



## Students Enjoy Immersion Day Event

Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School was recently transformed into France, Germany, and Mexico when approximately 50 third and fourth graders from the WRPS district took part in the "Passport to the World" event.

These students "traveled" between the three countries where they experienced the culture and the language of each country through numerous hands-on learning activities. Specifically, students were treated to a French crepe while taking a mini course as a French doctor's assistant. They learned the colors in Spanish with a balloon game in order to make and describe a colorful Mexican paper carnation. Their visit to Germany had the students learning about articles of clothing, singing, and making hats. These engaged young learners were also able to hear about life in other countries during a discussion panel with students from Lincoln High School who are either foreign exchange students, or who have traveled to other countries with the World Languages Department.

Some of the comments from the students recorded at the end of the project when asked what they will remember the most about the morning included, "singing 'Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes' in French;" "singing and dancing to the 'Hat Song' in German;" and "learning colors with the balloon toss game in Spanish."



An extension of classroom learning combined with volunteering created this successful service-learning project. "This is a true service-learning project due to the active participation of a number of student volunteers. They were able to apply concepts from class and pass their knowledge on to the third and fourth graders. I think it was unique for our students to be on the teacher's side of the classroom," said Jake Wendtland, who teaches World Languages at East Jr. High and Lincoln. Junior high and high school student volunteers worked side-by-side with World Language teachers in planning and presenting the morning activities.

