

Contact: The Magic of Communication

Five examples of curriculum connections to the ME Learning Results, CCSS, and NGSS

Maine's Guiding Principles for all Learning Results areas, Principle A

"Each Maine student must leave school as a clear and effective communicator who:

- 1. Demonstrates organized and purposeful communication in English and at least one other language;*
- 2. Uses evidence and logic appropriately in communication;*
- 3. Adjusts communication based on the audience; and*
- 4. Uses a variety of modes of expression"*

This first Guiding Principle connects to each and every routine in 'Contact'.

ME Visual and Performing Arts Learning Results, The Arts and History and World Cultures

"Students explain that the visual/performing arts help people understand history and/or world cultures."

As students are getting seated I play an ancient Australian wind instrument called the Didgeridoo. I later demonstrate how Aboriginal tribes used this instrument in storytelling as a way to preserve their history and culture before the creation of a written language.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English Language Arts

Speaking and Listening Standards: Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas #6:

"Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification."

During a routine on the US Postal Service, randomly selected students are asked trivia questions relating to an envelope they are holding in their hand. They must examine the envelope carefully to locate the answers, and then relate those answers back to the audience.

ME World Languages Learning Results, Introduction

"To succeed, all students must study language and culture in an integrated fashion beginning in the early elementary grades and extending through their school experience."

A student is invited onstage to participate in an interactive illusion presented almost entirely in Spanish. This routine demonstrates the importance of learning foreign languages, and also explores techniques for overcoming language barriers (e.g., repetition, non-verbal cues, rephrasing, visual associations...).

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Energy

"Make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electric currents."

After dealing with an unruly, and hysterically funny, telemarketer, a piece of solid matter magically travels down a thin wire connecting two tin cans. This routine visually illustrates how telephones convert sound vibrations, produced by the vocal cords, into an electrical signal, and then back into sound.