

Lesson Plan. The Performing Arts: Voice, Song, and Dance

Overview

At the first gathering of the cast in McGrath, students will be introduced to performance skills: voice projection, verbal expression, singing and dancing. While in McGrath, the activities below will be repeated daily. When students return to their schools, they will continue to practice these arts particular to their production.

Activities

1. **Voice:** Start with a warm up exercise (e.g., *Line Shouts*, see Drama Games). Then, students will read through the script on stage. They will be given 3 objectives: project the voice with appropriate expression, direct the voice to the audience, and articulate. Teachers will coach and students will coach each other.
2. **Song:** All students will perform songs in the musical. Assemble all students in a smaller classroom (smaller than the gym). Arrange them in two lines in a semi circle formation. Practice singing the 4 songs with accompaniment. **Objectives:** Sing with *mouths open* towards an imagined audience and keep eyes on person conducting. At first, students are self-conscious when singing in a group. Encourage them to stand tall, sing from below the diaphragm, and keep their heads up! **Variations:** Have each school sing, have girls sing, then boys. Then bring the whole group back together. Mixing it up helps lessen anxiety.
3. **Dance:** All students will perform dances. Scene 1 opens with *Over The Mountain*, a traditional dance by Ellen Savage. Scene 3 opens with a Line Dance, choreographed by Emily Smith, Holy Cross teacher. Ms. Smith will teach both dances. Practice both dances daily.

Materials

Each student will need a copy of the script and copies of the songs.

Evaluation

The teacher the participation and progress of the students.



A Note to Teachers

At our first meeting in McGrath, students' performance anxiety was very high. They gained confidence in the 3 days we spent together and continued to make progress as we approached our actual performance dates. It was decided that students would use microphones on stage and they learned how to use the sound system the day before our first performance (see Stage Craft lesson plan).

Curriculum Goals

Arts. A student should be able to create and perform in the arts. A student who meets the content standard should: 1) participate in dance, drama, music, visual arts, and creative writing; 2) refine artistic skills and develop self-discipline through rehearsal, practice, and revision; 3) appropriately use new and traditional materials, tools, techniques, and processes in the arts **B.** A student who meets the content standard should: 1) participate in dance, drama, music, visual arts, and creative writing; 2) refine artistic skills and develop self-discipline through rehearsal, practice, and revision; 3) appropriately use new and traditional materials, tools, techniques, and processes.

Science: 1) develop an understanding of the characteristic properties of matter and the relationship of these properties to their structure and behavior; 4) develop an understanding of motions, forces, their characteristics and relationships, and natural forces and their effects.