

Northaven's Annual World Fest



Northaven Elementary is Making it Happen!



WE ARE one of twelve elementary schools, serving grades K-5th, within the Greater Clark County School Corporation. We are a traditional neighborhood school situated in Jeffersonville, IN, a suburb of Louisville, KY. The community is of mixed income, which is comprised mostly of single-family dwellings and apartments. We serve 468 students currently with a poverty rate of 78%.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES offer diversity both geographically and ethnically. Our students represent 22 different countries and 13 different languages are spoken. Our population is 61% Non-White, 39% White/Non-

OUR TEACHERS are comprised of 19 general education classroom teachers, two Interventionists, one Academic Improvement Coordinator, two Certified PE and Related Arts teachers, one Pre-K teacher with special education, and three ESL teachers. NES also has one ESL translator and one principal.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE The school-wide and community supported Annual World Fest has grown over the last three years. We combined multicultural activities, information stations, exhibitions, and traditional food and dance to showcase the diversity that makes Northaven "The United Nations" of elementary schools.

OUR STEPS began in 2014 with students singing, a traditional dance performed by a visiting group, booths were set up in the gym, and some multicultural arts and crafts were created. The festival has grown so that in April 2016, 100% of classrooms came alive as a country of a student's cultural background. As students visited each "country", they earned a stamp within their passport, which counted for prizes awarded to the world travelers. Twenty countries could be visited and experienced on April 14, 2016. We have sustained and grown with 100% staff buy-in, >75% attendance per room, and combining as a Title 1 event with community support.

IN OUR OWN WORDS one teacher wrote, "The event exposes students and teachers to cultures from around the world-including those they encounter daily at school!" #CelebrateDiversity

'It doesn't matter where you come from. If you're a boy or girl. Difference is normal in this multicultural world.'" -song lyrics from performance this year.

"I learned that just because you have a different culture does not mean we're not family. So it means we are one big family with cool and different cultures. We learn together, and love each other other." -S. King

For more information about our school or corporation, email: Tonja Brading tbrading@gcs.k12.in.us or visit our website: www.gcs.k12.in.us