

For immediate release

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Queen of Peace Students Experience Lyric Opera Backstage Tour

Over 125 Queen of Peace students visited the Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 North Wacker Drive, on Tuesday, March 9 for a guided backstage tour. Through the Lyric Opera's Education Department, the students received a privileged view of areas not normally open to the public, such as the orchestra pit, dressing rooms, various sets, stage, and prop and wardrobe departments. They saw the inner workings of the Civic Opera House and the Ardis Krainik Theatre and what goes on behind the scenes of the world-class company.

"The Lyric Opera backstage tour helped foster a better understanding and appreciation for an art form (opera) that not many teenagers know about," said Stacy Kolack, Assistant Principal for Student Life. "We learned about the hundreds of people that make a performance possible – the hours of preparation and planning, and the multitude of gifts and talents that all combine to put on a world-class production."

This opportunity, made possible by a generous donor, is part of the school's Arts Without Borders program, initiated last year to expose students to varied art forms and venues. Each year the program has grown, and by 2011-12, it will expand to include the entire student body. This expanded arts program also reinforces concepts students learn in the classroom and fosters higher level thinking skills. The sophomore class recently visited the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie and attended a performance of "Anne Frank" at Moraine Valley Community College after incorporating Holocaust studies into classroom discussions/lessons.

"The Arts Without Borders program exposes our students to passionate professionals within the fine arts community and allows them to see, experience and understand their world from a new perspective which helps to further engage them in their academic studies," said Arts

Without Borders coordinator Anna Reynes. “At the sophomore level, especially, the World Studies teachers have used arts integration to help students more deeply understand the Renaissance, the Holocaust and the culture of India.”

Peace’s frosh especially enjoyed trying on authentic costumes and armor and visiting the wig, makeup and prop departments.

“I enjoyed most seeing what goes on behind the scenes,” frosh Mary Jennings (Chicago – 60655) said. “The tour of the Lyric Opera showed us all the effort, work and time that go into putting together a production.”

Peace’s senior attended a student matinee of “The Elixir of Love” on March 16 at the Lyric Opera. Queen of Peace, an all-girls Catholic high school, is located at 7659 S. Linder in Burbank.

“The Arts Without Borders program is important because it shows us there are so many important opportunities available outside of the classroom,” frosh Jacquelyn Lee (Chicago – 60655) said.

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