

**The Barefoot Dance Center** offers classes in modern dance, creative movement, improvisation, choreography, ballet and jazz to boys and girls of all ages. We teach in our studio located in West Park, NY, as well as in school settings. Our goal is to unleash the creative potential of every student through physical and imaginative activities. Our school programs especially focus on making art accessible to the ordinary eye. By connecting dance to school curriculum, asking questions and allowing time for reflection, children and teachers start to appreciate the arts more and learn to value their own opinions as audience members. Also, as childhood obesity continues to be a rising national health problem, we believe that kids need as many opportunities as possible to move and exercise. We are excited to offer a physical and expressive outlet to all of our students.

**Jessie Levey** is the founder, director and teacher at the Barefoot Dance Center. She has taught dance to children and teenagers extensively in New York City and the Hudson Valley for the past 20 years. She is a Lincoln Center Institute-trained teaching artist who has worked in many public and parochial schools through their model arts-in-education program. She also trained classroom teachers to become certified Lincoln Center Partners. Additionally, Jessie has been a member of the dance faculties at Dalton School, Poly Prep Lower School and the Brooklyn Arts Exchange. She has also enjoyed many teaching residencies in schools, such as Oakwood Friends School, Poughkeepsie Day School as well as Duzine and Lenape Elementary Schools.

## **Artist-In-Residence Programs:**

- **Curriculum Integration Partnership**

This inter-disciplinary program is based on and enhances a specific theme being studied at school. The students gain a deeper understanding of their topic through imaginative and physical experiences. By including a dance performance in the mix, students have a chance to see how experienced teen dancers can take their ideas to a different level, while being thoroughly entertained.

**Recommended schedule:**

- *1 planning session,*
- *3-5 sessions*
- *1 performance by the Barefoot Dance Company (optional)*

- **Dance Performance Assembly**

The Barefoot Dance Company performs inspiring and educational dances at school assemblies. Expose your students to the world of dance with this exciting group of teenage dancers and choreographers. The company performs pieces created by Jessie Levey, guest choreographers, as well as student work. In addition to school assemblies, the company presents their work at senior centers, community art functions and theaters, such as SUNY's McKenna Theater and the Rhinebeck Center for Performing Arts.

**Recommended schedule:**

- *30-45 minutes, with or without teaching session(s).*

- **Dance as an Art Form**

We explore the many different elements of dance, such as movement, shape, space, rhythm, and expression. Creative process is emphasized during the study of this joyful, athletic art form. All participants learn to be dancers, choreographers and collaborators.

**Recommended schedule:**

- *5-15 sessions.*

- **Choreography**

The teaching artist is available to work with the drama and music teachers to choreograph for specific musicals or school projects.

**Recommended schedule:**

- *1-3 rehearsals per song.*



**As artists, we are excited to tailor our offerings to meet the specific needs of your school or program. Please call the studio to discuss the possibilities.**

## Some examples of how we connect movement to the curriculum:

### Learning literacy through creative movement:

- Students create letters with their bodies.
- Just as children learn to put words together to form sentences, they can enjoy putting movements together to compose “movement sentences.”

### Turning math into fun movement challenges:

- Students are asked to break numbers down into smaller groups and use them to help create shapes. For more challenge, kids can share numbers and make shapes as duets and trios.
- Patterns are used to create compositions.

### Embodying Science:

- The study of animals turns us into animals.
- Magnets become the force behind how we move with partners and large groups.

### Making History:

- Famous explorers inspire us to become movement explorers.
- Peacemakers lead us to partnering activities. How can we move responsibly and make shapes with another person, while maintaining our personal space and creating trust between us?

**We find educational and inventive ways to connect any curricular theme to movement.**

## Our program directly benefits your students!

- **A**dvances coordination and balance.
- **R**equires problem-solving and critical thinking.
- **T**eaches kids about spatial relationships and personal boundaries.
- **S**upports and enhances connections to classroom curricula.
- **I**mproves gross motor skills.
- **N**urtures creative expression.
- **E**ncourages cooperation and collaboration.
- **D**evelops strength, stamina and self-confidence.

## CONTACT US!



barefoot dance center

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**Jessie Levey, Director**

## Barefoot Dance Center



## Arts-In-Education Programs

