

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Yamato Drumming



Major support for the Student Enrichment Through the Arts program has been provided by



Frederick A. DeLuca
FOUNDATION

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Know Before you Go:

- Arrive at the theater 15 to 20 minutes before show time. Allow extra time for Broward County traffic. We are unable to start a show late.
- Please stay on the bus until greeted by a SEAS usher. At that time, please give the usher your BUS document and the usher will escort you to the theater.
- Remember to watch our Know Before You Go Video:

<https://tinyurl.com/ElementarySeasWelcome>



Dear **TEACHER**,



We are excited to present this Curriculum Connection (Study Guide) as a valuable resource to support your teaching journey. This guide has been carefully designed to offer engaging and meaningful activities for use in your classroom before and after seeing a S.E.A.S. performance at The Broward Center's Amaturo Theater, The Parker, or Miniaci at NSU. Each section is structured to make it easier for you to integrate cross-curricular connections, providing a seamless experience for students to deepen their understanding while exploring the creative process.

The activities and lessons in this guide have been intentionally crafted to complement Florida's B.E.S.T. standards. By utilizing these resources, you will be able to foster a dynamic and creative learning environment while ensuring students meet key academic goals. We encourage you to adapt the materials to best fit your classroom's needs and objectives, empowering students to think critically and creatively across all disciplines.

We want to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for the passion and dedication you bring to your classrooms every day. Your commitment to infusing art-full moments into education not only enriches your students' learning experiences but also ignites their curiosity and creativity. Thank you for inspiring the next generation of thinkers, creators, and innovators. We are truly grateful for the impact you have on your students' lives. Consider joining the Teacher's Lounge (QR code below) to be notified of special events and discounts just for Teachers.



Don't forget to distribute your S.E.A.S. stickers when you return to school (after the trip) and share the magic that is Student Enrichment Through the Arts!



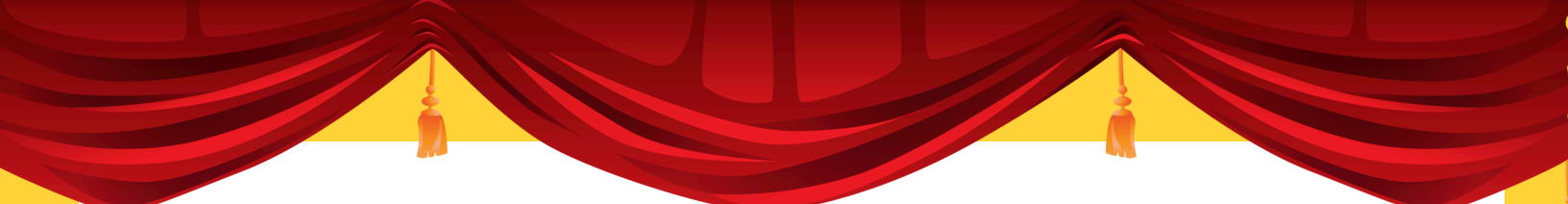


Theater Etiquette

There is so much that goes into creating a show for the stage. Behind the scenes, there are people who control the lights and the sound, the sets and the props. There are directors, writers, producers, musicians, and choreographers. So many people work together to create the performance you and everyone in the audience watches.

It is helpful to remind students of appropriate audience etiquette by explaining and discussing WHY these rules of behavior are important:

- Restroom visits are best made prior to the performance.
- Listen carefully to the ushers and your teachers. This gets everyone to your seats quickly and ensures a pleasant experience.
- Turn watches and cell phones to silent.
- Walk single file, hold hand rails as you use the steps for your safety.
- Listen carefully to each performer. They are working hard to entertain and inform with lots of clues about the story.
- Refrain from TALKING. This allows everyone to enjoy the show without distraction. Sometimes we think that if we whisper it is okay. But, if everyone in the audience whispers, it becomes disruptive.
- Laugh if something is funny, but not too loudly, you don't want to miss any dialogue.
- Photography and recording are not permitted.
- Pay attention to the lighting, scenery, costumes and music. All of these elements help provide more details to tell the story in an interesting way.
- Applaud (clap) and laugh at the right moments. This shows the performers that you respect and appreciate their work.



My Theater Review

I saw: _____

Reviewed by: _____

This play/musical was about...

Here's a drawing of
my favorite character:

It made me feel:

I learned:

I gave this play/musical stars.



