When you walk into a Dance Makers in the Schools classroom you see every student working collaboratively on a hands-on creative project. They are engaged, they are working together and they are excited!

— Ariel Asch, dance educator, University Neighborhood High School

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A Sample Project

Creative Movement for Middle School at Girls Prep Middle School Lower East Side for 8th grade ELA class
Dance Makers in the Schools Teaching Artist: Alicia Ohs
Girls Prep Partner Teachers: Sara Walsh and Leigh Conner

Every spring semester, a text from the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum serves as inspiration for a new unit. The teaching artist uses the text as a jumping off point for students to create original choreography. Through making new dances, students deepen their understanding of the text and gain experience with embodied learning and creative process.

In Spring 2015, the classes created choreography based on Medea. Dance Makers Teaching Artist Alicia Ohs directed and combined their duets and small group works into an epic performance piece, which they presented and performed for the entire school at their last Unity Meeting (assembly).

Dance Makers in the Schools provides a creative outlet for students to showcase their dance abilities while maintaining a rich focus on the curricular components of the ELA classroom.

— Lacy Reed, Principal, Girls Prep Middle School Lower East Side

About

Dance Makers in the Schools is a creative enrichment program bringing dance into the school day for preK-12 students. Developed by Movement Research, a leading non-profit in the field of contemporary dance, Dance Makers in the Schools builds collaborative partnerships between dance teaching artists and local public, charter and independent schools to provide opportunities for movement explorations and choreographic collaborations.

Movement Research partners with each school to create a program that serves the school’s specific needs with a carefully-matched teaching artist. Teaching artists work with classroom teachers to develop artistic content and thematic material that is developmentally-appropriate. They design and lead residencies in consideration of the unique culture at each school.

Dance Makers in the Schools invites students to be creators and investigators through multi-modal learning methodologies that emphasize kinesthetic, social, emotional and cognitive learning.

Unit plans and goals are aligned with the NYC Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts and the New York State Standards for the Arts (Dance).

Teaching artists incorporate both summative and formative assessments throughout the in-school residency. Individually designed culminating events range from the production of a dance video to school-wide sharings of student-created work.

Teaching Artists

Dance Makers in the Schools teaching artists are award-winning creators, performers and educators. Accolades include New York Dance and Performance Awards, MacArthur “Genius” Fellowships, Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant Awards and more.

A sample list of current and recent teaching artists follows:


Contact

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