**TED Talks**

***Assignment: Finding Sources of Inspiration for Interdisciplinary Lessons* OR**

***Reflecting Upon and Writing an Artistic Teaching Philosophy***

***Relevance:*** Lesson planning is a creative process regardless of whether the arts are integrated into the instruction of academic concepts or not. Creating a lesson involves research, finding meaningful connections, and aligning objectives with assessments so that thinking and interacting with ideas, and not just learning and retaining them, occurs. TED Talks are a diverse and expansive collection of talks by experts in a variety of professional fields. The topics covered in these broadcasts range from scientific inventions, to sharing philosophical perspectives, to disseminating fundraising strategies in third-world countries, etc. They are a rich source of potential inspiration for connecting math, science, ELA, social studies, history, and anything else, including dance. This “assignment for inspiration” is for teachers who have become comfortable with combining an element of dance with an academic concept and feel ready to make either a unique connection or a deeper one (with two or more dance elements in play) between a TED topic, an academic concept, and dance/movement. TED Talks can also be a way to reflect upon what inspires you most as an educator and the ways that you might expand, share your expertise more, advocate, and invite others into your planning, instruction, assessment, management, and presentation of your students’ learning and classroom experiences. Below are some topics to consider in support of redefining your teaching philosophy to include a commitment to creating curriculum that is interdisciplinary and teaching academics artfully:

1. What is required to teach with true enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy on a daily basis
2. Differentiating instruction for every type of learner in the classroom
3. Helping students to take ownership of their potential and be self-motivated learners
4. Staying an empathetic teacher who cares for the whole child, in and out of the classroom
5. The importance of rigor and challenge in instruction
6. Social influences that inform the teacher’s instruction and management of students
7. How the brain learns and how the arts can positively impact this
8. Why movement is important in learning
9. Why good teaching is essential in society – the contribution it makes to life beyond K12 schooling
10. What things you want to teach your students beyond the assigned subjects they will learn