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Contact: The Magic of Communication

Five examples of connections to the NH Curriculum Frameworks and CCRS

New Hampshire Social Studies Framework, Human Expression and Communication

“Theme J: This theme examines how people have expressed their feelings and ideas in art, literature, music, and philosophy.”

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.

New Hampshire Arts Framework, Dance Strand, Curriculum Standard 3

“Recognize dance as a way to create and communicate meaning.”

Students listen to two pieces of music, one from Senegal, the other from Acadia. The students are asked to watch the influence this music has on the choreography and emotional quality of two distinctly different juggling routines.

New Hampshire Career Framework, Broad Goals

“The student will work effectively with others, including people from diverse backgrounds”

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...).

NH College and Career Ready Standards (CCRS) 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.

NH Science Curriculum Framework, Physical Science Strand PS4

“The growth of scientific knowledge in Physical Science has been advanced through the development of technology and is used to identify, understand and solve local and global issues.”

In the final routine of the show students learn that the technology created to make the telephone possible paved the way for the invention of the radio. They also learn that the radio changed the world by delivering information faster, and to a broader spectrum of society, than previous forms of media. And then, after I search the dial to find appropriate musical accompaniment, my huge 1930's radio vanishes in mid-air.