

# Special Programs

## Classes

Onye offers dedicated classes in African drumming and dance for school arts programs. Intensive drumming sessions and choreography at the high school and college level are available. Themes include communicating emotions and storytelling through dance as well as rhythm hand techniques for modern style drummers.

## Mentoring

Village mentoring provides practical tools for young people to find deeper meaning in life. Students learn how to interact and communicate sincerely with family and friends to build a better future and deepen their sense of belonging within community. Community is when people of various backgrounds gather together to share values, beliefs and interests and develop a sense of belonging together. The mentoring process explores life transitions and teaches attitudes and skills required for youths to function more effectively in community. Onye creates a joyful atmosphere that models a positive way of life influenced by love, respect, and reverence for nature and traditions. Young people will be given the opportunity to interact positively with elders. Teens will have the opportunity to discuss and explore issues affecting their lifestyle without reprimand or criticism. This program is beneficial for youths in transition, children with low self-esteem and/or facing various life challenges.

Onye is available throughout the United States and abroad for:

- School Assemblies
- workshops and residencies
- Single Performance
- Back to Back performance (5-10 minute duration between assemblies). Length of performance or class visit 45-60 minutes
- Residencies- One/two weeks or longer depending on the project
- Classroom lecture/demonstrations

## Extracurricular Activities

- After-school programs
- Fundraisers
- Graduation ceremonies



**Onye N. Onyemaechi, MBA**  
**Village Rhythms**  
**PO Box 4365**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95402 USA**  
**Tel: 707-528-4458**  
**[www.villagerhythms.com](http://www.villagerhythms.com)**  
**[onye@villagerhythms.com](mailto:onye@villagerhythms.com)**

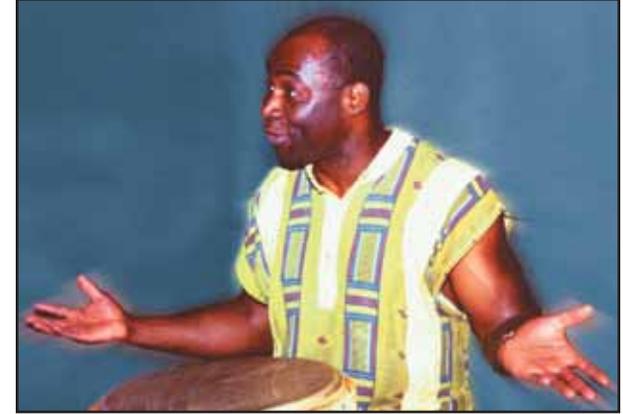
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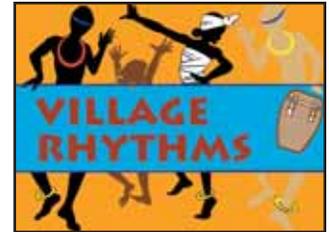
"Onye brought us back to a feeling of community...Wisdom, love, respect, relaxation and celebration were all qualities experienced by our school during this exceptional program"

Nancy C. Mannion  
The Discovery Center School, San Francisco

# Educational Programs in Values and Cultures of Traditional Village Life



Onye Onyemaechi, MBA



# The Village Experience

## Celebrating Learning, Community & Life

In the African Village, we live with an extended family of many generations. Children, individuals and groups are connected with the basic principles of life, coexisting in harmony with the rhythms of nature, family and community. Africans celebrate life with purpose and meaning through the traditional art forms of music and dance, play, theater and songs, that foster respect and cooperation. Founder and director, Onye Onyemaechi, uniquely and creatively provides students a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience to enhance academic endeavors and life skills.

All performances and extracurricular activities are interactive, dynamic and a peak experience for all! Village Rhythms brings the wisdom of the traditional African village to western society so we learn to function as a harmonious and mutually supportive community.

Cultural arts education and performing arts programs are extended to schools, colleges, cultural organizations, camps and to the public. Students, teachers and staff participate in the activities, which build self-confidence, support strong value systems, and create a deep sense of school community. Students not only dance and make music but learn about being quiet and listening to the voices of reason and intuition within themselves.

Onye also offers an Arts-in

Education program of classroom visits. Schools receive thorough teachers' guides so teachers can prepare the students and follow up after the performance with key concepts and learning exercises. Programs and events can be customized to meet your time, age group and thematic requirements. Workshops can be tailored for developmentally challenged, visually and/or hearing impaired students.

Assemblies and classroom programs are especially popular for Black History Month. Onye's work with children has been featured on NBC and regional school cultural programs since 1984.



## School Assemblies

Children, teens, and teachers dress in traditional costumes and feel a part of one village community. These programs develop:

- Cultural awareness and respect
- Unity, friendship and goodwill
- Positive attitude
- Joy of learning
- Self esteem and sense of belonging

## African Village Celebration

As a teacher and performer Onye engages students in an exciting and joyful participatory experience of African Village Celebration. His repertoire involves student participation in African drumming, dancing, songs and stories. He uses captivating music, native dress and instruments presented in an historical cultural context. All are encouraged to value and integrate their own heritage into their learning and living experience.

## Life in the Village

This follow-up to the Celebration assembly uses music and stories, questions and answers to communicate sound values. Themes can include learning self-discipline, respecting elders, communing with nature, listening to your conscience and getting along with others. This is intended for groups who wish to build on the interest generated by the Celebration assembly.

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"Dear Onye,  
Thanks for coming to our classroom, listening playing from the heart.  
Your friend, Savannah, age 7"

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# African Cultural Arts and Traditional Values for Young People

## Classroom Programs

Onye shares stories and explanations of traditional Nigerian village life to relate to students' life in the modern world. By using drumming and dancing as a metaphor, students learn about decision making and taking personal responsibility in their lives. These programs can be structured for geography, history, social studies and music programs.

This program can be offered individually or in a 3-class series.

## Introductory– Basic Skills:

Students are introduced to traditional African culture through music, dance and stories of village life. They learn to apply these lessons to enhance their creativity, self-expression and quality of life.

## Intermediate– Leadership:

Students learn to utilize their skills and experience to enhance body awareness, communications and team building skills. Students learn respect for themselves and others in order to create a positive environment in the group for learning and self-development.

The traditional discipline is used to focus the mind for accomplishing goals.

## Wisdom for Life Decisions:

Students demonstrate what they have learned and how they can integrate it into their own lives. We discuss cooperative village values, coming of age and being part of a larger community.



## Onye Onyemaechi Biography

Onye Onyemaechi, MBA, is founder and executive director of Village Rhythms. He performs and teaches at academic institutions, organizations, and conferences around the world and has been featured on NBC, and the Wisdom Channel. He has over 20 years experience educating youth in both public and private schools. Onye is a master drummer, percussionist and dancer, performing/recording artist, folklorist and educator. He is from the Igbo people of southeast Nigeria. Onye's school and camp performances have earned him a Ronald MacDonald's foundation recognition award. Onye's contagious joy of life and delight in young people provide a vibrant and uplifting experience of African celebration. He inspires us to celebrate cultural diversity among all people.