



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.

# WHAT IF EDUCATION COULD...?



Effectively develop critical thinking skills

Motivate problem solving

Empower student voice

Positively impact self-esteem and mental health

Encourage collaboration and negotiation

Deepen students' sense of community

Challenge students to see different perspectives

Inspire creativity

**IT CAN!**  
*With quality drama  
and dance education.*





# WHY DRAMA AND DANCE **MATTER!**



## Drama and Dance...

### 1. DEVELOP STUDENTS' ABILITY TO LEARN & BUILD RESILIENCE

To date, researchers have been unable 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)



### 2. ARE KEY IN HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP 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 towards their futures

DICE Consortium (2010), Hungary



### 3. BUILD COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

Drama and dance use collaborative learning models and team work 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.

### 4. ARE CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE

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.

### 5. 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 mind set. 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)

