

PRESS RELEASE



Multi-Cultural “World Café” Serves Students Rich Academic Fare

For immediate release: March 8, 2006

Tampa, Fla.

There was something on the “menu” for students of every age and grade at this year’s annual Independent Day School - Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) Multi-Cultural Day. Sponsored by the middle school, the experience was created around the “World Café” concept and honored diversity at home and abroad.

“Multi-Cultural Day is an extension of the curriculum at every grade level - sixth, seventh and eighth,” said Betty George, middle school division leader. “Teachers in each subject area planned lessons prior to the event around a global perspective. Those lessons were then connected to research middle school students conducted and presentations they developed and contributed to the World Café.”

Students in Pre-K3 through fifth grade actively participated in the event as they visited the World Café, a.k.a. the middle school gym. Once seated at their “café” tables, they learned about a wide variety of topics from their middle school student hosts who visited the tables. Sixth graders served samples of international foods they had prepared at home explaining the food’s origin and cultural significance. Working jointly with their English and math teachers, seventh graders made grade level appropriate presentations about foreign rates of exchange. Eighth grade students researched their family heritage as part of the Social Studies curriculum and became a “roving museum” as they moved from table to table and described their individual roots.

In addition, stage performances throughout the day were another exciting way students exchanged information. Traditional Asian, Indian and African dress along with current fashions from Tokyo, London and New York were modeled in a fashion show segment. Students demonstrated dances, recited poetry representing various countries, and demonstrated nuances in melodies found in different cultures around the globe.

“Every student was highly involved and engaged throughout the entire day,” said Linda Boza, middle school division assistant leader, “The middle schoolers were very successful at actively involving their café ‘guests’ through their informative and enjoyable presentations and their enthusiasm.”

“It was important to us as teachers to make sure that every piece of the academic curriculum was integrated into the day,” said George. “Our goal was to enable students to make connections: connections between what they do in the classroom and the multi-cultural experience and also connections between the various disciplines. We wanted them to see that what they learn in math class, for example, is indeed connected to what they are doing in social studies or Spanish.

“And isn’t that what a multi-cultural day experience is all about? Making connections on a global scale.”

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located in northwest Hillsborough County with 550 students from Pre-K3 through 8th grade. At IDS, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 2,000 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers. For more information about IDS visit <http://www.idsyas.com>.

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