

# Unit I - History of Improvisation

Content Area: **Dance**  
Course(s): **Choreography/Improvisation**  
Time Period: **Sept-Jan/Feb-June**  
Length: **85 Days 9-12**  
Status: **Published**

## **Title Section**

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## **Department of Curriculum and Instruction**



**Belleville Public Schools**

**Curriculum Guide**

**Choreography/Improvisation, 9-12**

**History of Improvisation**

**Belleville Board of Education**

**102 Passaic Avenue**

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Board Approved:

## **Unit Overview**

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Students will investigate the origins, political and social contexts, significant pioneers, choreographers, performers, and other artistic influences

## **Enduring Understanding**

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The purpose of improvisation is to encourage the students to solve dance problems creatively.

## **Essential Questions**

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- How can you use the technical skills that you have learned to allow the body to be responsive to imagery?
- How can you increase your skills as a dancer?

## **Exit Skills**

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- Enable students to understand themselves as physical beings
- Instant response
- Explore "ing" words (verbs, or action words)
- Understand the elements of dance: time, space, shape, body parts and motion
- Technical, physical, perceptual, and intellectual skills in the creation and performance of a dance
- Skills needed to prepare for a Dance performance and proper etiquette/protocol for performances
- Proper terminology when inside a theatre/working with sound and lights

## New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSL-S)

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|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Cr1a | Synthesize content generated from stimulus materials to choreograph dance studies or dances using original or codified movement.   |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Cr2b | Develop an artistic statement that reflects a personal aesthetic for an original dance study or dance. Select and demonstrate movements that support the artistic statement.   |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Cr3a | Clarify the artistic intent of a dance using established artistic criteria, self-reflection and the feedback of others. Analyze and evaluate the impact of choices made in the revision process. Justify the reasons for revisions.  |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Cr3b | Develop a strategy to record a dance using recognized systems of dance documentation (e.g., writing, a form of notation symbols, using media technologies).  |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Pr4b | Use syncopation and accented movements related to different tempi. Take rhythmic cues from different aspects of accompaniment. Integrate breath with metric and kinesthetic phrasing.  |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Pr4c | Perform planned and improvised movement sequences and dance combinations while self-monitoring and adjusting dynamics and energy to the choreographic intent.  |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Pr5d | Develop personal conditioning practices, using different body conditioning techniques, that improve range of motion, muscular flexibility, strength, and endurance to enhance performance.   |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Pr5e | Execute clarity of movement intention during complex movement sequences. Use style/genre specific vocabulary and execute codified movements with style/genre specific alignment and characteristics, through focused practice and repetition.  |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Pr6a | Embody the use of the senses and create imagery to envision a particular outcome, projecting and completing movements to enhance dance performance.  |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Pr6b | Apply rehearsal strategies to refine ensemble skills, performance accuracy, consistency, and expressiveness. Develop personal rehearsal strategies to enhance artistry and achieve performance goals.  |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Pr6c | Implement performance strategies to enhance projection. Demonstrate leadership qualities (e.g., commitment, dependability, responsibility, cooperation) and model performance etiquette and performance practices during class, rehearsal and performance. Accept notes from the choreographer and apply corrections to future performances. Document the rehearsal and performance process using dance and production terminology. Analyze and evaluate the success of a performance. |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Re7a | Use genre-specific dance terminology to analyze dance works, recurring patterns of movement and their relationships that create structure and meaning in dance.  |
| DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Re7b | Analyze and compare the movement patterns and their relationships in a variety of genres, styles, or cultural movement practices and explain how their differences impact  |

communication and intent within a cultural context. Use genre-specific dance terminology.

DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Cn10a

Evaluate personal choreography and how personal experiences and exposure to various cultures influences individual, emotional, intellectual, and kinesthetic responses to dance works.

DA.9-12.1.1.12acc.Cn11a

Analyze how the role of dance in a global society has influenced various cultures, societies and historical periods throughout history. Examine how innovations in the arts have impacted dance-making in these communities in relation to the ideas and perspectives of the people from whom the dances originate.

## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

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LA.W.9-10.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

LA.W.9-10.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

LA.W.11-12.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

LA.W.11-12.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

LA.W.11-12.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

LA.SL.9-10.1

Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

MA.G-CO.A.1

Know precise definitions of angle, circle, perpendicular line, parallel line, and line segment, based on the undefined notions of point, line, distance along a line, and distance around a circular arc.

SOC.6.1.12.D.2.a

Analyze contributions and perspectives of African Americans, Native Americans, and women during the American Revolution.

SOC.6.1.12.D.3.e

Determine the impact of religious and social movements on the development of American culture, literature, and art.

