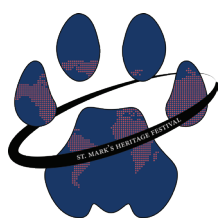


Heritage Festival

AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY



Syon Doshi, '23, poses with her grandparents and her mom, Gury Doshi, who came in to talk about their journey from India to Houston in the 1970s; Emmie Shaw, and Jack Kelly, all class of 2029, parade their homemade flags down the main hallway with the rest of their classmates



To see a video recap of our week, visit www.stmes.org/heritage

One of the highlights of our diverse community is our annual Heritage Festival, held in the early spring. This incredible week-long celebration has evolved from the initial project of dedicated parent volunteers and supportive faculty who formed a multi-cultural committee. The committee's work aimed at nurturing attitudes toward others that recognize the differences and celebrate the similarities of all people. It is our hope that by learning about each other we can create a positive environment of understanding and mutual respect in which our children grow and learn to be good citizens of the world. The current celebration, now led by a committee of faculty, has preserved this initial intent, and created a public forum for acknowledging and celebrating our diversity on a yearly basis. Parents are invited to work with classroom teachers

and present individual heritages, traditions, or customs.

We are in our second year of following a curriculum plan to for each grade level for Heritage Festival, which allows students to enjoy different activities from year to year, instead of repeating projects, like researching their family tree. Ultimately, our goal is to provide an age and developmentally-appropriate celebration of the diversity of our school community. This year, we brought back the popular Parade of Flags to our Opening Ceremony. Our 8th graders carried the flags of countries represented in our school family, and students who chose to participate paraded in behind their country's flag. We ended the week with Folk Dances from Around the World, an opportunity to learn new folk dances from Russia, Sweden, Israel, and more!

Heritage Festival Annual Grade Level Programming

Preschool 2s
Who I Am:
Flag Project

Preschool 3s
Find the Beat:
Songs and Dance

Pre-K
Tour of Fun:
Toys and Games

Kindergarten
Sharing Our Stories:
Folktales and Languages

1st Grade
Exploring Our Roots:
My Family Tree

2nd Grade
Discovering Dress:
Traditional Attire

3rd Grade
How We Got Here:
Immigration and
Family Movement

4th Grade
Traversing Verse:
Biographical Poetry

5th Grade
My Family's History:
A Comprehensive
Research Project

6th Grade
Digging In:
Exploring the Wide
World of Food

7th and 8th Grades
Speaker Series:
Diversity / Tolerance
Racism / Conflict Resolution