

An Endorsement from an Educator

Mary Ann Hand, Lowndes High School, Valdosta, Georgia



Dear Colleagues,

As a fellow educator, I would like to personally and professionally, endorse the **Azeala International Folk Fair** as an outstanding learning opportunity available to the students of our community. I encourage you to incorporate this local treasure into your curricular planning and development for the upcoming academic year. As advisor to the Lowndes High School's Cultures in Action Club, it has been an honor to be a special part of the Folk Fair's vision. The organizers of this event are completely dedicated to providing an invaluable learning experience that serves to promote understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of diverse world cultures in an effort to produce a spirit of global citizenship. Through your students' involvement in this amazing opportunity, the world is literally brought to their doorstep. It is as if the world is throwing open a door, opening her arms, and warmly welcoming each student, treating them to new friends, new places, new ideas, and new experiences.

Your students will be measurably meeting numerous **GPS (Georgia Performance Standards)** as they walk through room after room of informative, geographically relevant and culturally indicative displays, as they listen to and interact with people from over 40 countries, as they hear the music, watch the dances, taste the foods, as they participate in dozens of international arts, crafts, games, toys, and puzzles. Just to give you an idea, these are some of the GPS that you can use in your lesson planning:

SS6G1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12... Covering the geographical and cultural aspects of Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Australia, and Oceania

SS7G1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12... Covering the geographical and cultural aspects of Africa, Southern and Eastern Asia, and Southwest Asia (including the Middle East.)

ELA(6, 7, and 8)LVS1... The student participates in student-to-teacher, student-to-student, and group verbal interactions.

ELA(6, 7, and 8)LVS2... The student listens to and views various forms of text and media in order to gather and share information, persuade others, and express and understand ideas.

ELA(6, 7, and 8)R2... The student understands and acquires new vocabulary and uses it correctly in reading and writing.

ELA(6, 7, and 8)RC2... The student participates in discussions related to curricular learning in all subject areas.


ELA(6, 7, and 8)RC3... The student acquires new vocabulary in each content area and uses it correctly.

ELA(6, 7, and 8)RC4... The student establishes a context for information acquired by reading across subject areas.

The multicultural arts, crafts, games, toys, puzzles, foods, dances, presentations, and displays are activities that are quite frankly far beyond what we as teachers can hope to provide in school. No textbook, no geography or social studies movie, indeed no other opportunity can teach what can be learned during a single day in one trip to the Azalea International Folk Fair. The entire experience is an integrated, interactive, global, mind-expanding, **FUN** lesson for our children. The students' hearts, minds, and senses will be fully engaged and actively employed: visual (seeing the arts, the displays, and the costumes), auditory (hearing the music, the presentations, and the languages), tactile (touching the fabrics, making crafts, folding origami, and solving hand-held puzzles), olfactory and gustatory (smelling and tasting the foods, the sweets, the spices), and kinesthetic (physically playing the games and participating in the joyful dancing).... This Festival is a **"TOTAL" LEARNING EXPERIENCE** that is unlike any other!

The Folk Fair gives all of us, students and teachers alike, more than a chance to learn for a moment or for a day or two; it provides us with gifts that will last a lifetime. Please, commit to bringing your students. They will never forget this as one of their happy childhood experiences, and ultimately, in a beautiful, enriching way, it will bring us all a little closer to our brothers and sisters around the globe.

Work with us, as our motto "One World, One Spirit," becomes a reality for all through this wonderful program.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Hand, Educator
Lowndes High School
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