WRK.9.2.12.CAP.7

Use online resources to examine licensing, certification, and credentialing requirements at the local, state, and national levels to maintain compliance with industry requirements in areas of career interest.

TECH.9.4.12.CT

Critical Thinking and Problem-solving

## **Learning Objectives**

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- Understand the importance of improvisation skills and their significant relationship to choreography
- Critique constructively
- Recognize basic aesthetic principles
- Demonstrate self-awareness, etiquette and creative risk taking
- Develop leadership skills

**Action Verbs:** Below are examples of action verbs associated with each level of the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy.

| <b>Remember</b> | <b>Understand</b> | <b>Apply</b> | <b>Analyze</b> | <b>Evaluate</b> | <b>Create</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Choose          | Classify          | Choose       | Categorize     | Appraise        | Combine       |
| Describe        | Defend            | Dramatize    | Classify       | Judge           | Compose       |
| Define          | Demonstrate       | Explain      | Compare        | Criticize       | Construct     |
| Label           | Distinguish       | Generalize   | Differentiate  | Defend          | Design        |
| List            | Explain           | Judge        | Distinguish    | Compare         | Develop       |
| Locate          | Express           | Organize     | Identify       | Assess          | Formulate     |
| Match           | Extend            | Paint        | Infer          | Conclude        | Hypothesize   |
| Memorize        | Give Examples     | Prepare      | Point out      | Contrast        | Invent        |
| Name            | Illustrate        | Produce      | Select         | Critique        | Make          |
| Omit            | Indicate          | Select       | Subdivide      | Determine       | Originate     |
| Recite          | Interrelate       | Show         | Survey         | Grade           | Organize      |
| Select          | Interpret         | Sketch       | Arrange        | Justify         | Plan          |
| State           | Infer             | Solve        | Breakdown      | Measure         | Produce       |
| Count           | Match             | Use          | Combine        | Rank            | Role Play     |
| Draw            | Paraphrase        | Add          | Detect         | Rate            | Drive         |
| Outline         | Represent         | Calculate    | Diagram        | Support         | Devise        |
| Point           | Restate           | Change       | Discriminate   | Test            | Generate      |
| Quote           | Rewrite           | Classify     | Illustrate     |                 | Integrate     |
| Recall          | Select            | Complete     | Outline        |                 | Prescribe     |
| Recognize       | Show              | Compute      | Point out      |                 | Propose       |
| Repeat          | Summarize         | Discover     | Separate       |                 | Reconstruct   |
| Reproduce       | Tell              | Divide       |                |                 | Revise        |
|                 | Translate         | Examine      |                |                 | Rewrite       |
|                 | Associate         | Graph        |                |                 | Transform     |
|                 | Compute           | Interpolate  |                |                 |               |
|                 | Convert           | Manipulate   |                |                 |               |
|                 | Discuss           | Modify       |                |                 |               |
|                 | Estimate          | Operate      |                |                 |               |
|                 | Extrapolate       | Subtract     |                |                 |               |
|                 | Generalize        |              |                |                 |               |
|                 | Predict           |              |                |                 |               |



## Suggested Activities & Best Practices

- Daily participation
- Skill improvement
- Knowledge of movement theories and terminology
- Understanding of aesthetic principles
- Ability to synthesize knowledge through creative projects and choreography
- Ability to solve problems
- Ability to analyze one's own skills in creative thinking
- Development memorization skills
- Ability to function as a cooperative member of a group

## **Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)**

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- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Common Benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- DBQ's
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Learning Center Activities
- Multimedia Reports
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Question Stems
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist



- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Top 10 List
- Unit review/Test prep
- Unit tests
- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

## **Primary Resources & Materials**

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*Choreography: A Basic Approach Using Improvisation* – Sandra Cerny Minton

*Teaching Beginning Dance Improvisation* - Joan Woodbury and Shirley Ririe

## **Ancillary Resources**

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Additional resources as needed at the discretion of the instructor

## **Technology Infusion**

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- Dance Apps
- Movies
- Music
- MS Word
- Photography/Videotaping

