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MPS students host United Nations World Fair to promote peace

Wednesday, April 20, 2022



Nearly 3,000 students in grades 4 to 8 from 16 MPS schools filled the UWM Panther Arena on April 19 to share their research of countries across the globe. Student displays included photos, maps, and important facts about each country and culture. Projects dug deep to explore the strengths and challenges of each nation and the role each country plays in its region or continent. The World Fair was the culmination of the year's United Nations Schools of International Learning (UNSIL) program, which is implemented in 16 MPS schools.

The highlight of the day was a series of student performances that included drumming, dancing, traditional songs, and a multicultural fashion show. Students had the chance to show pride in their roots by wearing traditional dress from their cultures. Schools in the UNSIL program serve students from diverse nationalities, languages, and cultures. Students at these 16 schools speak 35 different languages.

"This is such a unique opportunity for our students," said Superintendent Dr. Keith P. Posley. "The World Fair is the culmination of months of research, and this event allows students to proudly display their work, meet students from other schools, and take part in a shared experience that promotes peace and understanding."

Through the UNSIL curriculum, elementary and middle school students are researching and learning about countries and world issues. The program promotes cultural awareness and develops skills needed in a global setting. Each year of the program expands upon the previous year's work and moves students along a spectrum from studying to analyzing to taking action.

Grade 4 – Research on countries

Grade 5 – Technology project on the organizations and committees of the UN

Grade 6 – Global sustainability goals position paper

Grade 7 – Public service announcements on the UN Agencies and priority goals

Grade 8 – Service learning project

The World Fair is made possible by visionary local philanthropists: the Annette J. Roberts & Joan R. Robertson Fund for World Peace, World Law, and Peace Education. Through the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the MPS

Foundation, the trustees of this fund established the United Nations School of International Learning curriculum in MPS. The program began in 2016 in nine schools and is now implemented in 16 MPS schools: 95th Street School, Fairview School, Fernwood Montessori, Garland School, Lincoln Center of the Arts, Manitoba School, Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language, Milwaukee French Immersion, Milwaukee German Immersion, Milwaukee School of Languages, Parkview School, Story School, Gilbert Stuart School, Victory School, U.S. Grant School, and Zablocki School.

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