

FEEDBACK FROM THE 2013-14 St. MIKE'S STUDENT PLACEMENTS AT IAA



"Ms. Leaphart was very supportive, encouraging, and positive. No matter which class, or which student, she always exuded a positive and caring aura. . In fact, when the students began to work on their assignments her enthusiasm only increased.....Watching her enthusiasm, I learned the power of praise and kindness. She was a genuine model of perspective and empathy."

"I observed how successful teachers at the Integrated Arts Academy were in collaborating and creating safe and reassuring environment for students to excel in learning."

(From someone whose English is a second language) At the IAA I saw first-hand how students assimilate and how they (teachers) respond to what could be a disadvantage for refugees and immigrants

In Mr. Ts 4th grade classroom I saw an interdisciplinary approach to elementary education where each student was involved regardless of their difference; he allowed each of them to "glitter" and let their strengths shine through. The arts helped students demonstrate their knowledge in creative and reflective ways; their differences were a driving force for the learning within the classroom and they all accepted each other for their backgrounds.

On the last day of my observations students were learning about erosion and weathering. I was amazed how through acting out erosion students would demonstrate their learning.

Jonathan Silverman
Chair, Education Department
Associate Professor
Coordinator of Arts in Education
Saint Michael's College
Colchester, Vermont 05439