

***Karen Heinze is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Louis Agassiz Elementary School. Her 25 student class of 7,8,and 9 year olds participates in the Schools in Motion Project. Karen has been involved with the Schools in Motion project for 2 1/2 years and is therefore a great example of classroom teacher participation. In the following short interview she shares some of the benefits the Schools in Motion Project has had on her students.***

**Do you have any prior dance experience? Do you consider yourself a good dancer?**

I do not have any prior dance experience. But I love to move to music. Dance is one of my favorite fine arts disciplines, next to music. Also, I appreciate the great work Lynn Deering is doing with her students, and sharing it with my students!

**How has dance aided the educational process for the children?**

Dance has developed their ability to work collaboratively. It has encouraged bonding between students, and students become more supportive. Dance has enhanced problem solving skills. It has developed confidence and willingness to take risks. And lastly, dance has built a tactile foundation on which students can understand proficiency learning objectives.

**Do you assist in teaching movement to the students? How do you feel about that?**

I help the dance specialist carry out the objectives of the lesson. I am very supportive of the curriculum content covered and the instructional methods used in these lessons, by the dance teacher.

**Do you create any of the movement lesson plans? -If so, how do you translate the subject being studied into applied movement for the children?**

Currently, I use the movement lesson plans provided by the dance specialist. Everything I have learned in these classes is reviewed and used in other subject areas, in my classroom. My challenge is to start making movement lesson plans on my own!

**Do you have trouble getting the students to sit still in the classroom after they dance? If so, how do you handle this? Please comment on any other discipline problems.**

I incorporate "a step system" that gets my children focused after dance class.  
-They reflect on what concept was introduced or they review by writing in their dance journals.

**What is the greatest thing that has come out of this collaboration between dance and education?**

Increased understanding and appreciation of dance as an art form and an instructional tool, for greater student achievement. Dance has created a new dimension to life enriching the student's experience. (-and fostering the many types of intelligence unique to every child.)

**Do have anything you would like to add? -Maybe some great teaching discovery or tips for other teachers.**

Team teaching with my dance specialist has enhanced my growth personally and professionally. Dance has become a "natural part" of nurturing life long learners!