

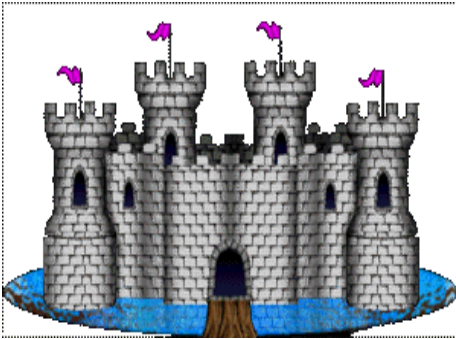
# Medieval Faire

Contributed By: Gena McReynolds  
gmcrey@ricochet.net

## A Culmination Activity:

To culminate our study of the Middle Ages, we have a Medieval Faire. It is a full day for the students. Special activities are scheduled for the entire school day and a very special Medieval Banquet (complete with medieval plays) for parents is planned for the evening. Students wear medieval dress all day.

### *Activity #1: Building Castles:*



The first activity is castle building. Students are arranged into groups of 3-4 and have met during the last week to plan their castle. Nothing can be pre-fabricated. Several guidelines have been given (list of parts of the castle that need to be included and labeled, must have tarp for floor, wood base, nothing toxic, glue guns with parent note only, ...). Students are given 3 hours to complete their task. Points are given for cooperation, labeling, clean up, creativity, etc.

### *Activity #2: Games:*

In the afternoon, we have a tournament (tug-o-war, balance games, ....). Students also make a Coat of Arms (to be used at the Banquet as center pieces), play backgammon, and have their last play practice.

### *Activity #3: The Banquet:*

The Banquet takes place in our auditorium. Thanks to many parent volunteers, our auditorium is transformed into a Great Hall. Ivy, greens from gardens, and candlesticks help in the transformation. Castles from the morning are on display, as are individual banners students have made, the ballads they have composed and written in calligraphy, the stained glass windows they created (using 5x5" glass, liquid lead, and liquid stain, edged in copper tape), and huge tapestries (medieval scenes on butcher paper).

Parents take over the food prep for the evening. Some years, they collect money and order trays of food (medieval style) from the store. Other years, all parents bring in a part of the meal. Bread, vegetables, meats, cheese, potatoes, chicken, tarts, juice, etc. make for a delicious meal.

Time is given for the students to show off their work. Then they seat their parents or guests. We begin with a handwashing. Then students serve the food in courses. In between courses, medieval plays are presented. The evening is strictly for the adults. Students serve the food, clean up, and present their plays. Many parents come dressed in costume also.

It is a big day for the students (and teachers!). It is a highlight of the year. The day after, when energies are lower than usual for all, we show the Richard Gere medieval movie "First Knight". The students enjoy the movie.

*Activity #4: Curriculum Integration:*

Students read . . .

The Door in the Wall:

- <http://www.literature.org/authors/wells-herbert-george/the-door-in-the-wall/>
- <http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/door/doortg.html>

OR

[The Ramsay Scallop:](#)



during this unit of study. Backgammon is taught in Mathematics. The ballads and calligraphy are part of Language Arts. The play is created in Drama class. Tapestries are studied in Art. Medieval music is played and discussed in Music.