



一個人的夢想可以把你帶多遠,祇要你敢想!

12月8日,我有幸去了位於13440 Lorain Ave 的克利夫蘭 Global Ambassadors Language Academy 學校, (簡稱 GALA), 他們是俄亥俄州唯一的雙語學校, 這次採訪, 我感慨萬千, 一個人的夢想, 一群人八年的努力, 從第一年只有 60 學生到現在 300 位學生, 從第一年 kindergarten first grade 到今天開課到八年級, 在克利夫蘭教育不完善的鄰里之間真是脫穎而出, 是一所學生受益的學校。

當我走進學校時, 校長 Meran Rogers 已經在學校的簽到處等我, 她帶我直接去了她的第一個 8 年級學生的教室, 眼前, 我第一看到的是老師在用中文教學生打麻將, 學生們在老師指導下玩麻將, 還有幾位學生在紙上寫中文字。那一瞬間我的思緒好像停住了: 沒有走錯地方吧? 牆上貼着“好好學習, 天天向上”, 這些讓我觸景生情。我不由自主問校長能不能讓我講幾句感言: 一個教室不到 10 個學生, 學習環境優越, 我在他們的年齡, 我們的教室是 50 位學生, 我們的學習方式和他們完全不一樣, 同時我也講了 12-13 歲是人生轉折選擇自己未來命運的年齡, 12 歲 -13 歲的夢會改變人的一



生, 制定你們的夢想, 朝着你們的夢想去努力, 一切的源起是愛, 愛同學愛家人愛老師愛朋友愛自己, 我還告訴她們耕耘和收穫中間隔着的季節是堅持。

當我在與學生互動的時候, 我得知八年級學生 Nadia McKay 和 Katie Perkins 代表俄亥俄

州參加 2023 年中國成都 - 美國姐妹城市青少年辯論挑戰賽。兩位學生和她們的老師在 11 月 19 日 -11 月 27 日在中國學習和體驗生活, 她們參加為期 3 天的文化學習, 隨後進行了為期 2 天的激烈辯論比賽, 主題為“博物館應該免費嗎? 我問 Nadia McKay 和 Katie Perkins 去中國的感受, 我從他們的眼睛里看到了光, 這是她們改變人生軌迹的一次機遇, 她們親眼目睹親身體驗的過程。

今年是 GALA 進入第八個年頭, 他們有目標有眼光有責任, 最近他們已經購買了歷史悠久的麥金利學校, 這是一棟空置的 CMSD 建築, 距離現在租的教堂不到一英里。校長 Meran Rogers 正在牽線需要耗資 1600 萬美元對學校進行翻修, 目標是在 2025-2026 學年有屬於自己的學校, 這個將是超過現在學校 3 倍面積的學校, 這一變革性的改變將使 GALA 目前 300 名 K-8 學生的入學人數增加一倍, 這將是擴大克利夫蘭學生享受優質語言課程的機會。

Global Ambassadors Language Academy

(GALA) 承諾對學生提供高質量基本基礎教育, 以及奉獻, 學校有 7 位來自大陸和台灣的老師, 他們年輕陽光, 學校教職員工 35 人, 目前他們學校已經成為克利夫蘭教育領域卓越的引路人。

Meran Rogers 校長把我送出校門, 我需要消化一下我的感動心情, 我感受到了 Meran Rogers 的年輕熱情聰明和智慧。

我想起了八年前, 我曾經來參觀這個學校, 當時我知道 Meran Rogers 的父親是台灣人, 母親是西班牙裔, 她從小就在雙語的環境里成長, 她結婚嫁了非裔, 在一個多元化環境下成長的 Meran Rogers 也許希望她的一對兒女能夠接受不同文化教育。這些年來我看到只要社區有活動, 她們的 GALA 就會有一個攤位去介紹她們的學校, 是學習是夢想成全了 Meran Rogers 今天的一番成就, 她就是面對現實, 改變現實一步一腳印朝前行的人。



CLEVELAND'S GALA STUDENTS RECEIVED INVITATION TO CHINA

Global Ambassadors Language Academy (GALA) proudly announces that Nadia McKay and Katie Perkins, eighth grade students from GALA, represented Ohio in the 2023 Chengdu, China - U.S. Sister Cities Youth Debate Challenge. The students, accompanied by their teacher, Zhangjie Chen, departed on November 19 and just returned on November 27. The GALA team participated in 3 days of cultural experiences followed by 2 days of spirited debate competition on the topic "Should museums be free?"

Nadia McKay's family brings a unique story to this journey. Yolanda McKay, Nadia's mother, recently achieved a significant milestone by becoming a Cleveland firefighter. She stands as one of only three Black women among the 764 members of the Cleveland Fire Department. Nadia's journey to China is not only a testament to her academic talent but also a celebration of her family's tradition of breaking barriers in the community.

Katie Perkins, the oldest of four siblings, contributes another inspiring narrative to the GALA team.

Two of Katie's siblings were adopted from China, enriching the Perkins family with a diverse cultural heritage. As Katie engages in the cultural exchange in Chengdu, her family's commitment to fostering cultural understanding and unity is palpable.

Zhangjie Chen, GALA's dedicated Mandarin teacher, plays a crucial role in shaping the students' linguistic and cultural development. Chen's guidance and commitment to excellence in language education have been instrumental in preparing Nadia and Katie for this international platform.

Meran Rogers,

GALA's Founder and Executive Director, expresses admiration for the students, stating, "Nadia and Katie, embody the spirit of GALA not just as students but as representatives that inspire us all. Both of them joined GALA in 2017, as second grade students in the Mandarin immersion program. Their dedication to learning Mandarin and academics has led them to this great achievement, and I couldn't be more proud. They are both model ambassadors for the rest of our students."

GALA is a tuition-free public K-8 language im-

mersion school in Cleveland. GALA provides students with a bilingual education in Mandarin or Spanish. At GALA, students receive daily instruction in Mandarin or Spanish for 50% of the day, covering Math, Science, and Language Arts. The remaining 50% of daily instruction is in English, focusing on Social Studies, ELA, and Specials.

Now in its eighth year, GALA continues to grow and outperform nearly all schools in Cleveland. GALA recently purchased the historic McKinley School, a vacant CMSD building located less than a mile away from its current site. Meran Rogers is leading a \$16M effort to renovate the school, with the aim of opening its doors for the 2025-2026 school year. This transformative project will allow GALA to double its current enrollment of 300 K-8 students and expand access to a quality language immersion program for Cleveland students.

GALA's dedication to language immersion, combined with its commitment to high quality education, makes it a beacon of excellence in Cleveland's educational landscape.

