



COURTESY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Sean Layne, a teaching artist from the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., gives a workshop to St. Christopher students about learning goals focused on teambuilding, accountability and 21st century Learning Skills.

St. Christopher School selected for a new and innovative learning strategy

TONAWANDA — St. Christopher School has been selected by the Chautauqua Institution to participate in the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Partners in Education Program.

The school took part in an innovative workshop; Acting Right: Drama as a Classroom Management Strategy. St. Christopher School is one of the first schools throughout Erie County to receive this distinction as the program is being extended into Erie County school districts in partnership with Erie 1 BOCES and grant funding through the John R. Oishei Foundation.

Sean Layne, a teaching artist from the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., spent two days instructing faculty from throughout Western New York along with St. Christopher staff and students in grades one, two and five. His instruction included introducing techniques to integrate performing and visual arts into core subject areas. This popular workshop gave students and teachers new strategies for achieving

student learning goals focusing on team building, accountability and 21st-Century Learning skills.

Faculty and students raved about the effectiveness of the program and their ability to integrate it immediately into their daily routines. Many students commented that they felt empowered to take ownership of and responsibility for their behavior and learning.

Students and faculty practiced management techniques including reflective responses that facilitate learning as they recognized what it means to have a calm body, focused mind and balanced emotions. These "Acting Right" strategies are grounded in theatrical games that reshape teaching behavior providing common vocabulary that sets the stage for effective and interactive long-term learning.

Principal Cynthia Bryk stated this was such a successful endeavor that she looks forward to continued collaboration with the Chautauqua Institution and the Kennedy Center throughout the coming year.



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