

First Grade Dance

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The School at Columbia

Dancing is so much Fun & Dancing is for Everyone --Ms.



First Grade Dance classes are structured to encourage the joy and spontaneity of both physical and intellectual discovery and creative exploration. Cooperation and the integration of many aspects of movement, music, and abstract thinking are the focus. Appropriate boundaries, behaviors, and respect for the space in which we work are clearly outlined and practiced. In this atmosphere of security and freedom, emphasis is placed on the development of dance skills and listening skills -- supporting each child's appreciation for his or her own feelings and ideas, as well as those of others.

For first grade students, the Dance Education Curriculum grows directly out of the first grade **theme** of **Family**, and the **concepts** of **Connection** and **Change**. Some examples of lesson plans include:

- ❖ Exploration of the theme of **Family** through "Family Portrait Freezes," "Music & Color Dancing," and "Dancing to Music from Different Cultures"
- ❖ **Literacy**-based lessons such as "ABC Puzzle Piece Dancing," and making "Dance Stage Maps" to record the choreography and stage directions in "3-D ABC Duets"
- ❖ **Math**-based lessons including "Add up the Living Sculptures," and "Build Connections One By One"
- ❖ Understanding **Connection** by "Dancing the Seasons," doing "Puppy Play," and choreographing "The Giving Dance"
- ❖ Understanding **Change** through "Endangered Species Animal Dancing," and by problem solving in "Silent Movie Adventure Dances"
- ❖ Creating Interpretive "Story Dances" inspired by story books and poems about appreciation of **families**, making **connections**, and observing and understanding **changes** in the world beyond the classroom



*I am thrilled to be working with your wonderful children again this year!
They have already begun to apply last year's learning as they*

*build new levels of skill and continue to develop
their imaginations and expressive abilities.*

-- Kathleen Hill