The Munting Nayon Cultural School

The Munting Nayon Cultural School was created by the Philipino immigrant Studies and Research. Despite financial difficulties, the school has grown into a small multicultural school with over 130 extremely diverse students. In addition to Philipino students, there are children at the school from Polish, Albanian, Ethiopian, and Sri Lankan heritages just to name a few.

The Center is a small school community of approximately 50 students housed within a single building. The school is located in Pagrati, a long-standing, middle-class neighborhood in central Athens. All of the students and many of the teachers live in Pagrati, which functions like a small city within Athens. Pagrati is a cosmopolitan neighborhood surrounded by parks and host to a variety of restaurants and small shops.

A student could basically go through the better part of their day in Athens without leaving the neighborhood. Furthermore, when the student goes outside of the immediate area, most teachers are also American friends in the major city, which for the most part are centered by students. In this way, it could be easy for a student who is studying abroad here or anywhere for the first time to miss out on the true essence of the foreign culture.

Greek Key

This weekly seminar course centers on students’ self-introduction and to facilitate Greek-American integration. The primary purpose of Greek Key is to integrate students into the local culture, thus increasing understanding and promoting cultural interaction with Greek culture. These goals are accomplished through a series of cultural appreciation activities such as cultural presentations, field trips, and seminars. The primary purpose of Greek Key is to integrate students into the local culture, thus increasing understanding and promoting cultural interaction with Greek culture. These goals are accomplished through a series of cultural appreciation activities such as cultural presentations, field trips, and seminars.

The major component of the course is the seminar session where students give a presentation on various aspects of Greek culture such as Greek history, art, cuisine, traditions, and more. Students present their findings and share their personal experiences with others. Through discussions and interaction with other students and faculty, students learn and become more aware of their own culture and how it relates to the culture of Greece.

Beyond the cultural interactions and understanding I received from this experience, I feel that I contributed a useful service to a needy population. I worked weekly in the equivalent of a public school, helping with lesson plans, coloring sheets, and other classroom activities. The school was short on resources and supplies, and I brought lesson plans and coloring sheets that I had printed off the internet. Mrs. Tess was impressed, and the students were elated.

The Munting Nayon Cultural School, another student and I, with the help of the Program Director, will establish a volunteer program within the school. The volunteers would be able to use their skills and knowledge to make a significant contribution to the school's mission and culture.