- Technical Design in the Arts

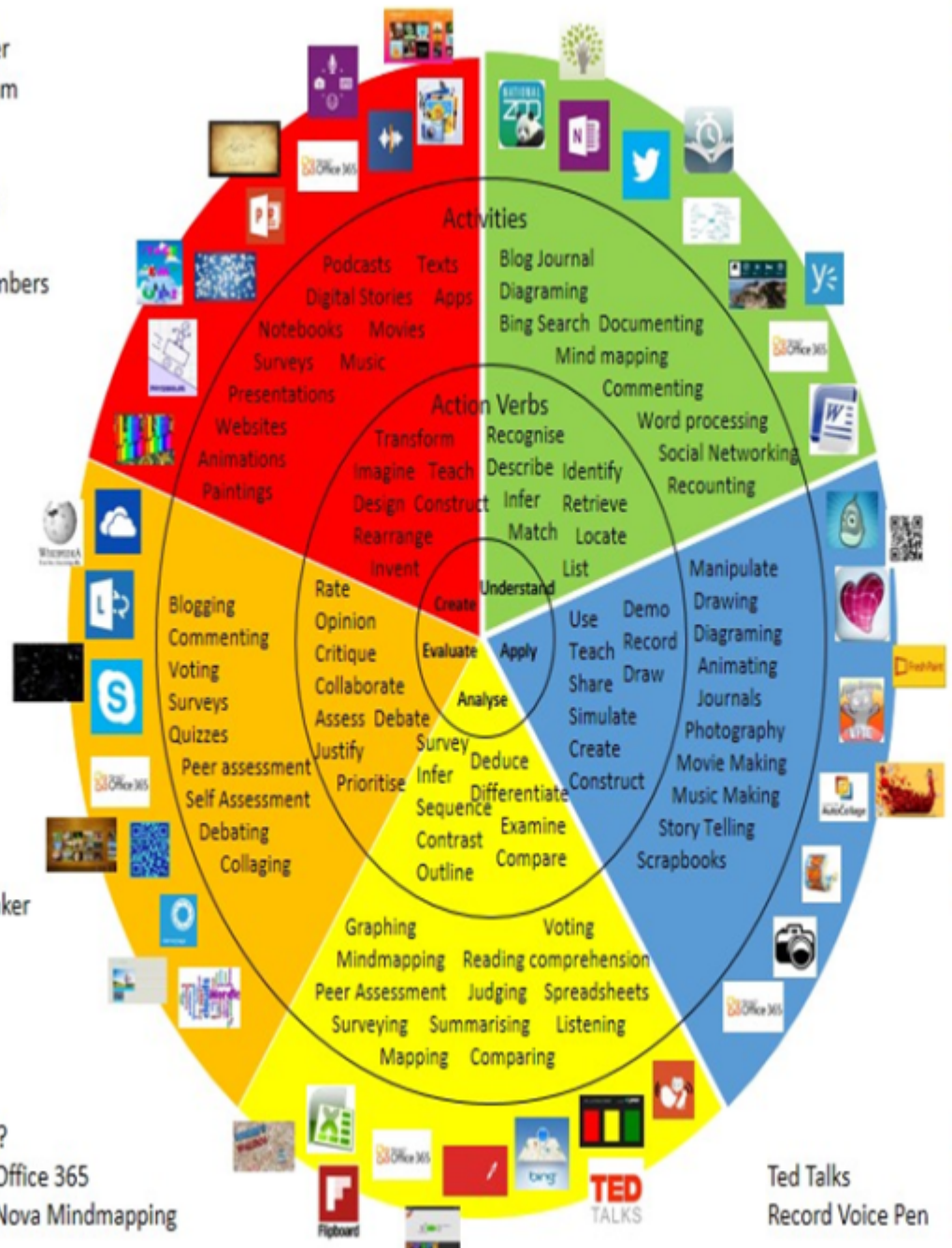
## Win 8.1 Apps/Tools Pedagogy Wheel

Podcasts  
 Photostory 3  
 Kid Story Builder  
 Music Maker Jam  
 Paint A Story  
 Office 365  
 MS PowerPoint  
 Stack 'Em Up  
 NqSquared Numbers  
 Physamajig  
 Xylophone 8

Wikipedia  
 Skydrive  
 Lync  
 SkyMap  
 Skype  
 Office 365  
 Puzzle Touch  
 Easy QR  
 Memorylage  
 Life Moments  
 Word Cloud Maker

Where's Waldo?  
 MS Excel      Office 365  
 Flipboard      Nova Mindmapping

Ted Talks  
 Record Voice Pen



Originally taken from <http://www.coetail.com/vzimmer/files/2013/02/Padagogy-Wheel.001.jpg>  
 And adapted for Windows 8.1 devices by Charlotte Beckhurst @CharBeckhurst

## Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology

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|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| VPA.1.1.12.A.4   | Synthesize knowledge of anatomical principles related to body alignment, body patterning, balance, strength, and coordination in compositions and performances.  |
| VPA.1.1.12.A.CS1 | Creating master works in dance requires ability to comprehend, articulate, and manipulate time, space, and energy across and within a broad spectrum of choreographic structures and through the use of many choreographic devices.                                      |
| VPA.1.1.12.A.CS4 | Artistry in dance performance is accomplished through complete integration of anatomical principles and clear direction of intent and purpose.   |
| VPA.1.2.12.A.1   | Determine how dance, music, theatre, and visual art have influenced world cultures throughout history.   |
| VPA.1.2.12.A.2   | Justify the impact of innovations in the arts (e.g., the availability of music online) on societal norms and habits of mind in various historical eras.  |
| VPA.1.2.12.A.CS2 | Access to the arts has a positive influence on the quality of an individual's lifelong learning, personal expression, and contributions to community and global citizenship.   |
| VPA.1.3.12.A.4   | Collaborate in the design and production of dances that use choreographic structures and incorporate various media and/or technologies.  |
| VPA.1.3.12.A.CS2 | Aesthetic quality results from conceptual coherence and from understanding and application of the principle unity of form and content.   |
| VPA.1.3.12.A.CS3 | Dance artistry is achieved through refined technique, musicality, clarity of choreographic intent, stylistic nuance, and application of proper body mechanics.   |
| VPA.1.3.12.A.CS4 | Dance production is collaborative and requires choreographic, technological, design, and performance skill.  |
| VPA.1.4.12.A.3   | Develop informed personal responses to an assortment of artworks across the four arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre, and visual art), using historical significance, craftsmanship, cultural context, and originality as criteria for assigning value to the works. |
| VPA.1.4.12.A.4   | Evaluate how exposure to various cultures influences individual, emotional, intellectual, and kinesthetic responses to artwork.  |
| VPA.1.4.12.A.CS1 | Recognition of fundamental elements within various arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre, and visual art) is dependent on the ability to decipher cultural implications embedded in artworks.  |
| VPA.1.4.12.A.CS3 | Artistic styles, trends, movements, and historical responses to various genres of art evolve over time.  |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| VPA.1.4.12.A.CS4 | Criteria for assessing the historical significance, craftsmanship, cultural context, and originality of art are often expressed in qualitative, discipline-specific arts terminology.   |
| VPA.1.4.12.B.3   | Determine the role of art and art-making in a global society by analyzing the influence of technology on the visual, performing, and multimedia arts for consumers, creators, and performers around the world.                        |
| VPA.1.4.12.B.CS1 | Archetypal subject matter exists in all cultures and is embodied in the formal and informal aspects of art.   |
| VPA.1.4.12.B.CS2 | The cohesiveness of a work of art and its ability to communicate a theme or narrative can be directly affected by the artist's technical proficiency as well as by the manner and physical context in which it is performed or shown. |
| VPA.1.4.12.B.CS3 | Art and art-making reflect and affect the role of technology in a global society.   |
| WRK.9.2.12.CAP.3 | Investigate how continuing education contributes to one's career and personal growth.   |

## **21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes**

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Upon completion of this section, please remove all remaining descriptions, notes, outlines, examples and/or illustrations that are not needed or used.

Please list only the **21st Century/Interdisciplinary Themes** that will be incorporated into this unit.

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

## **21st Century Skills**

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Upon completion of this section, please remove all remaining descriptions, notes, outlines, examples and/or illustrations that are not needed or used.

Please list only the **21st Century Skills** that will be incorporated into this unit.

- Civic Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness
- Health Literacy

## **Differentiation**

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### **Differentiations:**

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Teacher reads assessments aloud
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations

### **Hi-Prep Differentiations:**

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Independent research and projects
- Multiple intelligence options
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning

### **Lo-Prep Differentiations**

- Choice of books or activities
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Think-Pair-Share
- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- Center-Based Instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multiple test sessions
- multi-sensory presentation
- preferential seating
- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- Reduced/shortened written assignments
- secure attention before giving instruction/directions
- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner
- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

## **English Language Learning (ELL)**

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- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

## **At Risk**

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- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
- allowing students to select from given choices
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

## **Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)**

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- Above grade level placement option for qualified students
- Advanced problem-solving
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Cluster grouping
- Complete activities aligned with above grade level text using Benchmark results
- Create a blog or social media page about their unit
- Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- Debate issues with research to support arguments
- Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor
- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery
- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities
- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts
- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

## Sample Lesson

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Unit Name: History of Improvisation

NJSLS: See above

Interdisciplinary Connection: Language Arts, Social Studies

Statement of Objective: Explore different choreographic techniques through collaboration, live performance, and video

Anticipatory Set/Do Now: Spontaneously create movement

Learning Activity: Development of movement material is facilitated through a variety of creative explorations including body mapping through levels, shape and dynamics

Student Assessment/CFU's: Teacher observation, Self and peer observation, Classroom performances, Weekly journal, Written/oral critiques,

Materials: Mirrors, music

21st Century Themes and Skills: Creativity & Innovation, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Communication, Collaboration

Differentiation/Modifications: Preview content & concepts, Project based learning, Varied journal prompts

Integration of Technology: Technical design in the arts, recordings, photography/videotaping



