

Semi-Annual Newsletter

January 2020 | The E.S.T.E.E.M. Group | Pure Ballroom Inc.

Brag Board

Thanks to our Teaching Artists' hard work and dedication we received rave reviews and became a 2019 Top-Rated Non-Profit.

This would not have been possible without the help of all the students and staff at our schools. We never thought we would have come this far in such a short amount of time. This truly shows that with a dream in sight and a solid plan to meet those goals *anything is possible*.



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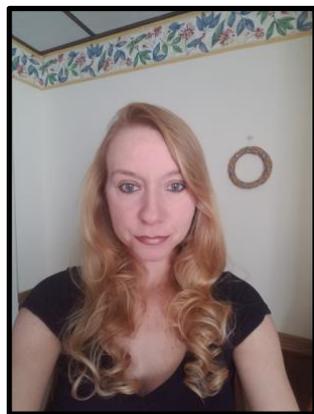
We continue to grow and grow...

This fall has been nothing short of amazing. We were able to work with so many great schools, staff and their wonderful students. We even surpassed our services from last year in five short months, partnering with

9 schools 53 classrooms 1,105 students

Our students spanned Pre-K through Sixth Grade and most classes were taken through 16 sessions over 8 weeks. The following schools partnered with us September through January and we were so pleased to start the 2019-2020 school year with them.

Bellevue Elementary, Crafton Children's Corner Greentree, Crafton Children's Corner Banksville, Pittsburgh Banksville, Pittsburgh Brookline, Pittsburgh Phillips, Pittsburgh Whittier, Pittsburgh Westwood, and West Mifflin Middle School



Miss Brenda (pictured on the left) joined us in October. She has a background in behavioral health as well as many years in movement. She loves to run and swim and still continues to do both through marathons and coaching. She is also a mom of four active children, and she brings a lot of knowledge and fun to our team. We love seeing her interact with all of our preschool students.

Give the Gift of Self-Confidence to our E.S.T.E.E.M. Group Youth – Please check out our first campaign on the Kindest Platform. We have partnered with them to help simplify the donation process and give donors a breakdown of how funds are used. Please check out our campaign at <https://kindest.com/campaign/give-the-gift-of-self-confidence-to-our-youth>



Our New Teammates!

Please join us in welcoming Miss Brenda and Miss Jen to the team. If you get a chance to spend some time with them, you will know why we are so lucky to have them. Both of these amazing ladies have already added so much to our team. They have jumped right in, literally, and have quickly made a difference in all of our schools. We are extremely pleased that they chose to work with us and continue our mission of empowering students through education, engagement and motion. We cannot wait to see how they grow with us.

Miss Jen (pictured on the right) came aboard in December, but we have seen her before when she helped pilot the program with Miss Gena in the summer of 2018. You can thank Miss Jen for adding Tooty Ta to the curriculum. Her background is in dance and Pilates as well as being a mom of four children/young adults. She has great ideas and we love how she adds her personality to every class.



Pittsburgh Public Schools

Phillips was our first school of the year. We were able to provide servicing in all 13 of their classrooms. We could not have started off on a better note as the students have an enthusiasm that is contagious. Westwood continued that trend with 12 classrooms serviced. Whittier had K, 1st and 4th grades receive programming, while Brookline has 4th and 6th grades, 5th grade will be starting in February. Banksville 5th graders participated and soon the 1st and 3rd grades will have their chance. Students reported gaining self-confidence, learning how to be more respectful and how to work better with others. We started last year with four Pittsburgh Public Schools and this year we will end with seven! We love having a partnership with PPS and we hope to continue to let it grow over the years to come.

West Mifflin Middle School

West Mifflin was our biggest school with 16 classrooms of 4th and 5th graders. Fourth grade worked through the Yoga, Dance, Team Building and Fitness program, while the 5th grade learned Ballroom Dancing. Fourth grade staff hope that programming could be year-round in the future. Students at both levels reported having higher self-confidence, having greater self-control, being able to make new friends, being able to work better with others, being more respectful, being more active and having a lot of fun during the program.



Bellevue Elementary Pre-K

Bellevue Elementary was an exciting new addition to our partnership this year. Mrs. Slate and Mrs. D (pictured below), really made us feel welcome and their students made us smile every day. We received great feedback from the school as well as the families. All of the students' families and school administration came to the final event and they all participated with the children. We were even invited to come back for round two later this year. We hope that we will get to continue to work with this amazing community in the future as they were so supportive and a lot of fun!



QUOTE CORNER

Here are some of our favorite quotes from our teachers, students and parents.

"Our students really enjoyed the program. It would be great to have this program all year for the students for a longer amount of time."

"I would love if this program lasted all year!"

"It has helped me by controlling my emotion and get through hard times."

"This program helped me learn that it's not always easy, but we will get through it."

"Yes, this program did help me. It helped me feel good about myself and forget about things."

"It helped me by becoming more confident in myself and pushing myself to try new things."

"This program let me get to know my classmates. It also helped me relax, work in a team, and helped me listen. I loved this program!"

"To learn to be kind and respectful to others and treat everyone the same."

"It was such a great opportunity for my child to learn something new that he normally wouldn't be exposed to and relate to his peers in a different way. Thank you for this program!"

"My daughter loved this class and looked forward to it each week."



Youth Social Dance

Our youth dance community is growing rapidly. Many of our students ask about finding ways to continue to dance and we wanted to give them that opportunity. All of our ballroom students are invited to our end of the year social dance. Fourth and Fifth grade students will get to interact with their peers from all over the Pittsburgh Area. We will provide a 30-minute refresher lesson and then let the students mingle and dance with old friends and make some new ones. This is a great way for students to use their dance etiquette to meet new people, step out of their comfort zone and gain self-confidence. Our event will be held in the afternoon on Sunday, April 26th. Stay tuned for more details!

Visit us at <https://theesteemgroup.org>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
[@pureballroominc](#) and [@theesteemgroup](#)

Pure Ballroom Inc.
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We are always in need of supplies for our schools.
Search Amazon Charity Lists for
The E.S.T.E.E.M. Group Wish List

Donations are always welcome!

Dancing and Dessert Fundraiser

Please join us on Friday, February 21st from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm for a very sweet event. Take your special someone out for a nice dinner or cook one at home and then head to Art and Style Dance Studio for some dessert and a dance lesson. All proceeds will go to supplement programming costs at all of our partnering schools. Tickets can be purchased at <https://kindest.com/events/dancing-and-dessert> We hope to see you there!



Next Semester's Line Up

We have ten schools lined up for the rest of the school year. We will be continuing services in new classrooms in some of our current schools and visiting new schools for the first time ever! We are so excited to add four new locations to our team this winter/spring semester. These schools have students from Pre-K through Sixth Grade signed up and we cannot wait to calm our bodies, dance our hearts out, work in teams and motivate ourselves through the four focuses.

Community Day School - New
Crafton Children's Corner Greentree
Crafton Children's Corner Thornburg - New
Environmental Charter School
Pittsburgh Banksville
Pittsburgh Brookline
Pittsburgh Colfax - New
Pittsburgh Mifflin - New
Pittsburgh Westwood
Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy