

Ryan Rowlands, Public Affairs Officer, US Embassy in Macedonia
April 23, 2008
“Dane Krapcev” primary school, Municipality of Gazibaba

Dear Mayor Trajanovski, Principal Stankovska, Mr. Prenton, teachers and students – good morning!

I am happy to be here on such a happy occasion – the completion of this school renovation.

By upgrading the windows, we have not only improved the learning and working environment for hundreds of students and teachers, but we have helped to save energy.

Environmental protection is a key priority for this municipality, and for this country as a whole.

Children are our future, and the best gifts we can give them are good education, and a clean, healthy environment.

Students, it will be your job to take care of your renovated school because you will pass it on to your younger brothers and sisters and even your children in the future.

This project targets both of these important goals.

That is why the American people, through USAID, have made an investment to improve this and many more schools across Macedonia. During the life of the USAID Primary Education Project, up to 100 schools will receive major upgrades.

This is just the beginning. School renovation is only the first step in improving the quality of education in Macedonia – but it's a crucial step.

Because when school conditions are good, the teachers can concentrate on teaching – and the students on learning.

I would like to congratulate you all on this impressive accomplishment, and on the partnerships that have been built between the school, the municipality, and the community.

Let's continue our joint investment in the future of Macedonia!

Thank you!