



VAPS[®]

NAM MY - VIETNAMESE AMERICAN PRIVATE SCHOOL

Significant Progress of MOL “Invest in a Child” Program

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MOL “Invest in a Child” program has sent 5 girls to study at Nam Mỹ, Vietnamese American Private School (VAPS), in Saigon since 2010. They are Lê Thị Hồng Hạnh, Nguyễn Thị Nhật Linh, Nguyễn Ngọc Thùy Như, Trần Thị Thương and Lê Thị Hồng Ân. Nam Mỹ/VAPS has an American-high-school-diploma track that prepares and has sent hundreds of Vietnamese students for further education in the USA.

Nam My/VAPS has given full-tuition scholarships to the girls while they attend grade 6 through 9 and 50%-tuition scholarships for grades 10-12.

TOEFL, Test of English as Foreign Language is the tool traditionally used by American colleges to determine international students’ English proficiency. Since Thùy Như lived and studied in the US for nearly a year, she is used as the benchmark for other girls on English proficiency.

The girls’ progress at Nam Mỹ/VAPS is remarkable. Hồng Ân and Hồng Hạnh usually are at the top of their classes and receive academic awards. Due to her attendance of the English program at Nam Mỹ/VAPS, Thùy Như’s English is strong enough to attend high school with American students while receiving medical treatment in Houston in the 2012-2013 school year.

The girls are capable of conversing in English comfortably with foreigners who visited the orphanage in Hồ Nai in the summer of 2014. Further, Hồng Hạnh who have never lived in the US, did slightly better than Thùy Như on the TOEFL. Thương is also very close to Thùy Như.

The girls’ high English proficiency resulted from their education at Nam Mỹ/VAPS will unlock many opportunities in both Vietnam and the US. They will be able to compete to earn seats in highly competitive English-teaching college programs whose graduates command high salaries in Vietnam. Further, they will be able to score high on the TOEFL to attend American colleges should someone at MOL be willing to sponsor them. I will be one of the sponsors. Finally, they can serve as unpaid tutors in the new MOL-sponsored English and computer training programs for orphanages in Vietnam, the two skills that are vigorously sought after by employers in both Vietnam and the US.

MOL “Invest in a Child” program has changed the lives of these five girls. Opportunities that were beyond their reach several years ago, are now within their reach. They’ll be much better and more productive adults who will be able to help themselves, orphanages and the society. I personally applaud MOL for having the vision and the persistent support to bring bright future to unfortunate children of Vietnam and thank MOL for the opportunity to serve these children.