**We'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to submit this review,
please send to jenriquez@browardcenter.org**



ABOUT YAMATO: SYNOPSIS

Based in Asuka-mura, Nara Prefecture—known as the historic birthplace of Japan—YAMATO is a world-renowned Japanese Taiko drumming ensemble. Since their formation in 1993, they have performed over 4,500 shows across 54 countries, proudly calling themselves “YAMATO, the Taiko drumming group that travels all over the world.”

YAMATO’s Taiko work cannot be fully described by the word “performance.” They perform in theaters, schools, events, and even lead workshops and Taiko lessons, embodying their motto: “We go everywhere when somebody needs YAMATO! Bringing energy to the people living in the world!”

They perform with more than 40 Taiko drums, each with its own distinct character, size, and sound. For example, their largest drum, the “Odaiko,” is crafted from a 400-year-old tree and is approximately two meters in diameter and weighs 500 kilograms.

The members of YAMATO undergo rigorous physical training to master their instruments. They do not simply make their Taiko drums explode with sound; they produce delicate music that provides the listener with a palette of meticulously crafted sound. This ability has earned them the distinction of creating “physical music,” receiving high acclaim all over the world.

When YAMATO performs, they are full of energy—sometimes serious and strong, sometimes happy and comical. Their shows are not just something to watch; the audience becomes part of the experience. Surrounded by the deep, exciting sounds of the Taiko drums, people laugh, cry, clap, and feel connected to the performers and each other.

Through their music, YAMATO brings people together, creating fleeting yet unforgettable moments that celebrate life. YAMATO continues their journey, spreading the joy and energy of Taiko across the globe.



ABOUT THE SHOW

「人の力」 **"HitonoChikara"-The Power of Human Strength**

Technology is a tool,
It is humans who wield it.

With the advancement of technology,
An era where technology possesses intelligence.
Will humans become tools used by technology?

What will become of human existence?

In this age where humans are alive,
Beat the Taiko drum.

Made of a huge wooden body and cowhide,
Resonating with the power of the human body.
It is the heartbeat.

The Power of Human strength.

INTRODUCTION TO TAIKO DRUMS & INSTRUMENTS

“Taiko” is a Japanese word, which has many meanings, including a Japanese drumming style, a drum group, drum music and a drum itself. There are a wide variety of shapes and sizes of taiko. They have developed through the long history of Japan along with various traditional art forms such as Noh, Kyo-gen, Nagauta, and Kabuki.

The word “Wadaiko” especially refers to a taiko of Japanese origin. It is a compound word, which consists of “wa” (Japanese) and “daiko” (a suffix of the word “taiko”). The word “daiko” frequently appears in compound words regarding taiko such as Miya-daiko or Shime-daiko. Remember that “daiko” is just a suffix and has the same meaning as “taiko.”

Miya-daiko

- This is a barrel shaped drum with tacked heads made of one big piece of wood (Japanese cypress, zelkova, and oak).
- It was brought to Japan from China through Korea around the 15th century.
- The Miya-daiko is used mainly for Japanese traditional festivals.



Hirado-daiko

- These Taiko drums are made in the same way as Miya-daiko.
- The body is much shorter than Miya-daiko.

INTRODUCTION TO TAIKO DRUMS & INSTRUMENTS

Okedo-daiko

- These are made from Japanese cedar and are in the style of a Japanese barrel.
- Many pieces of wood are put together to make an Okedo-daiko.
- There are various sizes. The biggest Okedo-daiko in Japan is 480 cm in diameter.
- The small Okedo-daiko made light so that it can be played while being carried.
- Musicians frequently play this type of Taiko drums at the Shishimai (Japanese dance-like play) or Kabuki.



Shime-daiko

- Shime-daiko was brought to Japan from Kudara (Korea) around the 6th century.
- Its body is made of zelkova or pine tree which is hollowed out inside.
- Cow skin is put over each end and fastened with a rope.
- This Taiko drum has a high-pitched sound and is often used to play fast rhythm.



Chappa

- A small bronze cymbal, the Chappa was used widely in the ancient Near East.
- Passing along the Silk Road, it was first brought to China, and then to Japan around the Nara Era.
- It is often used at religious services.



