
The challenge of education in Mexico

Mexico is a country with enormous potential, yet its students have among the lowest test scores among OECD member nations. Mexico's educational system has widely recognized problems with corruption and inefficiency.

46% of Mexicans live below the poverty line; 48% of state schools have no access to sewage; 31% have no drinking water; 12.8% have no bathrooms or toilets; 11.2% have no access to electricity. With problems like these, what chance do Mexican kids have?

The parents of students in Colegio Patria, like most rural parents, are agricultural workers with low paying, seasonal work. Over 60% of the children in the school come from single parent families. In the face of this reality, the directors of the school keep tuition low. Tuition falls short of expenses; the directors subsidize the school.

Mexico is at a crossroad

Continuing as things are will only lead to greater poverty. Incorporating technology into education *can* lead to a brighter future, but it will be hard work. Technology alone does not solve problems. Untrained teachers, who don't own computers themselves, will not be able to integrate online learning into the curriculum. Since 2013, el Colegio Patria has been training its teachers to use online resources, and taking a leadership role by sharing online teaching strategies and instructional techniques through the school's Khan Academy blog. Check under the RECURSOS tab at kanayarit.wordpress.com.

About the School

Passion, Ingenuity, Determination

Colegio Patria was founded 17 years ago by two dedicated sisters who could no longer bear to see the children of their town denied an education. Since inception the school has been run on a shoestring, community cooperation and a love of learning. It teaches 200 students from pre-school to grade 10 and has been ranked the top school in its region for 13 years running.

Come visit us. Tour the school.

Colegio Patria is on the main highway through Las Varas, only 15 minutes from Chacala. Behind a concrete wall, you'll find one joyous group of kids. Take a quick look around, or stay an hour to read with students.

Ask your host to arrange a tour, or contact the school directly at 272-0153 or 272-0235, or by email armida_santillan62@hotmail.com.



Colegio Patria

An Unlikely Success

A remarkable school in a country where 75% of students won't finish high school and 40% of secondary school teachers have no teacher training. How is this school beating the odds?



Without a good education, especially computer training, Mexican kids have no chance of breaking out of the cycle of poverty.



\$10 Bilingual Books

No student living in an area so dependent on tourism can succeed without English. Yet English is not on the state curriculum. **Buy a book. Build literacy.**

\$25 Tablet Cases

Since 2014, the kids have been opening and closing the boxes their tablets came in. **Buy a protective case to help kids think outside the box!**

\$100 Make Music

In the Revolution Day parade, the kids played 12 real drums and 160 cardboard horns spray painted brass. **Buy an instrument and turn paper into sound.**

\$300 Teacher Laptops

To get the most out of online resources, each classroom needs a computer and a projector. **Buy a laptop. Help teachers engage the whole class.**



Bridging the Digital Divide

In 2013, a Canadian dentist donated 20 used computers to the school. That was enough to launch our Khan Academy pilot. Students stayed after school every day, for 1 hour, for 2 weeks. Week after week, 20 kids at a time, the whole school got working online. This is what they felt about it!

In 2014, we launched a crowd funding campaign to buy tablets so that students can work online in their classrooms. Technology increases opportunity, but it also increases costs. Your donation, in pesos or in dollars, not only supports this school, it contributes to improving education throughout Mexico.

How YOU can help

Every peso counts. 100% goes to the school.

Buy a ball, a book, a trumpet, a drum. Sponsor a child for a year (\$625). Remember what you liked most in school and make it happen for these kids.

El Colegio Patria is a low income grassroots school. Sorry, no one click funding options. Please put your donation in an envelope and leave it with your host; or contact Diane Douglas for the school's banking information; or send an email transfer. Attach a note with your name and how you'd like to see your donation used. dianemdouglas@gmail.com
These kids *can* meet the future with your help.