CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CLASSROOM INNOVATION IN FINLAND & ESTONIA
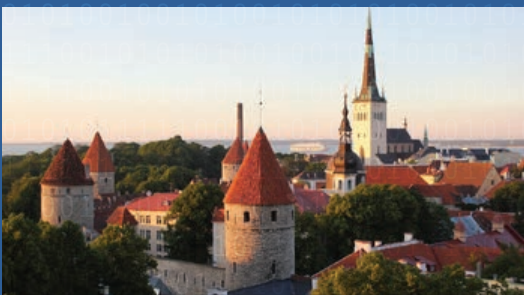
ALTERRA CONSULTING

THE DEMANDS OF THIS NEW CENTURY REQUIRE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SET OF JOB SKILLS ...

Technology is moving apace; indeed it's accelerating. Increasingly, prospective employers of high school and university graduates ask for new types of "literacy" and problem solving – paramount among these computer literacy.

This global professional development opportunity focuses on coding, gaming & robotics – CGR. Educators who take part will acquire the perspectives necessary to leverage CGR for ideal student outcomes. This trip will position you to encourage your students' natural interest in coding, gaming & robotics. You will use your new knowledge to support your students' use of these tools. Embedding CGR in your curriculum will catalyze your students' critical thinking – and their access to high-quality university experiences & job prospects as young professionals.

CURRICULUM INNOVATION THROUGH CODING, GAMING & ROBOTICS ...

This delegation of education-sector professionals will visit Finland and Estonia from April 17-26, 2020. The main theme of this 11-day spring course is: "Curriculum innovation through coding, gaming, and robotics". Via classroom observations and wide-ranging dialogue with colleague-educators in both countries, we will explore pedagogical technique, teacher training, and the embedding of 21st century technology in the curriculum.

IN FINLAND ...

In Finland, we will spend a day at a university in the nation's central region, where research is ongoing around gaming & robotics – and their productive application to the education sector. We will explore how teachers can incorporate game design and production, game programming, game graphics and game sounds in curriculum. What's more, game design, makerspaces, and digital playful solutions form part of Finland's rigorous approach to teacher training. The overall objective is for US educators to develop new curricula that use gaming & robotics platforms to encourage students' critical thinking skills and entrepreneurial instincts.

IN ESTONIA ...

In Estonia, we will focus on coding. Estonia's parliament has recently passed legislation requiring that coding be taught from first grade. We will discuss with policymakers why Estonia chose to require coding in the early years, and we'll observe – and learn from – students in real time.

Some US states, such as Arkansas and Washington, offer coding in the classroom, with

measurably positive results – but few require these disciplines from the early years. Certain NGOs, notably, Code.org, a Seattle-based champion for coding-in-the classroom, support states in their efforts. Our conversations and observations in Estonia will shape our perspectives as we head back to our own states.

Importantly, coding researchers and advocates have found, students are having fun learning to code! They are also finding that there's equal interest across gender, racial, income, and geographic lines – students from all demographics are beginning to code, and gaining academic confidence.

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS ...

During our 10-day course, delegates will explore why Finland and Estonia lead the way, how they deploy CGR in elementary and secondary curricula, how they measure success, and why they consider CGR-embedding to be of the utmost importance. We'll make classroom visits, hold roundtable chats with Education Ministry officials, and learn from the students themselves!

By week's end, we'll prepare to return to the US with a wealth of new ideas for curriculum integration, for your own growth as an educator, and for how you may support all of your students! We will dialogue with academics, students, families and activists. We will visit world-famous historical & cultural sites. And we'll get involved in the hectic everyday life of modern Helsinki and Tallinn. You will not want to miss this professional opportunity!

PROGRAM FORMAT ...

The format for the week is as follows:

- Weekend orientation and site visits
- 5 days professional learning PD **Formats in the morning**: Lectures; classroom observations; informal, interactive educator-to-educator dialogues; campus tours, corporations leading in coding and gaming.
- Afternoon format Monday-Friday: Cultural Encounters as Context: The visit to Finland and Estonia emphasizes coding, gaming and robotics, issues. However, we'll also make time for cultural encounters in the afternoon after PDs. We will create time for cultural awareness modules and sightseeing, designed to increase awareness of Finland and Estonia's contemporary realities. We'll take part in a wide variety of enjoyable activities that highlight the nation's history, culture, architecture and the use of space. Community visits, and other outdoor leisure will heighten our appreciation of these two nations' rich culture. Activities are designed to reinforce our workshops and discussions – to place it in context – and to promote respect for Finland and Estonia's unique heritage.

INQUIRE & REGISTER ...

DATES:
April 17-26, 2020

PRICING is set at $3000 per person sharing. Early-birds pay $2800 if registering with deposit by August 31, 2019 (Single room is an additional $450).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Registration & Deposit:
October 31, 2019: **Amount Due $500.00**

2nd Payment:
December 14, 2019: **Amount Due $500.00**

Third Payment:
January 18, 2019: **Amount Due $1000.00**

Final Payment
Due February 15, 2020: Amount Due $1000.00 for regular price / $800.00 early bird price

THIS INCLUDES:
- Airfare from Boston to Helsinki
- Registration for 5 days of professional development, to include seminars, professional programming, honoraria, university and school-visit fees (Monday-Friday)
- 9 nights' shared luxury accommodation (Single room an additional $450)
- Daily breakfasts
- 5 lunches (Monday through Friday)
- Daily transfers to/from all meetings/professional events (Monday through Friday)
- Orientation and city tour of Helsinki and Estonia.

OPTIONAL TOURS ADDITIONAL COST

Finland - Porvoo is $100 Saturday
Finland - Suomenlinna is $70 Sunday
Estonia - Lahemaa National Park is $100 Saturday

TO LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER

Contact:
Fungai Kanogoiwa
Tel. (703) 549 9115
FungaiK@AlterraConsulting.org

Aaron Casey
Tel. (202) 421 4417
Acasey@AlterraConsulting.org