

Dance/New Jersey

Presents

DANCE EDUCATION ON THE MOVE

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Welcome to the second edition of a new initiative for Dance/New Jersey. Dance Education on the Move is a bimonthly e-blast that includes information about dance education resources, lesson ideas, student comments, fun quotes and information from the field. As a Dance/NJ member, you are invited to submit information for the e-blast. Enjoy this issue.

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Proactive Advocacy: Anticipate, Prepare, Be Ready

Advocacy is the art of making one's own views count in the decision-making process. It is communication with a purpose (Arts for Everykid: A Handbook for Change, 1992). Educators involved in the arts, especially dance educators, must take responsibility to advocate for the benefits students gain as a result of participating in a dance education program. What is it that dance provides to a student that no other curricular area offers? This is the question you need to answer to convince others that dance is an essential component of a student's education.

Be proactive with advocacy. This means use ongoing strategies to communicate to parents and administrators about the value of your program instead of reacting to a crisis and then scrambling to find support. A few ongoing strategies that can highlight the benefits of dance are:

- Invite parents, faculty and administrators to observe a class.
- Contact the local press to cover a performance or a personal story on one of your students.
- Develop a webpage that highlights your program.

- Communicate with parents via a newsletter or email. Use pictures (with permission) and articles from the students about their dance experiences.
- Collaborate with other faculty members for an interdisciplinary project.
- Create hallway bulletin boards that show students involved in the dance classes.
- Plan for the 2008-2009 school term. How will you inform others about your program? What are your plans for the annual "Back to School Night"?

Fun Quotes About Dance and Beyond

- "I believe that dance communicates man's deepest, highest and most truly spiritual thoughts and emotions far better than words, spoken, or written." - Ted Shawn
- "Dance has been my freedom and my world. It has enabled me to go around, scale, bore through, batter down, or ignore visible and invisible social and economic walls." - Pearl Primus
- "Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it, we go nowhere." Carl Sagan, Astronomer and Pulitzer Prize author

Resources:

Featured Dance Education Books

Cone, T., & Cone, S. (2005). Teaching Children Dance (2nd ed.). Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

This book contains a practical framework and approach for presenting creative dance lessons to children in kindergarten to fifth grade. It combines essential dance content appropriate for an elementary-level program with detailed descriptions of strategies. It features 20 learning experiences that include ideas for assessments and ways to expand the lesson.

Kassing, G., & Jay, D. (2003). Dance teaching methods and curriculum design. Champaign, IL; Human Kinetics.

The book includes an overview of the essential information needed to plan a dance program in the Kindergarten to the Twelfth grade setting. Through the book, educators can gain access to program models, dance education theory, and practical skills that emphasize effective teaching and program design.

Kaufmann, K. (2006). Inclusive creative movement and dance. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

This book helps teachers guide students with diverse abilities to express their feelings and ideas through creative movement experiences involving dance learning, dance making and dance sharing. It also provides in-depth coverage of inclusive dance instructions teaching strategies, practical learning experiences, and movement

Music Resource

www.multiculturalmedia.com **Multicultural Media specializes in producing and distributing world music and dance CDs. Videos and DVDs.**

If you have music resources please send them to me for future newsletters

Next edition: Please send resources, quotes, or students responses to the following question; What is your preferred dance form and why? Send the student's age (no names), your name and the school.