



# JOHN PAUL STEVENS HIGH SCHOOL

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Harold Maldonado, *Principal*

Brian T. Woods, Ed.D., *Superintendent*

February 11, 2015

Mr. John Toohey,

It is with great appreciation that I take this time to thank you for an opportunity provided to the Stevens Dance Department. This week we were able to partake in a master class and performance provided by the ARTS San Antonio with the Paul Taylor Dance Company. I am humbled by the opportunity offered to our students and am appreciative of the learning experience provided to them. I know this lesson will last a lifetime.

Stevens High School is considered a Title I school, meaning that a large percentage of our students are considered economically disadvantaged. Our Dance Department students often only experience such dance classes and performances through the classes they enroll in here at Stevens High School. To be provided a chance to meet and learn from one of the pioneer modern dance companies has been an unbelievable experience for all involved. Forty-two students left the studio Monday feeling excited and empowered by the members of the Paul Taylor Dance Company through their master class. They learned new modern technique, terminology and history from the professionals. They also made connections from previous lessons that reinforced prior learning. The students had the chance to speak with the Company members after researching the company's history. The company members were astounding teachers and incredible performers.

The following day, our students were provided transportation to the Majestic Theater to watch the Paul Taylor Dance Company perform. They were provided tickets at no cost provided by the ARTS San Antonio. The students were excited to see their master class' teachers take the stage and spoke after each choreography piece of how impressed they were by their presentation, choreography and technique. They made a connection between the technique they were taught in class and the choreography they saw on stage. Our students were also connecting creative choreography techniques recently discussed in class to what was presented in each choreography piece. They continued to converse about the choreography, performers and presentation of each of the performances the following day.

Again, I am truly appreciative of this opportunity provided to our Dance Department at Stevens High School. I cannot thank you, the ARTS San Antonio, Paul Taylor Dance Company enough for the partnership you have with our Northside schools. This experience is irreplaceable and will last a lifetime for each dancer.

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