INTRODUCTION TO TAIKO DRUMS & INSTRUMENTS

Shamisen

- One of the best-known Japanese instruments, the Shamisen is used to provide accompaniment to different styles of vocal music and theatrical performances. The Shamisen came to Japan from China via the Ryukyu Island and was fashioned into its current shape during the 16th century.
- It has a long thin neck and a box which resonates when its three strings are plucked with a big plectrum called Bachi.
- The Shamisen became widely popular from about the 17th century.
- Today it can be heard accompanying Kabuki, Bunraku and Joruri performances as well as traditional dances and folk songs



Koto

- The Koto was introduced to Japan from China in the Nara Era as one of the instruments used in Japanese court music and dance in the Tang Dynasty.
- The composer Kenko Yamada used the Koto as his main instrument, but before him, it was only used as an accompanimental instrument.
- With Koto master Fusayoshi Shigemoto, Yamada created a new type of Koto, about 180cm wide.
- This increased the volume and clarity of sound dramatically. Their production method and playing technique have been passed down through generations.
- The best sound quality for the Yamada Koto is acquired with a hollowed out Paulownia tree 40-50 years old with a diameter of about 40 cm.



Shinobue

- The Shinobue is a Japanese flute made from shino-bamboo.
- There are twelve types of Shinobue flutes, each having seven holes.



Discussion Topics

“Artificial intelligence” has become a major topic of discussion recently.

Since the birth of humankind, people have been repeatedly making ingenious efforts to make our lives more convenient and better. The development of science and technology.

One of the products of this development is artificial intelligence.

It is said that “artificial intelligence,” technology as a tool for people to use, has the potential to surpass people.

It is said that artificial intelligence will take on many of the tasks that have been done by humans.



**Will people be used by the tools they have created?
Or will we no longer need people in the future?**

What will happen to Taiko drumming?

Will there ever be a machine that can play Taiko with unparalleled accuracy?

Will advanced algorithms make them sound human-like?

Leaving that aside...

Let us beat the Taiko as we are YAMATO.

The sound that one strikes resonates with the human heart.

The sounds struck by the heart, resonating with each other, will become “Hito no Chikara”

– The Power of Human Strength.



YAMATO DRUMMING: CREATIVE WRITING

During the YAMATO performance, the drums seemed to speak without using words. Imagine that one of the drums could tell a story. What story was it telling? Was it about an adventure, a celebration, a challenge, or something else? Describe what happened in the story and explain how the sounds, rhythms, and movements of the performers helped bring it to life.

