



EDUCATIONAL ARTS TEAM

Transforming Children's Hearts and Minds through the Arts

Theater Infusion

A Theatre Arts and Literacy Series

Grade level: 3 - 8

Theater Infusion lesson plans integrate literature lessons with theater arts strategies by incorporating creative drama, theater games, puppetry, and process drama into any classroom curriculum. Since the series began in 2005, the Team has documented both the strategies and lesson plans in two handbooks that are available for elementary and middle school teachers. The series and the handbooks are the result of two district-wide projects funded by the United States Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement over a six-year period.

In February 2008, independent evaluators from Seton Hall University reported that the Theater Infusion Project made a significant difference in how well students developed in the academic, pro-cognitive and pro-social domains. They noted that students' exposure to the arts at an earlier age increased the likelihood for improved academic, pro-cognitive, and pro-social growth.

During the first of the two projects, evaluators discovered that for the more than 500 students who participated for two consecutive years 90% passed the New Jersey language arts standardized tests as opposed to 70% of the over 550 control group students. Additionally, 17% of the participating group scored advanced proficient to only 2% of the control group. For results of the success with Drama and Arts Integration, please [Click Here](#).



JCPS students during a Theater Infusion workshop

"Educational Arts Team is a wonderful experience for the children. It is an innovative approach to learning. You are always welcome." Ms. Andrea DeLuca, Teacher, P.S.# 23 Jersey City, NJ.

"All our students have benefited. They were able to verbalize thoughts and write them down as dialogue. Many of the students have improved their social skills. Some, for example, have developed more confidence sharing ideas and speaking in front of others. Others have improved their self control by not calling out and taking turns with conversation." Ms. Emily Savasta, Teacher, P.S. # 8 Jersey City, NJ.

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