HOPE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

TEACHING SKILLS, CHANGING FUTURES

31 MARCH 2026

KIEN SVAY DISTRICT,
KANDAL PROVINCE, CAMBODIA

ONLINE KOREAN LANGUAGE CLASS: If students can't come to HVS, then HVS must come to students!

The location of HVS is a mixed blessing. Built in the provinces outside of Phnom Penh, the school is able to serve rural students who don't have the opportunity to take advantage of similar programs in the city. But not every student who would benefit from our school lives nearby.

Since we have such an excellent Korean language teacher and a new, standout curriculum, we want to grow this class and reach as many students as possible. Enrollment for our morning class was low, so we decided to offer it online and see if that would be a way to attract more students. Right now, there are only two online students, but we hope that this will open the door for future growth.

We appreciate Teacher Kimhourng's willingness to try something new! We are looking at ways to expand the online Korean class and perhaps offer other online classes as well.

MEASURING GROWTH: We study student performance to assess student progress.

In the US, many schools use standardized tests to measure student growth. We don't have access to instruments like that at HVS, so we created our own.

Before the first day of Term One, English students took a diagnostic test based on the curriculum they would study in the following weeks. At mid-term, we compared student performance on the exam to their performance on the diagnostic test. It's an imperfect instrument and only one of many ways to judge student growth, but we were nevertheless pleased to see improvement across the board in all four English classes.

Students in Teacher Linda's afternoon section of English Speaking and Listening Skills showed the greatest growth, raising their score by an average of 19 percentage points. We will continue to seek ways to assess our effectiveness and refine our ability to help our students learn skills that will change their futures. After all, that's our mission!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: An HVS English Student is now an English teacher!

If you are a regular reader of the HVS newsletter, you probably remember Kimmuoyhuor Phorn. She featured as our "Student Highlight" in July, and there was an article about her substitute teaching with Roza Samnang for Dr. Carey's Conversational English class in December.

Kimmuoyhuor has been studying Korean at HVS for over a year in addition to being a member of Dr. Carey's "Conversational English" class. But she recently had to drop out of "Conversational English" because she got a new job: She is an English teacher!!.

Kimmuoyhuor now teaches English in the afternoons to middle-school age students at New Start International School. Previously, she taught preschool there. When administrators learned how far she had advanced in her English studies, they invited her to re-join their faculty as an English teacher.

Fortunately, Kimmuoyhuor is able to continue studying Korean in the evenings with Teacher Kimhourng. So we haven't lost her entirely, and we can keep up with her progress. Her sister lives in Korea, and her five-year-old nephew speaks more Korean than Khmer. Auntie Kimmuoyhour can now communicate easily with him.

Our vision is for Hope Vocational School students to develop knowledge, skills, work attitudes, and professional ethics that will help them become more competitive in the labor market. We think we played a role in helping Kimmuoyhuor advance in her career. Thus, we say with pride, "Mission accomplished!"

New teacher Kimmuoyhuor (second from the right) poses with administration and staff at her new school.

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Hope Vocational School was built by the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and its Korean NGO, the Bridge of Hope. To support the school, you may donate to the Cambodian Mission Initiative Advance #00230A and indicate that your donation is for HVS.