

African Cultural Diplomat Exchange Network: Advancing Education and Tech in Orange Mound

Memphis, TN – Cherokee Elementary School in Orange Mound has embarked on an exciting new journey with Arya Primary School in Kisumu, Kenya, through the **African Cultural Diplomat Exchange Network**. This innovative program, created by Memphis filmmaker and content creator Anthony "Amp" Elmore, aims to bridge communities using education, culture, and technology.

The Partnership

From August 25 to September 1, 2024, Elmore visited Kisumu, Kenya, where he facilitated an exchange of letters between students at Arya Primary School and Cherokee Elementary School. These heartfelt letters were delivered to Ms. Tina Smith, Principal at Cherokee Elementary, enhancing the cultural connection between the two schools.

The Network's Mission

The African Cultural Diplomat Exchange Network leverages modern communication tools like YouTube, Facebook, Google, and particularly WhatsApp, to enable seamless and ongoing interaction between the two schools. This initiative not only promotes understanding and cooperation but also fights against white supremacy racism and Black-on-Black racism by fostering a sense of global community and mutual respect.

Content Creation for Cultural Diplomacy

Elmore, a seasoned content creator, uses his expertise in history, art, culture, and family to document and share these exchanges. Through engaging videos and digital content, the network tells the story of Orange Mound and its rich heritage to a global audience, highlighting the significance of this historic African American community.

The Steve Cohen Center for Cultural Diplomacy

A significant milestone was reached on October 25, 2024, with the launch of the **Steve Cohen Center for Cultural Diplomacy** at Arya Primary School. Named after the 9th District Congressman from Memphis, this center, established in collaboration with art teacher Erick Were, aims to foster cultural understanding through art and education.





Historic Joint Kwanzaa Celebration

Looking ahead, Elmore is proposing a historic joint Kwanzaa celebration between Arya School and Cherokee Elementary. This would be the first time Kwanzaa is celebrated in Africa, marking a groundbreaking moment in cultural exchange. Principal Tina Smith supports the program and plans to travel to Kenya with Elmore, along with select students from Cherokee.

Expanding Global Communication

The program introduces WhatsApp as a key tool for international communication, allowing for free data transfer and real-time interactions. While many Americans are more familiar with YouTube, Facebook, and Google, WhatsApp offers unique capabilities for fostering global connections.

Elmore's Legacy in Cultural Diplomacy

Anthony "Amp" Elmore, known for his pioneering work in content creation, continues to break new ground. His film, "The Contemporary Gladiator," recognized as the first kickboxing film in world history, premiered in Kenya in 1990. Elmore's ongoing relationship with Kenya underscores his commitment to cultural diplomacy, making Orange Mound the birthplace of the **African Cultural Diplomat Exchange Network**.

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