

2025/2026 Carnegie Arts with CIPS: Testimonials and Observations

KINDERGARTEN

- "My favorite is butterfly. Dancing like butterfly was fun" - *Kindergartner at John G*

- "Dance is so fun! I love when we have dance class" - *Kindergartner at Glenn O*

- "Can we do more emotion dances? Like angry, joy, excited, scared? Emotion is fun to dance!" - *Kindergartner at Glenn O*

- "Dance is awesome!!" - *Kindergartner at 9th District*

- "Mr. Mencsik, our AP, stopped in for an informal observation and was blown away with Kyle's lesson with our kinders. The topper? When Kyle was speaking Spanish with our ESL kiddos. That class is heavy with students who speak Spanish and Kyle was able to bring them 100% into the activity. Mencsik stopped on his way out and was praising Kyle and again this morning, he told me how impressed he was with the class. KEEP HIM!!!" - *Melinda Victor, teaching partner at Latonia*

1ST GRADE

- "I like that I get to move my body in dance class. I usually have to sit for all the time but dance class I get to move and dance and that is fun to me" - *1st grader at John G*

- "I like dance class because we dance like animals sometime. Animals are cool" - *1st grader at John G*

- "Sometimes when we come into dance class, I'm sad but then dance makes me happy!" - *1st grader at John G*

- "I love dance class. Dance is cool and singing is my favorite" - *1st grader at 6th District*

2ND GRADE

- "I like dance class. I want to be a dancer when I grow up. That's why. I kinda want to be a singer too. I want to be a singer and a dancer" - *2nd grader at John G*

- "I want to be an artist teacher like you and Mr. Kyle and everyone" - *2nd grader at John G*

- "It [dance class] makes me very excited and happy so then when my brother grows up, I can teach him how to dance too" - *2nd grader at Glenn O*

- "Dance can be really hard but fun and happy too" - *2nd grader at 9th District*

- "Dance makes me joyful!" - *2nd grader at 6th District*

- "I love drama acting with Mr. Kyle. Can we have more with him?" - *2nd grader at John G*

3RD GRADE

- "Two 3rd grade boys at 9th District created a duet together that they were so proud of they asked to perform for the class first. Then right after they did their energetic and amazing duet that blended all of the dance styles we learned about this semester (the minimum number of styles was 3, they did all 7!!) they requested to perform again after everyone else had gone. And when the time came, they performed their duet again with bright smiles on their faces and pride in their eyes. It was awesome!" – *Grace Kohl, Carnegie Teaching Artist*

- "When one student at 9th didn't have a group to create a dance with and was starting to feel excluded, three 3rd grade boys went out of their way to approach the student and invite them into their group. They all blended their ideas together to create an awesome dance that they performed for the class with energy and excitement!" – *Grace Kohl, Carnegie Teaching Artist*

4TH

- "A 4th grade student transferred from 9th to John G midway through the year, about right after winter break. I had taught at 9th that previous semester and had just started my semester at John G. When he saw me, his face lit up and he came over to give me a big hug. He said "I was nervous to start at a new school, but you're here so now I'm feeling better. I love dance class. Will we do dance class again here? It's so nice to see you, Ms. Grace. I can't wait for dance class"- *Grace Kohl, Carnegie Teaching Artist on 4th grader transferring from 9th District to John G*

- "Students have been recalling information from the previous year's lessons, often recognizing Tap and Ballet from their 3rd grade lessons and observing how dances from around the world have similar qualities to dance styles they've learned. Every single class has noticed how Irish Step Dancing has percussive and rhythmic foot movement very similar to Tap dancing, even if it's been over a year since I taught them Tap dance in 3rd grade. They're then able to recognize the similarities and differences, comparing and contrasting the rhythmic footwork in India's classical Bharatnatyam dance with that in Irish Step Dancing and Tap." – *Grace Kohl, Carnegie Teaching Artist*

- "It's really cool to learn about dances from other countries and try to try like one of their dance moves" - *4th Grader at 9th District*

- "I like that everyone around the world dances. Like everyone even in different places all like to dance"- *4th Grader at John G*

- "When learning about traditional Tahtib dance from Egypt through an authentic video performance, a student's eyes lit up in recognition when a performer started speaking in Arabic. "I can understand him! I know what he's saying!" - *4th grader at 6th District*

5TH

- "I didn't think I would like dance at all but it's actually pretty fun and cool. I like showing my friends all the cool moves I made up" - *5th Grader at 6th District*

- "1920s dances were goofy but lowkey fun when we tried them as a class like all together" -
5th Grader at 9th District

- "5th Grade at Glenn O in Schultz's class shows great community, cheering each other on during dance exploration and free dance times. They're incredibly supportive and encouraging of one another, even when trying new dances styles from different decades that are unfamiliar or new to them." – *Grace Kohl, Carnegie Teaching Artist*

- "Are we going to learn more Tap moves? I really liked the shuffle step thing you taught us in 3rd grade. Can we do more like that?", *5th Grader at Glenn O recalling lessons from 2 years ago and showing enthusiasm.*

- "A 5th grader at Glenn O approached me after our first class of the semester, asking if I could teach him more Tap dance moves, I try to teach him one quick and basic move after each class when I see him." – *Grace Kohl, Carnegie Teaching Artist*

- "Ms. Storey, Assistant Principal at Glenn O, told me she was impressed and delighted to see Schultz's 5th Grade class participating, asking questions and trying 1930s dances with excitement." – *Grace Kohl, Carnegie Teaching Artist*

MSD

- "I just want to give a shout out to Grace for her awesome class today with this [MSD] class! They enjoyed it as well as the teachers! The smiles on their faces was awesome! I seen kids get up and dance that never participates!! Good job Grace! Keep rocking on!" - *Nannie Dandridge, teaching partner at 6th District after another great class with the wonderful MSD students.*

Arts Open Houses

- "I feel so emotionally and artistically energized from all the participation. What a great way to kick off the arts open houses!!" - *Grace Kohl, Carnegie Teaching Artist on the Arts Open House at 6th District*

- "I was able to facilitate a beautiful moment between a father and daughter as they practiced waltzing together in the last few minutes of my Community Dance portion of the Open House. The father was so delighted to teach his daughter how to Waltz, saying "We never get to dance together. I love to dance, but life gets so busy and time goes by so quickly. Her mother and I used to Waltz together all the time. I'm so glad we came here tonight. Thank you, Ms. Grace" He then brought his wife into the room and the two showed their daughter how they used to Waltz in their kitchen at home. It was so touching to witness this beautiful family moment at the 6th District Open House." – *Grace Kohl, Carnegie Teaching Artist*

- "It was great to get some quality time and I had some students show their parents how to do the project" - *Leah Shannon, Carnegie Teaching Artist on the Arts Open House at Latonia*

- "A student's dad was telling me that his son is a really great storyteller but he never writes his ideas down. I has my print out of STORY SPINE and reminded him how it was played (because we

played it in class), and he just took it and began writing and had a whole story finished by the time open house was over.” – *Kyle Taylor, Carnegie Teaching Artist on the Arts Open House at Latonia*

-“Dance is awesome!!!!!!”- *3rd grader at Glenn O Open House when I played Soda Pop by Kpop Demon Hunters and he got to show off his favorite dance moves.*

-“The Open House went very well! As always, the artists were fabulous and a big hit with the kiddos and their big people. The night also included kindergarten and middle school sign-up information so we had ALL kinds of people visiting.” - *Melinda Victor, teaching partner at Latonia*