

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE ARTS 2007-2008

Name of Organization: Gypsy Folk Ensemble

Art Form: Dance

Teacher Grade Level: K-3 4-5 6-8 9-12

Goals & Purpose of Professional Development Opportunity: Our goals are to further dance education by providing teachers with the materials, techniques and confidence to teach dance, to encourage their students' active participation in dance, and to use folk dancing to promote learning in social studies and foster an appreciation of cultural diversity.

1. Alignment with state standards in the arts and district arts initiatives: Artistic Perception is addressed by providing dances specially selected to illustrate dance formations, cooperation in dance, dance movements, step patterns, dancing to different rhythms, and the basic elements of choreography. Creative Expression is developed by suggesting topics for discussion connecting dance with everyday living and participation in sports, and by discovering how to enhance dance through individual self-expression. Dances and materials emphasize the Historical and Cultural Context of folk dance by providing information on the role of ethnic dance in society and the variations in music, formations, steps, and style in dances from different regions. Aesthetic Valuing is developed by introducing teachers to the vocabulary of dance, and by discussing the connections between dance, costume and environment. Appropriate to Connections, Relationships, Application are discussions of dance music and instruments, and methods for relating folk dance to geography and cultural studies

2. Classroom Teacher arts subject mastery or skill description: In two fully interactive user-friendly workshop sessions, teachers will acquire a grade appropriate repertoire of folk dances for use in dance education and class activities. Participants will learn how to analyze and "break down" dances into elements for teaching. Teachers will be given methods of teaching dance to children at lower and upper grade levels. Information on the role of dance in different societies will be provided. Participants will learn ways of adding creative expression to dances.

3. Improvement in student access to the arts curriculum or experience: Students will be able to learn a number of folk dances which can be used to illustrate dance principles and promote participation in dance for class projects as well as being able to participate in the "joy of dancing."

4. Meets the needs of special education, English language learners and culturally relevant and responsive education: Folk dance is made up of a number of simple separate elements which can be individually mastered. It is not necessary to master all elements to be able to participate in and learn from dance. Students can learn at their own level and master elements one at a time. Dance can be communicated both verbally and non-verbally; English language learners can learn dance through imitation and repetition in the same way folk dance has been transmitted for centuries in most cultures. Dance is an important element in both African and African-American cultures and we always include African dances and background material in our teaching repertoires. Folk dance with its strong cultural ties can be used inspire pride and a willingness to further learning.

5. Short- or Long-term professional development plan: In the short term, teachers are provided with dance material that can be used for class presentations, cultural festivals and holidays. Teachers are also being introduced to the art and practice of folk dance which can be incorporated into a long term plan of experience and expertise in dance education.

6. Number and type of participants recommended: All teachers in the school

7. Access to special opportunities unique to the organization: The Gypsy Folk Ensemble has extensive experience teaching dance to children and adults and has compiled a unique group of dances specially chosen to illustrate and exemplify state dance standards. Teachers are provided with music and instructions for dances specifically designed for classroom use.

8. Options/choices within the Professional Development Opportunity: Different packages of dances are available for different age levels. The program can also be tailored to fit a particular geographic or cultural region of interest to a school.

Description:

Item	Rate	Quantity/Hours	Sub-Total
2 hour Interactive Workshop	\$300	2 / 4 hrs	\$600
Materials (includes a CD and a 40 page syllabus including directions for all dances and suggestions for classroom activities related to the dances)	\$250	1	\$250
GRAND TOTAL:			\$850