



## Resources from “Building Global Communities” Webinar

February 19, 2020

### Tools to Connect Students:

#### [Empatico](#)

Empatico empowers teachers and students to explore the world through experiences that spark curiosity, kindness and empathy. Empatico combines live video with activities designed to foster meaningful connections among students ages 6-11. Free.

#### [Flipgrid: Empower Every Voice](#)

Flipgrid engages and empowers every voice in your classroom and community by recording and sharing short, awesome videos together. This can be used to connect classrooms asynchronously. Free.

#### [Skype a Scientist](#)

Skype a Scientist matches scientists with classrooms around the world to allow students from all over the world.

#### [Narrative 4 : Share Today, Change Tomorrow](#)

A global network of educators, students and artists who use art and storytelling to build empathy between students while equipping them to improve the communities and their world.

[German American Partnership Program](#): GAPP supports teachers and schools in arranging successful bilateral school exchanges for their students. We offer workshops and resources, provide assistance throughout exchanges, and award travel grants and individual scholarships to teachers, exchange groups and individual students.

### Other Recommendations about how to connect students:

- Use common, simple technology like Skype, Google Hangouts and Email.
- Find connections through networking. For example, one of our Fellows reached out to [Facing History And Ourselves](#), an organization he did a training with, and they suggested some classroom connections.

## How to Get Started?

- Design a project – or attend PD to learn how to design projects
- Network (or use Empatico etc.) to find a classroom to partner with
- Make the partnership based on a tangible issue or topic
- Look for PD opportunities (like this one!) to expand your background knowledge
- Find people in building to collaborate with
- Build a project around students interests and passions

## How do you get admin support?

- Got them really involved and inviting them to have a real role.
- Show them (in small low-stakes ways) how the work can engage students.
- Created a community buzz that inspires their curiosity and support. This makes it difficult for admin to say no.

## Funding?

- Look for grants. Grants some of our Fellows have used:
  - We used these two grants for our big projects (Germany and Bermuda): <https://mccartheydressman.org/> and <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/funding-opportunities/grants/what-we-fund/>
  - We used this one for a smaller project where students collaborated with a Nigerian artist to make art out of trash that represents their communities: <https://www.rpcvmadison.org/cpages/we-all-posters>
  - We used this one for a cultural week where students participated in STEM challenges based on German fairytales: <https://www.aatg.org/page/DeutschmachtSpass>
  - We have not received this grant (although we have received other grants from this foundation). But it is specifically for schools who want virtual and in person exchanges with Qatar: <https://www.qfi.org/opportunities/classroom-connections-grant/>
- In cases where you may need access to resources, spread the word about your project in the community. Network to see if you can find a solution. One of our fellows needed access to a pool to test underwater robots. Using community connections, she was able to get free access to a pool.

## Last piece of advice?

- **Build relationships and connections with your colleagues:** All about your colleagues and being vocal about what you're trying to do. In an excited way to rally support. My colleagues have changed me forever in such a positive way. Find like-minded people who will support you pursuing "crazy" ideas.
- **Start from students interests and questions:** This way, students can drive the work. Also, if students are passionate about it, other people (admin, the community and parents) will follow.