources for self-directed learning, it holds an interschool self-directed learning achievement presentation and an achievement exhibition every semester to foster interschool exchanges and mutual learning, with the aim of expanding students' horizons and creating diverse learning opportunities.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, when it increases the schools' learning resources and enhances students' self-directed learning environment, the schools can arrange self-directed learning courses through flexible learning sessions, so that students can discover their own interest in the process of exploration, unleash their potential, and develop the habit of lifelong learning through self-directed learning and reflection, thereby opening a door to self-directed learning.