



Before performing a traditional dance, Mrs. Sandy Zaragoza fixes her daughter's hat. The two plus several others performed at World Culture Night. Addelyn Rogers photo

Flags of different countries represent students from different cultures who attend Greenwood schools. World Culture Night celebrated diversity. Addelyn Rogers photo



GHS celebrates first World Culture Night

By Davion Jones
feature editor

World Culture Night debuted on Sept. 12. The event had many visitors come to meet people from their own cultures and different cultures. Some people represented Mexican cultures, such as Mayans, Aztecs, Zapotecs, Otomis, and Nahuas. Others represented Indian cultures such as Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, and various tribal populations in India. Volunteers expressed their cultures through dances, food, and conversations.

World Culture Night had multiple food options, including Mexican food trucks, Indian food trucks, and an Ella's frozen yogurt stand. There were activities, such as welcome bags for those who entered, craft tables, and prize tables with candy.

Mrs. Angela Jones, ELL teacher, explained World Culture Night.

"Our goal is to provide information for other cultures and for everyone in the public to come and learn about cultures celebrated at our school and for ELL students at GHS to come and have a night to express their culture," she said.

Mrs. Jones gave an estimate of the number of participants.

"We had a great turnout. We had more students and people attend than we thought we would. We had many students come dressed in their cultural apparel and we perform and dance. An estimate of people that came to the event was around 250 visitors," she said.

The turnout pleased Mrs. Jones, and she plans to host the event annually.

"The event is going to be annual, and the resource tables would have less time. Hopefully, the auditorium will be put to use so students can have a wider area to perform their performances," she said.

Sophomore Simrin Singh performed a dance for her culture.

"I am performing dances of Indian cultures and representing Punjabi, Aryan, and Pallar. My friends and family are so excited. My sister made a song and has been practicing for the last two months, Singh said.

Singh was happy to connect with others who share her culture.

"I am excited because I am Indian, and some of my friends are from Turkey. One is excited and wants to perform for her culture, too," Singh said.

Students explore French, Spanish clubs

By Malakai Cruse
reporter

Foreign language clubs provide opportunities for students to explore French and Spanish culture in a fun, stress-free environment.

The French Club is open to all students and aims to provide a unique French experience even for students not enrolled in a French class.

"I think it's important to learn about other cultures. We offer three French courses, but the club is a way to open it to the entire student body and for them to learn about French culture because it's really interesting," Mrs. Nina Gondola, French teacher, said.

French class can teach the basics of the language, but the club helps students further appreciate the language of love and the culture surrounding it.

"We have food, and we have more time for presentations and games. You don't have to stress about grades. French Club is more relaxed, of course," Mrs. Gondola said.

Even taking three years of a foreign language does not guarantee that the knowledge will last past high school. French Club adds more memorable French experiences and expands learning past the surface level

"It's easier to learn because it's more fun. Sometimes, we'll do stuff like Jeopardy, and it just adds to the curriculum and learning," senior Felix Swalie, club president, said.

Spanish Club kicked off in early September with Mrs. Mindi Ward as the sponsor.

"Our club is student run, and the first call out meeting is where we discuss what we want the club to look like. My goal for this year is to provide a place for any student interested in anything related to the Spanish language or culture," she said.

At this time the club is small, as many seniors who ran it last year have graduated, but Mrs. Ward is welcoming everyone to try it.

"If we have a small club, we could just hop in my car and drive to a museum. If we have a huge club, we can host bigger events," she said.

Spanish Club also looks great on college applications, and that motivated many previous students to take on leadership roles.

"Many of our seniors from last year initially joined so they could put it on an application. They completely led the club last year," Mrs. Ward said.

Spanish Club next meets in PowerHour 2 on Oct 7, and French Club meets every Friday in PowerHour 2.



Juniors Felix Whaley and Bethlyn Fawkes present during French Club. The club meets every Friday during PowerHour 2. Catherine Lamonaca photo

New Asian Alliance Union begins meeting

By Eli Martin
feature editor

The Asian Student Union Club is one of the newest clubs and is a safe place to share Asian culture.

This new club is sponsored by Mrs. Sunny Gullery, art teacher. They meet on Thursdays during PowerHour 2 in her room, Room K210.

"The Asian Student Union Club is really just a way for Asian students and also other students to learn about Asian cultures, food, and to get together to meet. This is done to hopefully get a sense of belonging to something or understanding what is going on in other Asian cultures," she said.

The inspiration comes from the high school leaders.

"I think the inspiration is just really sweet – how Asian culture is loved by many people and not just Asians. It is a great way for people to come together and see something that they may know a little about but can learn so much more from these cultures," Mrs. Gullery said.

One of these leaders is junior Juney Jones. Jones explained the purpose of the club.

"It's a place where GHS can connect with Asian culture. The club is pretty new. We haven't gotten everything done, but we just laid out our agenda, and there is food," she said.

Junior Reeda Hasan commented on her goals

Sophomore Moriah Suarez creates posters during a meeting. Suarez made these posters to promote their new club. Abigail Wilcox photo

for the club.

"It was created for Asians to be able to collaborate and for all to have a safe place to connect with others," she said.

Hasan also laid down the foundation of the Asian Alliance Union.

"The values of this club is for connecting with others and to be accepted and acceptive of everybody else. Everyone will bring their own cultural foods for everyone to try. It allows for you to understand how everybody is different but also as one as humans. In all, the values are to be connected with one another," Hasan said.

The club has had a larger turnout of food samples than expected.

"We have just been bringing in snacks as large meals are sometimes a hassle to bring in. People have brought in snacks, like Japanese snacks, Korean, Chinese, and other places around. So any kind of snacks and foods," Jones said.

Sophomore Van Lalrosang attends with his friends.

"I like hanging out with my friends Peng and Jonas. The food and snacks were really good, and the snacks are cultural snacks from Asia," he said.

