



Dance Purpose Statement

Eric Johnson, Dance Teacher

Beyond the obvious physical benefits derived from dance education such as strength, flexibility, enhanced aerobic fitness, advanced motor development, subtle awareness and control of the body, and heightened self-confidence, students learn the crucially important skills of collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication. In a traditional dance class students only learn the steps of a dance form; at SJCS we use the study of dance to prepare ourselves to be highly capable and confident creators, thinkers, and contributors to society.

From the first creation of tiny pieces of choreography in Chai Fives, students develop their skills of creativity. Creative skills are developed sequentially through the 2nd-grade year where students create drafts of longer pieces, think critically about how to revise them, and bring them to performance for the class, followed by thoughtful, appropriate self and peer evaluation. Developmentally appropriate communication and collaboration skills are also focused on in each grade through peer coaching and assessment, to prepare the students well for a world where people must work together in effective, collaborative teams.

At SJCS the dance classroom is not merely a form of physical development or education but an environment of authentic learning, where students practice effective habits of mind, which will serve them in both their professional and personal lives, through study of the rich media of the art forms of dance and choreography.