

ABSTRACT

This action research study provides in-depth look at a middle school dance and drama class, comprised of eighth grade students who attend for one 15-day related arts cycle. In this study, the teacher researcher focused on introducing drama and dance activities and studying the impact of these activities.

Within the study students participated in various dance and drama activities and lessons including improvisation, character development, scenes, vocabulary, costume drawings, dance combinations and choreography. The researcher explored the ideas of arts education experts including Charles Fowler, [Jonothon Neelands](#), David Booth, Howard Gardner, Tony [Goode](#), Viola [Spolin](#), [Phyllis Weikart](#) and more. The researcher documented students' experiences by examining student journals, surveys, assignments and conducting interviews. The researcher discovered that when integrating the arts into a middle school setting, most students enjoyed participating in a wide array of drama and dance activities. Students learned that drama connects to [in-school](#) and out of school learning.