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# Blog lets Easthampton students learn on vacation

By CATHERINE BAUM  
Staff Writer

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Saturday, February 21, 2009

EASTHAMPTON - White Brook Middle School science teacher Jeffrey Bucs has one rule for his students when they return from school vacation next week: no complaining.

The rule appears in Bucs' blog from Ethiopia, [mrbucsmissiontoethiopia.blogspot.com](http://mrbucsmissiontoethiopia.blogspot.com), which students checked throughout the week. Students were assigned to email Bucs thoughtful questions about the sub-Saharan African country and the work being done there this week by the World Surgical Foundation, of which Bucs' father is a member.

The foundation performs surgeries on sick people there and training for doctors in Ethiopia. Bucs' role is to document the progress in a blog for foundation donors and his students. Tuesday's post included the rule that prohibits student complaining.

"What I will show you in the upcoming weeks will give you a window into how many of the world's people live," Bucs wrote. "Their desperation and vulnerability is beyond most of our experience."

Seventh-grader Sarah Sienkiewicz, who checks the blog multiple times a day, said that post is her favorite.

"I've learned a lot of people are sick in Ethiopia," Sienkiewicz said. "I'm so lucky. We're getting so much here."

- CATHERINE BAUM

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White Brook Middle School seventh-grader Sarah Sienkiewicz follows the travels of her science teacher, Jeffrey Bucs, on his blog about his trip to Ethiopia.



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