



Madeira Board of Education, 7465 Loannes Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45243
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French Students Highlight District's Cultures

In the span of a day, Madeira High School (MHS) French Club students brought the essence of Russia, Turkey, South Africa, Switzerland, Germany, France, Brazil, Mexico, and Spain to Madeira Elementary School (MES).

Around the World in ONE Day was the club's first cultural festival, designed to showcase cultures of the world representing the Madeira community's own unique cultural identity. It was organized by MHS French teacher Nichole Gergen and French Club officers Sofia Garcia (President), Mia Wyrick (Vice President), Payton Oliver (Events Coordinator), Grayson Slusher (Secretary), and Eva Fischer (Treasurer). A bake sale was held with profits donated to COPA - a Francophone non-profit organization from Canada that works to prevent child abuse and promote social change.

MES students and their families were invited to attend and upon arrival received free buttons designed by MHS senior Samantha McKee and made by the French Club officers. Students also received a passport to fill out while they "toured around the world" and received stamps at each booth. French Club members volunteered at the event greeting students, working at the bake sale, and painting faces and Turkish henna.

Each cultural booth was run by a Madeira High School student and his/her family showcasing their family's heritage with objects used in their country's everyday life. Many booths featured cultural foods for students to taste including South African pork, Swiss cheese, Mexican candy suckers, German gummy bears and Spanish tortillas. In addition, elementary students enjoyed writing their name in Russian, painting Carnival masks, making Zulu necklaces, and playing the French game bilboquet.

Every year the French Club votes on a non-profit organization to support with one of their fundraisers. Of this year's event, Nichole Gergen stated, "All of the French Club members and I were thrilled with the community turnout for this event and look forward to making it an annual tradition."

*MHS French Club member
Drew Evans shares his
knowledge of Switzerland
with Arturo and Luna
Mendez-Morales and their
mother Miraida Morales.*

