



Left: 5th graders, Korbin Houston and Jocquis Johnson cutting a rug

Bottom: CICS dance class in action



Photos by May I Have This Dance

Dance Dance Revolution

by Meghan Schmidt

May I Have This Dance transforms boys and girls into ladies and gentlemen


In recent years, dance has made an exciting and profound impact in urban schools with programs that use dance as a medium to build students' teamwork and communication skills, personal character, and self-esteem.

May I Have This Dance, Inc. is Chicago's leading provider of school-based dance programs, serving more than 50 schools each year, including six Chicago International Charter School campuses. The company's Executive Director, Nino DiGiulio, holds a master's degree in education and, together with Director of Youth Programs Margot McGraw Toppen, has designed an engaging dance curriculum geared toward the learning styles of children and young adults.

The company's large and diverse staff of professional instructors has been trained to use the *Dancing with Class™* core curriculum to deliver high-quality programming. The teaching methodology focuses on making dance accessible and relevant to all participants.

Each *Dancing with Class™* program is customized to the specific school site, with flexible scheduling options and dance styles ranging from ballroom to hip-hop and everything in between. Programs help teachers achieve state-established goals in the areas of social science, physical development and health, fine arts, and foreign language. *May I Have This Dance* also offers two touring shows for school assemblies, as well as Fortnightly/Cotillion programs, Parent-Child dance workshops, and teacher training programs.

Kids who take part in *Dancing with Class™* programs are often reluctant at first, but by the time the program ends, they become enthusiastic, eager dancers. (See "Overcoming Shyness.") After gaining exposure to a wide variety of dance styles, children discover their own favorite styles—and they're often surprised by just how much fun dance can be.

For more information about *May I Have This Dance* youth programs, visit www.dancingwithclass.com or call 773-635-3000. 

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