



OUR CORNER OF THE WORLD

LOUISVILLE SISTER CITIES MONTHLY

Montpellier / Tamale / Quito / La Plata / Mainz / Jiujiang / Leeds/ Perm / Adapazari



AT-A-GLANCE

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Sept/Oct - Education Update

It has been several months since our last newsletter. We apologize it has taken this long. One of the reasons for this delay is our preoccupation with returning to many in-person programs, including increasing our outreach to schools.

This issue is particularly timely as schools in all our Sister Cities have either reopened or are preparing for the new school year. After a year spent at home, on and off, the challenges for students are not just health-related but in many cases social and psychological. Students have experienced unprecedented disruptions to their academic and social lives. School systems and their communities are struggling to find the right way forward as they balance the need to protect people from Covid, and the desire for some of the pre-Covid normalcy.

There is no one solution to a smooth transition back to school as reflected in this issue. But we are all doing our best to support our respective education systems to safely and effectively return to doing what they do best - educate and socialize our youths.

In friendship and with best wishes,
The World Affairs Council Team



Louisville At-a-Glance

This month we are focusing on COVID-19 school policies. We want to focus on how our community is fairing but also our international neighbors as well.

Jefferson County Public Schools, the largest school district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, returned to five days a week, in-person classes on August 11th. Reopening school buildings and classrooms to all students, every school day, provided a return to normalcy and promote learning in a way that we couldn't do last school year due to the pandemic.

Thus far, JCPS rates that the transmission of COVID in schools is not "non-existent" but also not bad and that non-traditional online schooling wouldn't be needed at this point district-wide. There are several other public school districts in Southern Indiana and elsewhere in Kentucky that have had to switch over for a time until cases were down in their area.

The COVID policies of JCPS are as follows:

- Masks are required in all JCPS buildings, regardless of the vaccination status of the student, teacher, staff or visitor
- Masks are required on all school buses
- 3 feet distance between students in classrooms, when possible, to improve contact tracing
- Students or staff will be excluded from school and sent home if they have any of these COVID-19 symptoms including fever, chills, shortness of breath, or loss of taste and smell.

The FDA is likely to give emergency authorization sometime in the next month for a COVID vaccine for children ages 5-11. This would include the rest of most school-age children and many parents are looking forward to having this level of protection added in the fight against the virus.



WDRB



Courier Journal



WDRB

School Around the World

We take a deeper dive into what the COVID education policies look like around the world.



The coronavirus pandemic is still impacting many parts of the world. That impact continues on schools and universities in our community and those of our Sister Cities.

We have briefly highlighted some of the school policies from seven of our cities. We hope this can help to see the similarities of some policies around the world and understand any differences.

As mentioned in our last issue, access to the COVID-19 vaccination remains unequal and this is somewhat evident in the policies seen below.

Tamale, Ghana

- Splitting classes to ensure social distance
- Provide face masks and clean throughout day
- Sick Stay Home policy

Quito, Ecuador

- Phase 1: Students continue learning from home
- Phase 2: Continuing teacher-student relationship

Leeds, England

- Children presenting COVID symptoms stay home, get tested, & inform school
- If someone in household tests positive stay home for 10 days ,

Jiujiang, China

- School started Sept 1 and region is in low risk
- Vaccinations starting for 12-17 age group
- Masks only worn at the university level

Mainz, Germany

- Masks compulsory in school
- Students tested twice a week with antigen test
- Air purification systems installed and airing classrooms out every 20 min

Montpellier, France

- Kindergartens and primary schools are open
- High schools will do a mix of in-person and online
- Four level color policy impacts what is followed

Perm, Russia

- School started Sept 1
- Masks not required but following similar protocols from last year
- Teachers switch from classroom not students and are vaccinated
- University students encouraged to be vaccinated

Education Updates

We highlight a special visit and news from our Sister City of Tamale. This report was written by Osman Mubarik Abu, Executive Secretary-Tamale Sister Cities



Tamale, Ghana

Sister City with Louisville since 1954.

One of the shared values of the Tamale-Louisville Sister Cities 40-year relationship is the importance of development and education. There is much excitement in the air, as the students, educators, families, partners, and community members of Tamale in the Northern Region of Ghana prepare for a new academic year. On Tuesday 6th July 2021, during the enskinment ceremony at the Palace of the Gulkpenaa, the Sister Cities of Tamale, in partnership with the Louisville Sister Cities and Tamale stakeholders, recommended Ife Bell to Chief Gukpenaa for this prestigious role as the new Tamale Zosimli Naa II, the "Chief who multiplies friendship."

