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# Students learn about African heritage

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BY EDDIE HOLLOWELL  
STAFF WRITER

LAKWOOD — When the history lesson ended for students at Lakewood Middle School yesterday, many demanded an encore.

Seventh-grader Sarah Czaplinski said she was willing to miss her lunch period just to see it again.

"It was awesome. I liked everything," Sarah, 12, said.

Students were brought into the auditorium to learn about African heritage through a musical performance by Winceyco, a Vauxhall-based group that performs for schools, churches and other organizations throughout the state.

The program emphasized the African-American impact on music, from the Negro spiritual and contemporary gospel to the more recent rhythm and blues and rap. There were also a few black history tidbits mixed in, including the fact that African-Americans were responsible for inventing items such as the mailbox and refrigerator.

Principal Josue Falaise said the group was brought in for the students to gain "knowledge about their history, whether it be the African history and their journey to America or the history of the music."

Seventh-grader Adriana Williams, 12, said the performance was a creative and fun way to teach student about African heritage.

"I loved it," Adriana said.



TOM SPADER PHOTO

Tunu Thom, left, and John Booth of Winceyco, an entertainment group, perform at Lakewood Middle School's Black History Month program.

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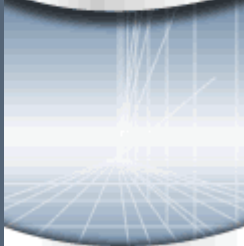


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The show began with a brother and sister quizzing each other on their knowledge of music. Quickly they realize that the music they know barely extends beyond the 1990s. Suddenly, the siblings are taken back in time to Africa, beginning a journey that follows the roots of music to present day.

"People think our history began with slavery, but long before our people were slaves they were kings and queens in our continent of Africa," Winceyco director Wincey Terry said.

Terry sang a variety of songs and lead a soul train line that got Falaise, teachers and students grooving.

"She had a wonderful voice," said seventh-grader Edward Moore, 13, who sang and danced from his seat throughout most of the performance.

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