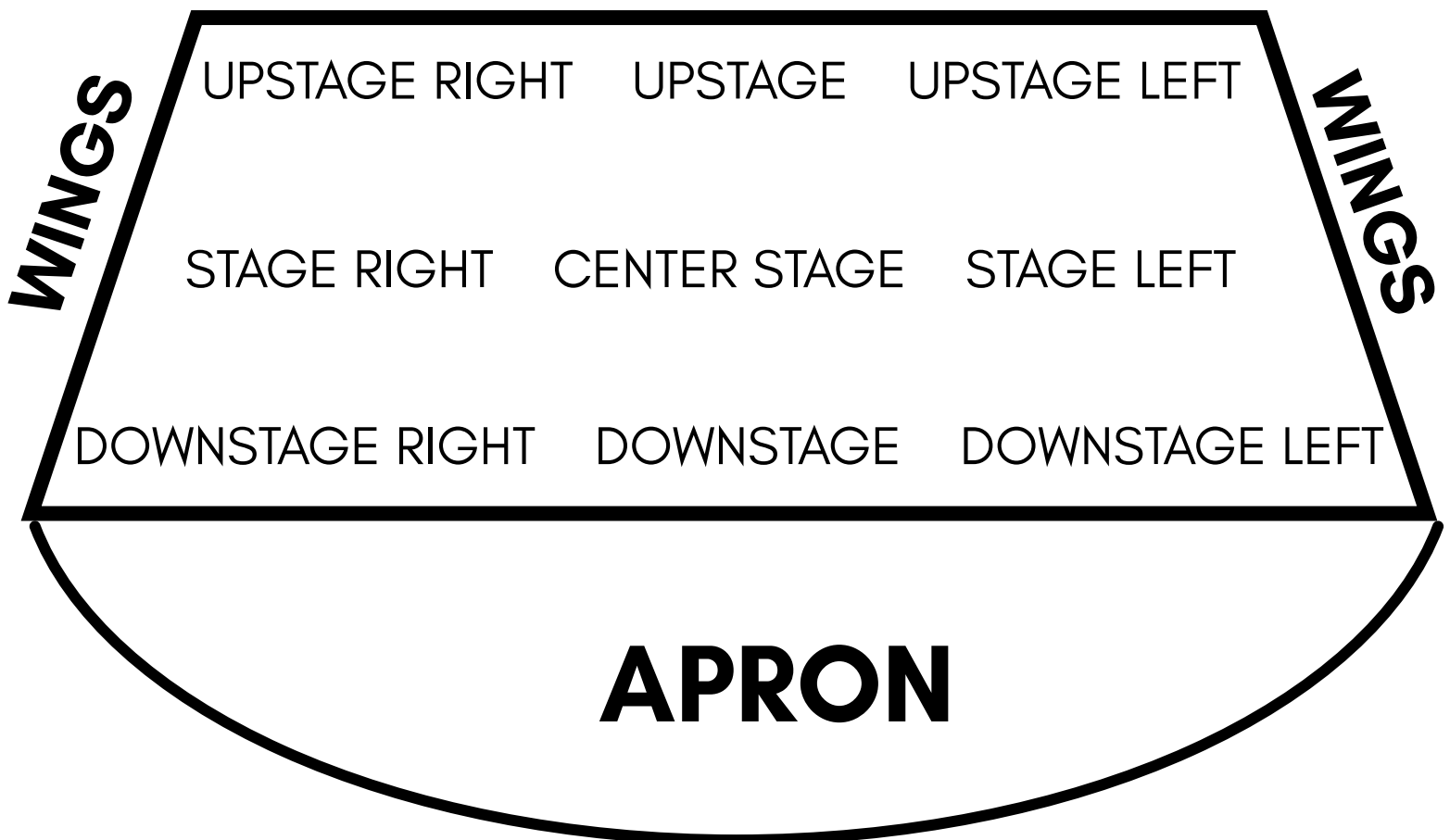


THE PARTS OF A STAGE

A proscenium stage is a traditional theatre configuration where the audience views the performance through a "picture frame" arch, separating the stage from the seating area.

- Stage Left and Stage Right are named from the actor's point of view while facing the audience, **not** from the audience's view.
- Upstage means the back of the stage, and downstage means the front. These terms come from old stages that were sloped upward toward the back.
- Wings are the areas on the sides of the stage where actors wait to enter and where scenery and props are kept out of the audience's sight.

BACKSTAGE



HOUSE

THE PARTS OF A STAGE FOUR CORNERS GAME

Adapt Four Corners with you as the **DIRECTOR**. Start at center stage, close your eyes and count to 10. Students move to a part of the room. Call out a stage direction. Students in that section are “out” and become part of the “house” to watch the rest of the game until there is a winner!

BACKSTAGE

UPSTAGE RIGHT UPSTAGE UPSTAGE LEFT

STAGE RIGHT CENTER STAGE STAGE LEFT

DOWNSTAGE RIGHT DOWNSTAGE DOWNSTAGE LEFT

APRON

HOUSE

Post Show Cooperative Learning Opportunities

(Group Work Ideas for Teachers)



1. Group Reflection Circle

Sit together and share your favorite moments, characters, or songs from the performance. Encourage everyone to explain why they liked those parts.

This builds listening skills and helps everyone appreciate different perspectives.

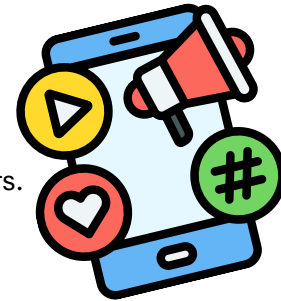


2. Create a Mini Review Together

Work as a team to write a short review of the show.

Assign roles: one person writes, another edits, others brainstorm key points.

You can post it on social media or keep it in a class journal.



3. Reenact a Scene

Pick a favorite scene and act it out as a group.

Add your own twist—maybe change the setting or improvise new dialogue.

This sparks creativity and teamwork.



4. Design a Poster or Program

Collaborate to create a poster or program for the performance you saw.

Include drawings, quotes, and fun facts.

This is great for artistic expression and memory keeping.



5. Plan a "Behind the Scenes" Discussion

Research how the performance was made (costumes, music, choreography).

Assign each group member a topic to present.

