Since 2002, students have studied outside of the classroom in an innovative program sponsored by the State Department of Education and ETSU’s summer school programs. A cross-listed interdisciplinary community-based learning class called Diversity in East Tennessee places students from across the ETSU campus in the Spanish-speaking community to work directly with migrant children and youth. ETSU students work as teacher’s assistants to develop and implement educational curricula within their area of expertise. Teams of community members, certified teachers, and ETSU students and faculty spent 24 hours a week with up to 50 children at a site in Johnson City TN. Migrant children from Washington, Unicoi and Greene Counties are bussed to the site for a program that spans five weeks.

The Migrant Education Program (MEP) gives students an opportunity to experience a near-immersion environment by working with this growing segment of the population. Since 2006, the ETSU MEP has been held at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church. With a 2008 Summer Enrollment Enhancement Grant and computers donated from the ETSU PASTA program, a seven-station computer lab was installed for our migrant students. 700 Service-Learning hours were logged by ETSU students during the 2008 ETSU MEP, and 1,041 during the 2009 ETSU MEP, and 1,772 during the 2010 ETSU MEP.

Here are some pictures from past summers and the 2010 MEP: