



What is CODE?

The Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators is the subject association for drama and dance education in Ontario. Our network provides professional learning and resources to over 900 educators through our website, conferences, and regional events.

CODE is a non-for-profit organization run entirely by volunteer educators, whose goal is to encourage and support teachers in the implementation of drama and dance programs in Ontario.

DANCE in Ontario schools

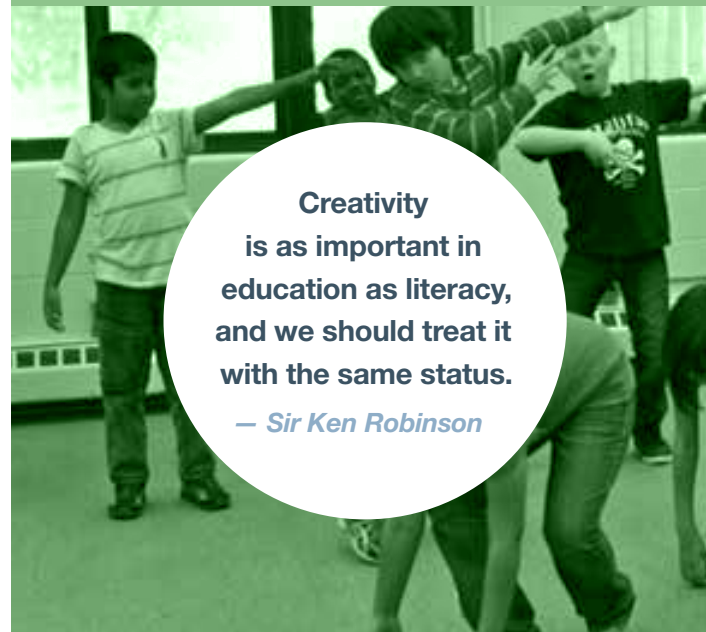


Why the Arts Matter

It is through the expressive languages of the Arts: Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts, that we build broader understandings of the world around us.

CODE believes that all children in all schools must be educated in all of the arts in order to ensure:

- ▶ Social equity
- ▶ Creative thinking/problem-solving
- ▶ Critical thinking
- ▶ Digital and technological literacy
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Empathetic communities



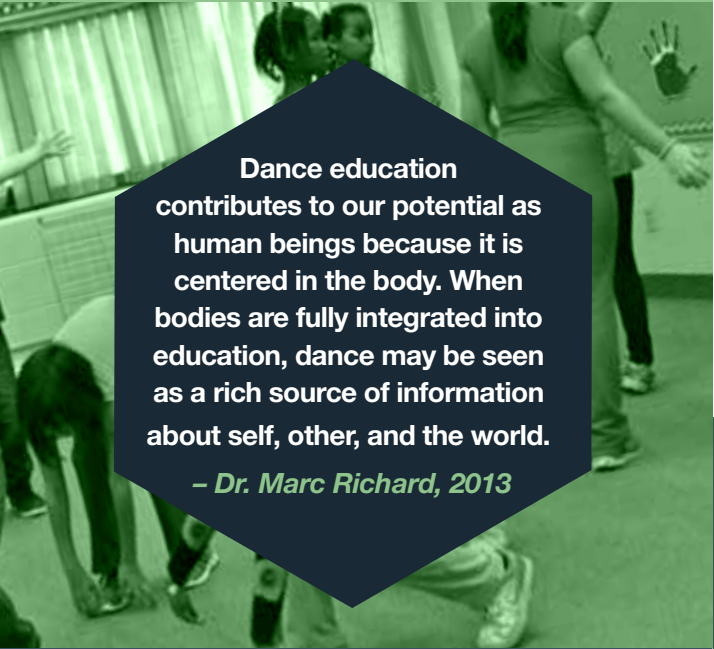
**Creativity
is as important in
education as literacy,
and we should treat it
with the same status.**

— *Sir Ken Robinson*

code.on.ca

What is Dance education?

Dance education is more than movement for fitness or entertainment. Dance education emphasizes learning, creating, and watching dance performances. It involves thinking and learning with the body, mind, and spirit. It develops self-regulation skills and body control. It includes all students of both genders, all body types and of all abilities.



Dance education contributes to our potential as human beings because it is centered in the body. When bodies are fully integrated into education, dance may be seen as a rich source of information about self, other, and the world.

– Dr. Marc Richard, 2013

Movement is our first form of communication, our first language.

Dance education:

- ▶ Allows students to use their bodies for learning
- ▶ Develops the ability to communicate our thoughts, values and feelings
- ▶ Gives access to what our bodies know
- ▶ Supports students as social beings developing co-operation and shared decision-making
- ▶ Nurtures students' abilities to discover and solve problems
- ▶ Builds empathy and celebrates difference
- ▶ Promotes self-esteem, respect, and care for the body
- ▶ Focuses on the interaction of real bodies in real time and space (not cyber bodies in cyber space)



Arts education is key to ensuring students' success in school, work and life.

– Arts Education Partnerships, 2013

How is dance education different than dance training?

- ▶ Dance education focuses on the personal, social, intellectual, and physical skill development of students through movement, rather than the acquisition of steps.
- ▶ Dance education works with everyday movement and body language.
- ▶ Dance education provides access to all students. It is not based on talent, and fees are not charged.

90% of parents reported that The Arts motivated their kids to learn.

– Dr. Rena Uptis, 2011

