

STARTALK

Start Talking!



INTEGRATING CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WITH LANGUAGE LEARNING

Educators Society for Heritage of India (ESHA)

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ESHA Marlboro, New Jersey

- Hindi language program for students
- Embarking on 10th year with 'new' theme every year
- 75-80 HLLs, G3-8, 105 contact hours
- STEM integration
- Youth volunteers – TAs for language learning continuity
- Post program learning opportunity- Marlboro Hindi School and Montgomery Hindi School, NJ
- STEM video modules – Infrastructure grant

SESSION OUTCOMES

I will be able to -

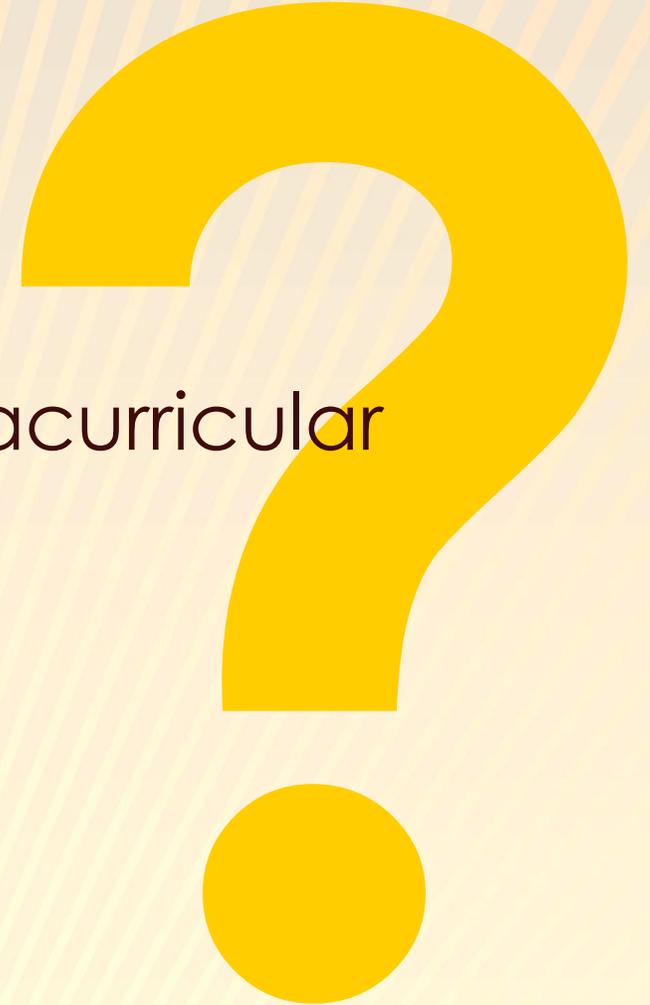
- **identify** challenges and **plan** strategies for student engagement during summer STARTALK program
- **plan** for topic related hands on activities contributing towards language, content and culture acquisition
- thematically **integrate** co-curricular and extracurricular activities to maximize student engagement and language learning

WHY THIS SESSION?

Focus Strand: Accepting the Challenge

Topics: Integrating Co-curricular and Extracurricular Activities with Language Learning

- Challenges faced
- Adjustments made
- Outcome



How does my story lead to the outcomes?

Challenges?

- School year overly packed with after school activities that also include Indian cultural school activities- music, dance, language, tutoring, etc.
- Students' notion: Summer time ⇔ Fun time
- Early teens – 50% participants G6-8
- Meaningful engagement in a 7 hour/day program

Co-curricular and extracurricular activities?

Besides Classroom instructional time:

- Co-curricular language learning scenarios
 - Field trip, Media lab, Music, Dance, Arts & Projects, Drama, Skits, Poetic assembly
- Extra curricular language learning scenarios
 - Mela/bazaar, Yoga, Sports, Dance

Benefits beside movement & variety: theme based language learning

Co-curricular learning scenarios:

- Are thematically integrated with daily learning topics
- Break monotony of long in-classroom learning episodes
- Opportunity for Movement – class to class
- Provide opportunities to learn as well as practice and apply new language
- Quick, easy and effective learning of 'time-telling'-daily schedule

Media lab, Field trip, Music, Arts, Projects, Dance, Drama and Skit, Poetic assembly

- Media lab – apps on iPads – interpersonal, presentational, assessment, survey
- Field trip – community, interaction with native speakers
- Music – theme based songs, reinforce literacy, repetitions, rhymes, perform on last day
- Arts & Projects – hands on, based on daily topics, in art room facility
- Drama & Skit – theme based

Thematic Integration of Field trip

- Program theme: Festivals and Fairs of India
- Field trip on Saturday – Took part in Chariot Festival (Rath Yaatraa) which is a festival as well as a fair.
- Content, culture and language preparation day before
- Place was identified- ISKCON temple in NJ
- Interaction with community- temple, orientation by a youth volunteer, purchase at food stalls, interview by TV Asia crew
- Students experienced live what they had learned on screen and in-class on previous day. Most Cs were covered.

Extra curricular learning scenarios

Aural input based language and culture learning:

- **Yoga** – opportunity to learn language pertaining to action words, body parts, names of animals, geographical features and names of internal organs.
- **Sports and Fitness** – exposure to cultural games and activities, movement, fun
- **Dance** – aural language learning, movement, music, language for body parts, action words
- **Sing along** songs learned in Music class during movement from class to class. Best class wins recognition on graduation day.

Mela/bazaar: extra-curricular learning

- Language and culture immersion in mela/ bazaar
- Interaction with community
- Cultural immersion
- Language for expression of likes, dislikes, want, haggling for prices, numbers in TL
- Vendors offer better deals for staying in TL
- Vendors attracting most customers win prizes
- **G6-8 Intermediate class students as vendors***

My Story Illustrates . . .

- Effectiveness of language and culture exploration outside classroom
- Well planned hands-on activities are very engaging and should be used for language acquisition
- Movement based activities – yoga, dance, sports and games also lend way to learning language
- Students enjoy and ask for longer STARTALK camps,
- TAs are positive role models for younger learners

How did we face CHALLENGES?

- A daily schedule that incorporates a variety of engaging learning episodes
- A daily schedule that ensures students move every 45 minute
- Every activity ensures language and culture exploration
- Incentives for cooperative behavior- student level and class level

Lessons Learned?

- Carefully planned activities lead to additional theme related language learning while also maintaining the 'fun' element that students seek in summer time learning programs
- Co-curricular and extra curricular activities are also opportunities for improving aural language learning skills and presentational skills.
- Incentives at student level and class level help in student motivation

Can you now?

- **identify** challenges and **plan** strategies for student engagement during summer STARTALK program
- **plan** for topic related hands on activities contributing towards language, content and culture acquisition
- thematically **integrate** co-curricular and extracurricular activities to maximize student engagement and language learning

Thank you!

Please contact us

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