



Students from Walkertown High School learn how to make potato fritters during a stay in Old Salem's Hidden Town on Friday, May 4. Twenty-two students and 10 chaperones spent the night where enslaved and freed African-Moravian people lived in Salem.



Martha Harley, Old Salem Inc. director of research and outreach, shows students how to harvest vegetables on Friday, May 4.

Photos by Tevin Stinson

A night in Hidden Town

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Last week, students from Walkertown High School ditched their smart phones, laptops, iPads, and other high tech devices, and spent a night in Old Salem's Hidden Town, an initiative created to research and reveal the "hidden" community of enslaved and freed African-Moravian people of Salem.

In a three-part series last summer, The Chronicle unveiled the findings of Old Salem Inc. centered on the Hidden Town Project and the untold narratives of Africans in Salem. In the early stages of research, the committee found out that Old Salem's Hidden Town Project might be one of the most important archeological sites of the urban enslaved in the country.

During their stay in Hidden Town, through hands-on and immersive activities, the Walkertown students learned what life was like for the African people of Salem.

The day in Hidden Town for the 22 students and 10 chaperones began at St. Phillips Moravian African-American Church with a brief introduction.

After a tour of a few interesting spots along the way including the Doctor's House, and Christian David's house, it was time to prep for dinner. Students, parents and teachers harvested herbs and vegetables in the gardens while others made potato fritters inside.

After that, the group walked to the Tarvern for an outdoor fireside conversation led by Joseph McGill, founder of the Slave Dwelling Project, and representatives from Old Salem Inc.

Old Salem Museums and Garden's Hidden Town

Project is an initiative created to research and reveal the history of the "hidden" community of enslaved and free Africans and African-Americans who once lived in Salem, North Carolina. The Hidden Town Project will track the effects and legacy of enslaved people from the inception of Salem itself through the Jim Crow Era and into the 21st century

The Slave Dwelling Project's mission is to identify and assist property owners, government agencies, and organizations to preserve extant slave dwellings. Its goal is to bring historians, students, faculty, writers, legislators, corporations, artists, and the general public together to educate, collaborate, and organize resources to save the important collectibles of our American history.

Building on progress at Cook

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Looking to build on the progress made in year one under a new instructional model, Cook Literacy Model School is adopting a new initiative that will extend teachers' reach on more classrooms.

According to principal and executive director Dr. Paula Wilkins, the initiative coined Reach to Excellence, is a rebranding of what it means to be a teacher leader at Cook.

The initiative will consist of four new roles and nine positions with various responsibilities and expectations for each. For example, Multi-Classroom Teachers (MCL), one of the four new roles, will be responsible for coaching teachers, writing lesson plans and working with students in multiple classrooms. MCL's will also be held accountable for student outcomes.

Wilkins said MCL's will serve as an intermediary between the teacher and the principal.

"They are considered kind of like a lead teacher," continued Wilkins. "When we get to a place where there are questions about results and accountability they're held accountable for the results in that classroom even though they're not always delivering the day-to-day instruction."

The second new role, Expanded Impact Teachers (ETC), will take on responsibilities with more students with help from the third new role known as Reach Associates. Similar to a teacher's assistant, the ETC will also serve as a coach or mentor for the Reach Associate.

The Cook Family will also look to add two additional positions for specialization teachers in reading and science.

While discussing the new initiative and teacher leadership roles, Dr. Wilkins said she wants the community to know that this is not another restart model. She said, "The increased roles are related to increase in responsibility, accountability, and expectations."

Wilkins, who took the reins of Cook in the summer of 2016 after the school was



Wilkins

in the local district has adopted the initiative Cook has launched. Wilkins said she and a team of teachers visited several schools in Charlotte that have been using the model for more than five years.

"I visited several schools. I talked with instructional superintendents about their implementation. I talked to principals and we had a team of teachers make recommendations," Wilkins continued. "... And the model recommendation they made was

flagged as one of the lowest performing in the state, noted a lot of "pre-work" was done before the decision was made to implement the changes. Although no other school

the model we went with."

When asked why she thinks the new initiative will work at Cook, Wilkins said she has always been a believer in strong teachers and their ability to turn a school around. She said her goal is to create an environment that supports teacher and students success, and creates a continuum of teacher leaders.

She said, "If teachers don't get the proper training, coaching, and feedback they need this cannot work."

"One of the things that will be a huge part of this model is coaching and feedback. Not only for the teachers on a day-to-day basis in the classroom but for the additional teacher leaders."

"I can't coach everybody in my building but vicariously through coaching other people I can."

For more information on the Reach to Excellence initiative, a full description of the new roles launched at Cook Literacy Model School is available on the school's official web page.

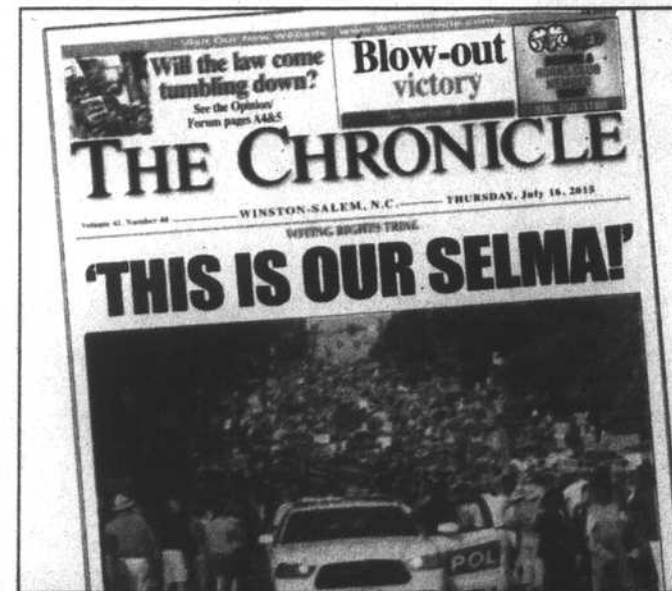
Corrections

The Chronicle apologizes for an error made in the print edition on May 3. In the page A2 story with the headline "Social Services has new director," the size of the Forsyth County Department of Social Services' budget was incorrect. The department has a budget of \$45 million to \$50 million.

The Chronicle regrets any misunderstanding that may have resulted from this error. The Editor

Also, The Chronicle apologizes for another error made in the print edition on May 3. In the page A1 article with the headline "Board: Replace Ashley HVAC units" a cost for roof improvements was incorrect. In fact, the cost included for improvements was \$200,000. The sentence should read, "An additional \$200,000 was including in the total cost for improvements to the roof."

The Chronicle regrets any misunderstanding that may have resulted from this error. The Editor



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