

**Danielle A. Bazinet**  
**Arts Department Chair and Performing Arts Teacher**

Sage students are lucky when it comes to the school. It's not very common to find an elementary school with such a dedicated performing arts program. This program is designed to offer students meaningful exposure to all of the arts forms including visual art, theater, dance, and music at an age-appropriate level.

With a true passion for the arts, and a versatile background in theater and a variety of dance forms, including modern, ballet, and jazz, Danielle Bazinet leads the performing arts program. Danielle believes in a balance of knowledge along with performance experience. The theater curriculum focuses on the history of the craft such as forms of expression, ideas of interpretation, directing, set design, playwriting, etc. The dance curriculum encourages students to think creatively and express thoughts and inspirations through body language. A major part of the performing arts curriculum is the Arts Review, which is a chance for students to share with the community highlights of what they have studied in their arts classes throughout the term.

Using an interdisciplinary approach, Danielle integrates what students are learning in their other courses into the performing arts curriculum. For instance, when students were learning about Africa in their humanities class, she designed a unit around African dance. The same is true for Greek methodology, the Cold War, Shakespeare, the Italian Renaissance, and the list goes on.

Danielle loves that Sage students are so eager to learn. This enthusiasm puts no limits on what can be taught. She remains true to The Sage School's core value of flexibility. If students are really enjoying a particular genre of theater or dance, she will continue to let them explore and learn about that topic.

Danielle directs the after-school dance and theater program in two performances each year. One-act theater productions have included scenes from Neil Simon plays, and most recently, in Spring 2009, the musical *Give My Regards to Broadway* which students performed at The Foxboro Orpheum. Dance performances have included technique in hip hop, jazz, modern, and ballet.

Danielle believes this solid performance foundation helps students develop in many aspects of life such as self-confidence, self-expression, speaking in public, compromising and working in groups. In addition, the performing arts program allows students to continue with confidence in high school. Students leave Sage with a solid understanding and appreciation for the performing arts.

Danielle has an undergraduate degree in theater education from Regis College and a master's degree in dance education from NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. In addition to teaching at The Sage School, she also teaches dance education courses at Bridgewater State College.