

Homespun Community Dancing



Dear Teacher,

We are delighted to be visiting your school. In preparation for our work together, we would like to let you know a bit about what to expect.

Homespun Community Dancing creates fun, wholesome music and participatory dance events for the whole community. **Teachers have found it to be a dynamic tool for addressing important educational goals and standards in grades K-6.** Plus, the dances are so fun and easy, that everyone can feel successful doing them in just one session. They're a great way of teaching mutual respect and group cooperation.

The Homespun musicians perform **live dance music of many cultures**, including Celtic, Appalachian, Russian, German, Danish, Balkan, French, Israeli, African-American, and English. We lead participants in square, folk, contra, and circle dance steps from our repertoire of more than 300 different dances.

Teachers familiar with Homespun programs have made **strong connections with the NYS Learning Standards**, such as the Arts, Physical Education, Civility & Character Education, Social Studies Standards and many others. Research indicates curriculum rich in the arts improve student performance in other subject areas and helps them become more sensitive to the world around them.

We will provide curriculum materials to the Arts in Education coordinator to use for preparation and follow-up. Before our arrival, it is recommended that the school announce this dance residency to teachers, students and parents.

During Homespun's visit we hope to not only have a lot of fun, but give content, history and vocabulary about the dances and music, and **instill respect for each other by encouraging social skills required to dance in a group.** We ask that you join in the dances. **Your enthusiastic participation sets the tone** for the entire visit and is an important factor in the dancing success of your students. Parents and other volunteers are welcome and encouraged to dance, too.

We're looking forward to seeing you soon. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us or visit our website for more information and curriculum connections.

Cordially,

Paul Rosenberg