The ceremony was the first step in offering Ife Bell, a leader, development expert, coach, and educator, a traditional Chieftaincy title in the Dagbon Kingdom. It was facilitated by the executives and committee members of the Sister Cities of Tamale that included former Mayors of Tamale. The Chieftaincy title had been vacant after her demise in 2014 by the late Tamale Zosimli Naa Dr. Susan J. Herlin, an educator, leader, and friend to many. The Chieftaincy title was established to strengthen and expand the relationship between the Tamale and Louisville Sister Cities.

As one who is passionate about youth and education, Ife used the occasion to visit the Tamale Islamic Senior High School (TISSEC), where she interacted with staff and students of the School. The visit gave her the opportunity to share her experiences with them and hear from the students.



She encouraged the students to continue making solid commitments to their educational studies, seeing themselves as emerging leaders, and waking up each morning and catching their dreams.

TISSEC has a long-standing relationship with Kentucky Country Day School in Louisville. Noting the importance of athletic and out-of-school activities in the development of the whole child, she took time to meet with the ladies soccer club, where she witnessed their training session. She encouraged the young ladies to continue to be leaders in the sport, focus on their respective interests, and be mindful of their education studies as well.

Ife has pledged her commitment to achieving success by working in collaboration with all stakeholders in Tamale and Louisville. She stated, *"It is such an honor to serve in this role to foster friendships and partnerships that will strengthen diplomacy, culture, education, and economic development between the two cities. The world now revolves around strong partnerships, and I believe that this is the expansion of such relationships."* She is excited about returning to Tamale soon for her coronation as the Tamale Zosimli Naa II.

News from our Cities

Read about how you can engage with our Sister Cities culture from afar. Perm shares an exhibit from WWII and Mainz shares a radio piece from Louisville.



Perm, Russia

Sister City with Louisville since 1994.

The Second World War—the deadliest and most destructive war in history was officially over in September 1945.

The Perm Archives pays tribute to millions of service members and Home Front workers who helped preserve freedom. Through the digital exhibition "Perm Region, the Land of Labor Valor", the Archives reflect on the legacy and meaning of World War II, bringing audiences photographs, articles, personal stories, and memoirs about the feat of Home Front workers in Perm and other towns of the region. The exhibition is in Russian and English.

The exhibition focuses on those industrial centers of the Perm region, whose citizens took the initiative to award their city at the federal level with the title "City of Labor Valor" for their heroic work during the Great Patriotic War and their great contribution to the Victory. The city of Perm was one of these and was given this title in 2020.

[Learn with us wherever you are.](#)



LABOR VALOR EXHIBITION

ual historical exhibition of archival docum
stitutions of the Perm city and the Perm



Mainz, Germany

Sister City with Louisville since 1994.

We wanted to share a fun and interesting article and radio segment from our local radio station, Louisville Public Media by reporter Stephanie Wolf about her visit to Mainz, Germany.

In this cultural dispatch, Wolf tours the ancient city and discovers its many unique wonders. From looking at where Romans camped their armies 2,000 years ago to exploring one of the oldest music publishing houses in the world, there is much to love about the city. We hope you learn about the past and current relationship between Mainz and Louisville.

[Listen here](#) to find out more about these things are more!



News from WAC

Sharing news from our education programs here at the World Affairs Council and Louisville .



Louisville, Kentucky

We wanted to share some education related news from the World Affairs Council. Our Global Education Coordinator, Samantha Risen, left her position at the end of September. We are grateful for all her contributions and wanted to share her message to our community with you.

"It's with a heavy heart that I announce my departure from the World Affairs Council and the Global Education Program Coordinator position. The past three years have been full of student programming, collaborating with my colleagues, and engaging with our community. I'm so proud of the education programs at WAC and can't wait to see how they grow and expand.

While I am excited about my new opportunity, it is very bittersweet to leave. I must acknowledge the incredible work done by WAC staff and board providing top-notch programming to our community and those abroad. The Kentuckiana area is lucky to have them and I am lucky to call them friends. Finally, to my students, please know that your enthusiasm, determination, and thirst for knowledge made every day a joy. Our community is better for having you as global citizens.

While I will no longer be employed by WAC, I won't be a stranger. I hope to see you all soon at events where I'll be engaging as a member. Thank you, again, for all your support. I can't wait to see what kinds of events and programs WAC produces soon"



WAC Team

Our work at the World Affairs Council is facilitated and supported by a group of passionate individuals that believe in the power of global exchange, dialogue and learning. They comprise of capable professionals at the staff level, supported by a strong and active board of directors and committee members who are community leaders and seasoned professionals.

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