

WORLD CULTURE & LANGUAGE FAIR 2018

"Peace can only be achieved by understanding." ~ Albert Einstein

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." ~ Mother Teresa

Thank you so much for your interest in our World Culture and Language Fair 2018! This is the 3rd edition of this fun and popular event. Here below are information and tips to help you better understand the event and prepare for it.

DATES – TIMES – LOCATION

The event is scheduled on Friday, October 19th, 2018, 8:00 – 11:15 AM. Volunteers will be contacted by email a few days before the event, given a specific room number and informed of any last-minute changes. On the day of the event, some of our students will welcome you at the Coral Cross in Robinson Yard and direct you to your allocated room.

PARKING

We do have limited visitors' parking on campus. Parking will be granted on a 1st come 1st served basis. Let us know if you would like a parking lot: we will send you an email a few days ahead with a parking lot number, if available.

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

All languages and cultures are welcome. We are particularly interested in languages and cultures that are not taught in our school or in local and U.S. schools. Languages and Cultures previously represented: Russian, Tuvan, Italian, Hawaiian, Tagalog, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Korean, Japanese, Tajiki, Finnish, Hindi, Japanese, Thai, Lao, Uzbek, Danish, Mandarin, German, Azeri, Farsi, etc.

EVENT FORMAT

Some details of the fair format might be slightly modified as we get closer to the event. However here is the general idea below

The Fair will start at 7:45 AM with practical information given to the students in the gym. You do not have to attend this introduction and can go directly to your classroom to prepare for your presentations.

Students will be given a "passport" to travel from one "country" to the other. Starting at 8:30 AM, you should get your first group of students in your room. Every 15 minutes, students change classroom/country. Please help them move on as needed.

The size of the groups is limited to 10 students. Once this number is reached, the door closes; extra students will need to quickly find another room/country. Students have 5 minutes in between each session to rush to their next chosen room/country. This is like "speed dating" with cultures!

Once all the sessions are over, students will gather again in the gym. You are welcome to join or leave if you need to.

For you as a presenter, this format means that you need to prepare only for one 15-minute presentation. This same presentation will be reused 6 times throughout the morning.

Please note:

Students will be able to sign up for only 2 cultures or activities offered on the list. All other sessions will be “first come first serve”, which usually generates much excitement and energy in the halls as everyone is rushing to their next most desired room/country.

Important! Students tend to gravitate towards cultures that they already know. This is precisely the fixed mindset that we want to challenge during the fair, by limiting students’ choice. It also means that your room might have sessions with low attendance or even no attendance! If this is the case, we hope that you will not take offense for it and will still want to partner with us in our attempt to expand our students’ horizon. In case of no attendance, just kick back and relax!

If you have only a limited amount of time to spend with us and need to leave before the end of the fair, no problem! Just let us know, so that we can write a clear schedule for everyone.

We will not have child care available, but you are welcome to bring your child(ren) if you think they will be comfortable in this setting. Our students usually love to interact with young children!

FAIR GOALS

Language - This event was originally created by our language department. Knowing how essential a language is to a culture and to peoples’ sense of self and identity, one of our goals is to make sure that a little bit of language is included in each presentation

Below the surface – one of our Global Leadership program’s goals is to go beyond the surface of “charming cultural items” and have students reflect on deeper and potentially uncomfortable differences: values, expectations and rules, notions of beauty and modesty, etiquette, social status, personal opportunities, notions of age and gender, place of children in society, fairness, personal and collective space, notions of cleanliness, importance of time, type of government, etc. According to your changing audience and your own level of comfort, please feel free to present and discuss these notions with the students.

Peace – Ultimately, the goal of this event is to increase knowledge, open students’ mind and work toward a more understanding, flexible and peaceful world. Given the format of the fair, it could be argued that the knowledge gained is superficial. Yet many of the cultures represented do not yet exist in our students’ mind; after the fair, they will and that’s progress! Your country/culture/language’s name on the program, your mere presence on campus and the ability our students will have to meet with you make it all very real. We thank you for that.

YOUR AUDIENCE

Grades 6 to 12 – this means from fun-loving, energetic teenagers to sophisticated young ladies, sometimes mixed in 1 session.

USEFUL TIPS

You do not have to do a formal presentation with Power Point. If you have a particular skill, you could use it to shape your presentation. A young man from Spain who was a good singer brought his guitar and

even ask for audience participation! A Japanese radio show host led us in Japanese through a set of wellness exercises. Storytelling and crafts are good options too.

You are welcome to bring food samples to share. Students with allergies are usually very careful with food and will ask the right questions before sampling it. Make sure that you communicate clearly on the ingredients used.

More formal presentations are fine too. You will need to bring your laptop. Please see below for projecting needs or tech assistance.

Keep in mind that your audience will probably need to know where to locate your country. After that, it is up to you: traditions, arts, crafts, food, music, lifestyle, landmarks, spectacular sceneries, fashion, body language, games, famous people, songs, funny commercials, animations, etc. are all good themes. Students are also very interested in knowing how students their age live their life and they also enjoy personal anecdotes and family pictures and realia.

Artifacts, photos, books, maps are great additions to any presentation. You may also come in your national/ethnic costume if you have one available.

Whatever your content is, the key to a successful presentation is to make your audience participate and invite them in doing something, moving around, acting and interacting, singing, etc. Teaching a bit of your language might be a good opportunity to make your presentation more interactive.

Language – Students should have the opportunity to try a little bit of it. Basics greetings, survival sentences that you find in any pocket phrasebook for tourists are fine. Keep it VERY simple so that the students can eventually try this out with partners. You can also have them repeat the longest & shortest words in the language, the words/concepts that cannot be translated in English, words that have made it to English or the other way around; you can choose a theme (for example: comfort food, or happiness) and share a short list of essential words and expression relevant to that theme. Quotes and sayings can work, kids' songs or pop songs too.

Finally, remember that your presentation should last no longer than 10-15 minutes. It goes very fast, especially if you have an interactive part embedded in it! Let us know if your presentation will have a particular theme so that we can announce it ahead of time and generate interest.

Question? Do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Sipola at msipola@standrewsschools.org

If you decide to contribute to the World Culture and Language Fair 2018, please fill in, copy/paste and return leaflet below so that we can communicate with you until the event. Thank you!

Return address: msipola@standrewsschools.org

Your full name:

If a school parent, your child's name and grade:

Are you an IHC student?

How did you hear about this event?

Email:

Tel (home):

Tel (cell):

Do you need parking?

Will you bring a child with you?

Will you need a projector?

What kind of laptop are you planning to bring to school? Be specific so that we can provide the right connectors to projector and speakers.

Do you need speakers?

Will you need any kind of tech assistance? Please be specific

Please specify any limit you have on your time if any:

Ideas, suggestions, questions: