



Minnesota International Center  
A World Affairs Council

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## Media Alert

# Tour of the World at Northeast Middle School

## Northeast Students Celebrate A *World Cultures Day*

**What:** World Cultures Day at Northeast Middle School in Northeast Minneapolis  
A day-long series of cultural showcases, sponsored by the Minnesota International Center, to introduce 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to world cultures, face-to-face.

**When:** Friday, May 30, 2008; 9:40 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

**Where:** 2955 Hayes St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

**Highlights:**

- Students learn about daily life in other cultures, meeting face to face with 22 international guests, natives of 17 countries, including: Bangladesh, Bulgaria, China, Ecuador, Germany, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.
- International guests rotate throughout classrooms in the school making a total of 81 visits to around 500 students. Speakers show their traditional dress, artifacts and colorful cultural showcases.
- 9:50 a.m. – Dr. Ellen Kennedy from the Minnesota's Genocide Intervention Network talks about the genocide in Darfur; Brian Van Tassel performs on a traditional African drum; 3:00 p.m. -Blanche Krbechek performs a traditional Polish hymn on a bagpipe.

The Minnesota International Center (MIC) believes that if the world can be personalized to young people, they will become more aware and informed about world cultures.

*World Cultures Day* is part of MIC's statewide effort to provide the students of Minnesota with opportunities to interact with people from other cultures. MIC aims to awaken the children's curiosity and increase their cultural competency so they can successfully participate in our multicultural community.

**Details:** Northeast Middle School, as an International Baccalaureate World School, places a great emphasis on providing its students with an open learning environment, where intercultural learning and conversation among its students and faculty are at the center. Northeast embraced the concept of a World Cultures Day because it will help students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world.

Each student receives a "passport," stamped by international guests from each country, which serves as a reminder of the day's experiences and multicultural purpose.

During the current academic year, MIC coordinated more than 900 statewide visits of 100+ speakers from 65 countries to an audience of 25,000 students in Minnesota schools.

**Notes:** News photography and filming at the event permitted.



Funded in part by the Education Minnesota Foundation

Acclaimed as a national model for world affairs programs, the Minnesota International Center (MIC) inspires the Minnesota community to understand global issues and cultures in an ever changing world. In 2006, MIC was awarded the Carol Marquis Award for Excellence in School Programs

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by the World Affairs Councils of America. Find out more at [www.micglobe.org](http://www.micglobe.org).