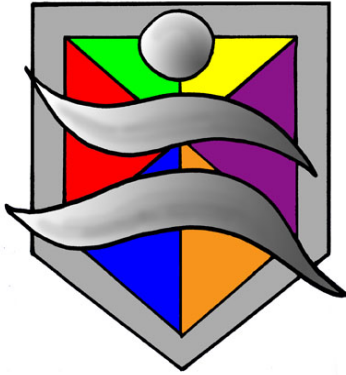


OLD DONATION
CENTER

Dance



DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program
Volume 2 Number 8
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ODC Dancers Visit the Visual and Performing Arts Academy



Monday Students with chaperone, Mrs. Wall (mother of Monday student, Haley)



Tuesday Students with current VPAA students (and former ODC graduates) Also pictured, VPAA dance instructors, Pam Washburn and Quianna Erb



Wednesday Students tour the Black Box theater



Friday Students, in one the dance studios, listen to current VPAA dancers describe dance program



Thursday Students listen to an overview of the Academy programs



Thursday Student, Aila Castane with Pam Washburn. Mrs. Washburn taught at ODC before transferring to dance department at VPAA

A Bridge Between Two Schools

Last week the ODC Dance and Visual Arts students visited the Visual and Performing Arts Academy at Salem High School. The students found out that The Visual and Performing Arts Academy (VPAA) offers an interdisciplinary curriculum of differentiated academic and applied instruction in the arts. Students may focus on one art strand or they may choose two as a dual strand participant. During their four years in the program, students participate in 70 master classes. A wonderful new curriculum development is the opportunity for ODC 7th and 8th dance and art students to earn up to 16 hours that would transfer to VPAA. These hours would count towards the 70 required master class hours. Dancers will be required to write reflection papers to earn these hours. Information about these papers will be going out this week.

At VPAA, job shadowing opportunities and senior internships provide students with hands-on experience. Students are expected to participate in performances and exhibitions during their four years at the academy. In the dance strand, students develop an awareness of the body as an instrument of expression. They refine their skills in dance technique and choreography, and increase their ability to move creatively. Exposure to great master dance works allow students to analyze the special characteristics of noted performers, choreographers, critics, as well as understand how these individuals have shaped the history of dance. In addition to the required core classes, students in the dance strand are expected to take ballet and/or modern dance technique each year. Other course electives include: World Dance, Dance Composition, American Dance Forms, Body Systems, and Historical/Cultural Perspectives in Dance. Students are also required to perform in at least two showcases each year. In combining academics and dance, the students are offered the opportunity to be inducted into the National Honor Society for Dance Arts.

Many dancers from ODC audition and are accepted into the academy each year. All of these dancers feel they received excellent training at ODC and prepared them extensively for the academy dance program at Salem High School. Students like that they do not feel excluded from the rest of the school and are able to participate in all school functions. Many of the dancers are school cheerleaders and belong to several clubs and organizations. The students also liked that they did not have to leave the school grounds to participate in dance. Presently there are 28 former ODC dance students attending the VPAA.

Some important dates for Salem are:

December 2 - Visual and Performing Arts Academy Open House. All interested in the academy should attend.

January 9th and 10th - Academy Showcase (all strands) at Salem HS.

Feb. 1st - Applications deadline

Feb. 21st – 28th - VPAA auditions - Time TBA

May 1st and 2nd - the Dance Showcase.



ODC Dance Calendar - Upcoming Dates

October 31- End of 1st Grading Period

November 3-4 - Staff/Parent/Teacher Conference Days

November 11- Veteran's Day – No School

November 26 - Half Day – No ODC

November 27-28 - Holiday – No School

December 11 - City –Wide Information Night 6:30–7:30

A city-wide information meeting will be held with the Dance Education and the Visual Arts faculty members. The faculty will describe, explain and answer any questions about these two programs. This meeting is for parents and students interested in applying to either of these programs for next year.

December 17 – 21 The Winter Celebration

This is a time that students, teachers, and parents come together to celebrate the conclusion of the dance history unit. Parents are invited to come to Studio 1 from 12:00 until 1:30 on the day your child attends. Students and parents are invited to bring food and drink for our "reception." Mrs. Spear-Jones will be calling parent volunteers from each day to help come and set up the tables and serve food. If you turned in a blue volunteer sheet at the beginning of the year, she has your number. If you would like to volunteer and you did not turn in a blue sheet, please call her at 473-5043 or e-mail her at gwen.spear-jones@vbschools.com. This is a wonderful time to celebrate our special dance community.

Parent/Teacher Communication:

1) ODC phone number 473-5043

2) Faculty e-mail addresses

- Elizabeth Albarado

eliza-
beth.albarado@vbschools.com

- Gwen Spear-Jones

gwen.spear-jones@vbschools.com
(parent volunteer coordinator)

- Valerie Winborne

valerie.winborne@vbschools.com

- Laura Wright

laura.wright@vbschools.com

3) TeacherWeb

(www.teacherweb.com/VA/OldDonationcenter/MrsWright/) or go to the ODC home website–click "Dance" and click "Dance website"