



image courtesy of Monroe Products

The Drum Call—Artist in Residence

• Workshops • Assemblies • Classroom Lectures

William "Whit" Whitten, founder of the Drum Call Center and director of the ensemble Drum Call and Friends, is lead drummer for Chihamba, a traditional African dance and drum troupe. Whit is also a percussionist with the ensemble Afrikan Drum Festival. Whit has studied with master drummers in North America and West Africa. He was sponsored by the U.S. government to tour Europe with the Cultural Music African Dance Company. Whit is a member of the Virginia Commission of the Arts' Artist in Educator Residency Program. He is masterful at working with diverse people of all ages. Whit uses his drums and himself as tools to facilitate the building of bridges and creation of harmony within homes, schools, and communities.

Music Standards of Learning

- The music standards are to be used as guidelines and benchmarks for student achievement and to provide a variety of musical experiences throughout the different grade levels and grade clusters. The Drum Call Artist, "Whit," will address the Cultural Context and Music Theory strand by developing an understanding of music through experiences in singing, moving, listening, and playing instruments. He will assist students with understanding the relationship of music to history and culture by making connections between music and other fields of knowledge. This can be explored by having students observe, listen, respond, reflect, analyze, interpret, and evaluate his style of drumming, a lesson in the history of African drumming, and or connecting facets of African history with European history.
- **Examples of other Standards of Learning:**
 - Civics
 - 1.12 The student will recognize that communities in Virginia include people who have diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who make contributions to their communities, and who are united as Americans by common principles.
 - 2.12 The student will understand that the United States is a land of people who have diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who make contributions to their communities, and who are united as Americans by common principles.
 - 3.2 The student will study the early West African empire of Mali by describing its oral tradition (storytelling), government (kings), and economic development (trade).
 - Virginia Studies
 - VS.1 The student will develop skills for historical and geographical analysis including the ability to:
 - identify and interpret artifacts and primary and secondary source documents to understand events in history;
 - make connections between past and present;

Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) Characteristics

- The Diversity Resource Teachers of the ACPS have adopted three characteristics of Culturally Responsive Teaching of which the second and third characteristics will be included in the drum call presentation.
 - Communicating and practicing high expectations to empower all students.
 - Acknowledging and incorporating the relevance of cultural heritage of students into instructional strategies.
 - Building positive relationships with and among students in the context of culture.

Recommended Instructional Pre-Post Planning

An expectation is that staff members will consider the above standards and appropriate CRT characteristics as pre and post planning strategies to maximize the expertise of the Drum Call Artist in Residence.