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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Arbor Academy Student Initiative Leads to Teacher Exchange Program with Tanzanian School

Exchange Program to Assist African Educator and Students

Ypsilanti, Mich., May 18, 2009 – South Arbor Academy announced today that the school will participate in a teacher exchange program with the Kibangu English School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. During the exchange, two teachers from South Arbor Academy will switch places with instructors from the Tanzanian school as part of a program designed to improve the proficiency of students and teachers at the East African school.

The program is part of an effort that began in September of 2008 with fourth and fifth grade students participating in South Arbor Academy's Advanced Learning Program (ALP). On the heels of writing pen-pal letters to students at the Tanzanian school, Ruth Knoll, president of the Andrah Foundation, a charitable foundation that promotes and supports global education, visited South Arbor Academy to share her personal experiences in Tanzania. At the urging of the students, the school moved forward with plans to begin the international teacher exchange program.

To start the process, two teachers from the Kibangu School visited South Arbor Academy the week of April 5 through 12. The teachers met with local educators to develop units of study for mathematics and geography and were sent back to Africa with three crates of educational materials, books and science supplies.

On June 7, two teachers from the Kibangu School will return to Ann Arbor to begin a six week period where they will be instructed on unit development, given needed teaching materials and provided an opportunity to practice new teaching methods.

Finally, on June 27, the entire team, including two South Arbor Academy teachers, will travel to Tanzania and spend three weeks at the Kibangu School assisting the African teachers in implementing lesson plans and assembling a new library.

“To assist in giving the gift of education to children halfway across the globe is really allowing us to take teaching to its highest level,” said Tim DiLaura, South Arbor Academy Principal. “We are so proud that two of our teachers will represent our school and the U.S. as they work to help children in Africa.”

(more)

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Photo caption – South Arbor Academy teachers Michaele Rea (second from left) and Rachel Adams (far right) will soon travel to the Kibangu English School in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania as part of a teacher exchange program with the East African school. Pictured here with Ms. Rea and Ms. Adams are, from left to right, Rosemary Wilson, Tanzanian Ambassador Ombeni Sefue, Andrah Foundation President Ruth Knoll, and Gary Countryman.

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