

# WHAT IF EDUCATION COULD...?



*Deepen students' sense of community and belonging*



*Inspire creativity and critical thinking*



*Positively impact self-esteem and mental health*



*Challenge students to see different perspectives*



*Encourage collaboration and negotiation*



*Empower student voice*



*Motivate problem solving*





# ***IT CAN!***

## ***With quality Drama and Dance education.***

***Arts and Culture in  
Ontario directly contribute  
\$25 billion  
annually to the provincial  
economy, representing  
3.3%  
of Ontario's GDP.***

Statistics Canada, 2019

***Drama changed my life.  
It was the one place in  
high school that I could be  
my true, authentic self. It  
was a safe place where I  
was able to make mistakes  
in performing without  
feeling judged, which  
eased my anxiety and  
gave me more confidence.***

***Former Student,  
Bluelwater District School Board***

*Drama and dance exploration teaches students the value of their own mind and body. They foster a desire to learn about the thoughts of others... to build understanding and foster empathy.*

*- Teacher,  
Lakehead Public Schools*

**72%**  
*of business leaders say that Creativity is the number one skill they seek when hiring.*

Arts Ed Navigator:  
Facts & Figures 2014

**97%** *of*  
*Ontarians agree that engaging children in the arts is important to their overall development.*

Ontario Arts Council, 2017

# WHY DRAMA AND DANCE **MATTER!**



## *Drama and Dance...*

### **1. BUILD COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH**

Drama and dance use collaborative learning models and teamwork which fosters feelings of belonging and self worth in students. Research shows us that engagement with the arts significantly predicts students' sense of meaning and purpose, and impacts students' beliefs about themselves and their place in the world.

Martin, A. J., Mansour, M., Anderson, M., Gibson, R., Liem, G. A. D., & Sudmalis. D. (2013). *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 105(3), 709-727.



### **2. PROMOTE CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS**

Drama and dance education provide ongoing opportunities for students to examine identity, empathy, and perspective in nuanced ways. This kind of culturally-responsive pedagogy "is key in addressing current issues of equity, ability, academic achievement, retention and success for all students. Because the arts draw upon the background knowledge of students, teachers note that through arts-integrated teaching and learning, student voice and cultural backgrounds are invited into the curriculum."

Kerrie Bellisario, Lisa Donovan, with Monica Prendergast (2012). Lesley University.

### **3. DEVELOP STUDENTS' ABILITY TO LEARN & BUILD RESILIENCE**

To date, Researchers have not been able to identify a comparable activity that develops the cognitive capacity of children in the same ways or to the same extent as arts (dance, drama, music, visual art) education does. Engaging with the arts also helps students develop empathic intelligence, which enhances their emotional engagement, commitment and persistence.

OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) Skills for 2030 (2019).



### **4. CREATE LIFE LONG LEARNERS**

Globalization and quickly-evolving technologies point increasingly toward the need for students to possess strong social emotional skills and a growth mindset. Drama and dance education ground students in discovery thinking and promote flexibility, positive attitudes towards lifelong learning, and curiosity that will be critical as they navigate the 21st century and beyond.

OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) Skills for 2030 (2019).

### **5. EQUIP STUDENTS WITH CRITICAL COMPETENCIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

Students who regularly participate in educational theatre and drama activities are:

- Better at problem solving
- More innovative and entrepreneurial
- More active citizens
- More interested in voting and participating in public issues
- More dedicated toward their futures

DICE Consortium (2010), Hungary.



*The amount of reading comprehension information I got from students through activities such as Voices in the Head or Hot Seat blew me away and was beyond anything I ever would have received from a worksheet or reading response. The engagement level was off the charts.*

*Teacher, Trillium Lakelands*

*Marginalized students who are highly engaged in the arts are*

**2X as likely**  
*to graduate college as their peers with no arts education.*

Arts Navigator:  
Facts and Figures, 2014

**code** is a not-for-profit organization that works to encourage and support the development of drama and dance in education in Ontario.

*Through our website and conferences we provide:*

- curriculum leadership
- resources
- professional development
- ... and more!

*CODE collaborates with partners provincially, nationally, and internationally in our efforts to promote quality drama and dance education in Ontario.*



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