

Dunlap education spreading to the Netherlands

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Chillicothe, Ill. — The Dunlap school district welcomed visitors from the Netherlands this morning for a full day of observation.

Eight members from the Netherlands' education system will view parts of Dunlap's strategic plan in action for 21st century learners at Ridgeview Elementary School, Wilder-Waite Grade School and Dunlap Middle School.

"What I've done is set up for them a tour of three schools. These are teachers who are opening up their classrooms for this visiting team to come and simply observe," Dunlap Superintendent Dr. Jay Marino said.

The day is split into 30-minute sessions with different subjects, such as deciding ground rules, a class mission and quality tools with students.

Students in the volunteer classes will show the visitors how they run a classroom meeting, create student data folders and a classroom data center.

"We're going to show them, how do you involve kindergartners in that? How do fifth graders do that?" Marino said.

The Netherlands visitors have seen the model before from Marino.

Marino gave a keynote presentation at the National Quality Conference, which is where representatives from the Netherlands' education system first heard of strategic planning.

They invited him to the Netherlands to give a three day presentation to teachers, principals and administrators.

His visits were longer and longer, from three days to five days to five weeks spread throughout the year.

"My last visit, I had a chance to go to the government office and meet with the prime minister of education and presented the model to them," Marino said.

"Our schools have the opportunity to influence the country of the Netherlands."

The day will be fast-moving, according to Marino.

"We'll give them a real good taste and a lot of these folks have seen the model and they want to see it in action," Marino said.

"Dunlap teachers and administration have a chance to showcase what they are doing and really have a chance to impact internationally on a whole education system."

The Netherlands visitors were at Ridgeview from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

They then moved to Wilder-Waite from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. From there, they went to Dunlap Middle School from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

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