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Washington, D.C. – 10/11/12: The 7th Grade class from Reid Temple Christian Academy, a private institution located in Glenn Dale, Maryland, visited the Embassy of Liberia near Washington, D.C. on October 4, 2012, as part of the school's academic program.

Reid Temple Christian Academy, which has classes from grades K-2 to 8th, has what is called the Global Embassy Mentors (GEM) Program, under which each of the various classes adopt a country, and learn about said country's history, social and cultural practices, among others.



The school's Global Embassy Mentors Program include visitation of students to the embassy of the country that is adopted for a class, visitation of embassy representatives to the school's activities, establish relationship with a school in the adopted country, encourage students in both schools to establish personal contacts through Skype or e-mail, and also create opportunities for student exchange.

It was in this light that students of the 7th Grade Class, beautifully attired in their uniforms, visited the Embassy of Liberia for about two hours of briefing and tour, which turned out to be very educational, informative, and inspiring.

The class, which was led by the school's Assistant Principal, Mrs. Donna Edwards, was received in audience by His Excellency Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh, who took time to interact with those young children, briefing them about Liberia and its people, and answering their questions.

From the glows in his eyes and his demeanor, it goes without saying that the Ambassador, who shared with the kids that he is a grandfather, was just as excited as those bright young people. They had him fully engaged with series of questions that cut across from the history of Liberia to the present state of affairs following the civil crises, to the country's abundant natural resources.

Ambassador Sulunteh urged the students to always be respectful and law-abiding. He told them that in the Liberian or African tradition, children are required to always respect their parents, teachers and school authorities, and elders. "For example, if you are seated somewhere and an old lady or an old man comes around, you don't have to be told that it is a good thing for you to get up and give your seat to them," he added.

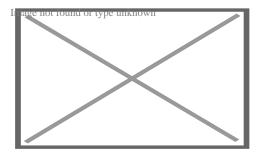
The Minister Counselor for Press and Public Affairs, Hon. Gabriel Williams, who coordinated the field-trip, lectured the students in detail on the history, culture or tradition of Liberia. He also entertained the students to some popular Liberian/African dance music.

Hon. Williams emphasized Ambassador Sulunteh's comment that American children and children in Liberia share similar desires and aspirations, but the difference is that they, the American kids, have a lot of opportunities in America that children in Liberia lack.

In remarks, Mrs. Donna Edwards, the Assistant Principal, thanked Ambassador Sulunteh and the Embassy as a whole for the very warm reception accorded the students and for the intellectual exchanges, which she hoped would broaden the minds of the children, who are being molded to become positive future leaders.

The students were finally taken on a tour of the Embassy before their departure.

Click=== >>> to View photo slideshow of the event. [1]



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