
ATTN: EDITORS AND REPORTERS

MEDIA ADVISORY

- WHO:** Passport to Africa - 7th and 8th grade students
- WHAT:** Culminating performance and open house
- WHEN:** THURSDAY, May 21, 2009 10:00 am- 12:00 pm
10:00 am-11:00 am Performance
11:00 am -12:00 pm Open House
- WHERE:** Blewett Middle School – 1927 Cass Avenue
- VISUALS:** **GREAT VIDEO!** Middle School students in colorful and authentic costumes performing African drumming, dancing, storytelling and poetry; Students “traveling” around their school with a personalized passport acquiring stamps from various African themed classrooms
- INTERVIEWS:** Hollie Russell-West, Blewett Middle School Principal
Barbara Carswell, Executive Director, Springboard

Blewett Middle School students have been participating in the 2nd Annual “Passport to Africa,” an intensive arts-integrated educational program that enables students to experience the cultures, taste the food and learn about the histories, climate, ecology and geography of Africa’s 54 countries. Passport to Africa was created by Wendy Saul, Shopmaker Professor of Education in collaboration with Springboard at UM-SL in part to respond to concerns of teachers that students did not think of Africa as a continent comprised of many distinct cultures and countries. The program is also a way to keep students engaged after they have completed MAP testing through the end of the school year. Students have participated in programming with The Green Center, UM-SL, Missouri Botanical Garden, local teaching artists such as Kunama Mtendaji, Daidie Bathily and many more. Passport to Africa is supported through a partnership between Springboard, Interchange and the St. Louis Public Schools.

Please contact the following with any questions:
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