



## STARTALK: Summer Hindi Program for High School Students

There was STARTALK Summer Hindi Program for high school students at Thomas A. Edison High Schools in July 2010. Fifty four students registered in the program and fifty-two students completed it. This was a three weeks program geared around learning the Hindi language and sharing the history and culture of India. Those students who successfully (pass or fail) completed the three weeks program was awarded a gift certificate of \$100 each. This program gave them an opportunity to get college credits in the foreign language before they enter college by taking a Foreign Language Examination with NYU.

In order to appreciate students full commitment to the program and maintain a continuity a STARTALK Reunion Day was celebrated on October 30th at the same school. Students from all three classes came to meet their teachers and class mates. Sushma Malhotra, Director of the program and all teachers greeted and appreciated students for staying in the program. Students were asked to send their feedback responses before attending the Reunion Day. Most of the students expressed their interest to continue next year and wanted to have more days and long hours in the summer. That day also many students gave their feedback about the program. Mrs. Malhotra, then asked students to conduct a Saturday Hindi class at Thomas Edison HS. Response was encouraging as a many students expressed their interest. After finalizing the schedule and taking care of administrative issues there is a possibility of starting Hindi class in November 2010. After extending a warm welcome and sharing their personal experiences, teachers distributed gift card of \$ 100 from Staples or Barnes and Nobles to each students. Subsequently all students received a bag of Indian snacks. The whole atmosphere was of celebration with gift card, eating and chatting with teachers and friends.

To see the pictures of this reunion activity, please [click here](#) .

Sincerely,

Sushma Malhotra  
Program Director, STARTALK