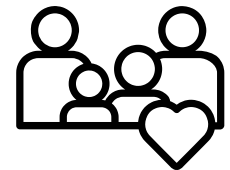
This turns curiosity into a cooperative learning activity.



K-5 Student to Family Cooperative Activity Ideas:

- Create a home theater space: Dedicate a specific area in your home as a temporary theater space. It can be anywhere with a little bit of space to "put on a show". Create a cozy ambiance with lighting and comfortable seating.
- Create tickets and programs: Design and print them at home or even hand made. Deliver the tickets to family members, and the programs can include information about the performance, cast, and crew. This adds a touch of authenticity and excitement.
- Snack bar and concessions: Set up a snack bar or concessions stand with a variety of treats and refreshments. You can even create special themed snacks related to the performance you are watching.
- Interactive viewing experience: Encourage audience participation during the performance. For example, during a musical, you can sing along to the songs and clap during applause-worthy moments!
- Post-show discussions: After the performance, have a family discussion about the show. Share your thoughts, favorite moments, and discuss the themes or lessons portrayed. This can foster critical thinking and encourage creativity in your kids.
- **Remember, the goal is to create a memorable and immersive experience. Adapt these ideas based on your family's preferences and the resources available to you. The key is to have fun and enjoy the theater experience in your digs!**

Additional Activity Ideas:



- Memory jars: Create a memory jar with your children. Write down favorite childhood memories on small pieces of paper and put them in a jar. Each week or month, take turns pulling out a memory and sharing it. This can spark conversations and lead to further discussions about your childhood experiences, and theirs too!
- Bedtime stories: Instead of reading traditional bedtime stories, take turns sharing personal stories from your childhood. These could be tales of adventure, funny incidents, or heartwarming experiences. This can create a strong bond between you and your children as you share personal narratives.
- Encourage your kids to create their own journals or scrapbooks to document their childhood memories. Take the opportunity to share your childhood stories as you help them with their own projects. You can even contribute by adding some of your own stories or mementos to their journals.
- What was your favorite song, band or genre growing up? Play a few songs for your child/children and let them play a few of their favorites for you!
- Create traditions with your child/children!: Establish special rituals or traditions that you can share. It could be a weekly movie night, cooking together on weekends, going for a walk after dinner, or singing at the top of your lungs before bedtime.

M/H Student to Family Cooperative Activity Ideas:

- Cook a themed meal: If the play had cultural or culinary references, consider cooking a themed meal together as a family. Research recipes from that culture or recreate dishes mentioned in the play. This culinary exploration can add a delicious dimension to your theater experience and allow you to immerse yourselves further in the production.
- Watch a related film or documentary: If there are any film adaptations or documentaries related to the play or its subject matter, plan a family movie night to watch them together. This can provide additional context, offer a different perspective, or deepen your understanding of the themes explored in the theater production.
- Share impressions and discuss the play: Sit down with your kids and have a conversation about the play you all watched. Share your impressions, thoughts, and emotions. Discuss the elements that stood out to each of you, such as the performances, the set design, or the storytelling. This exchange of perspectives can deepen your understanding and appreciation of the production.
- **Remember, the goal is to create a memorable and immersive experience. Adapt these ideas based on your family's preferences and the resources available to you. The key is to have fun and enjoy the theater experience in your digs!**

Additional Activity Ideas:

- Attend workshops or classes: Look for theater workshops or classes that interest you and your child. Participating in these educational opportunities can help your kids develop their skills, gain confidence, and connect with others who share their interest in the performing arts.
- Encourage your kids to create their own journals or scrapbooks to document their childhood memories. Take the opportunity to share your childhood stories as you help them with their own projects. You can even contribute by adding some of your own stories or mementos to their journals.
- What was your favorite song, band or genre growing up? Play a few songs for your child/children and let them play a few of their favorites for you!
- Volunteer or participate in theater activities: If your kids have developed a keen interest in theater, encourage them to get involved in local theater groups or school productions. Volunteer backstage, audition for roles, or assist with set design and costumes. This hands-on experience allows us to gain practical knowledge and further nurture a passion for the performing arts, and the whole family can volunteer with the show!

Standards Alignment: The activities in this guide are aligned with the standards listed below. When teachers incorporate the arts, they increase student engagement, offer multiple points for students to access the curriculum, and provide alternate means for students to demonstrate what they know.

Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.)	
Kindergarten through Grade 12/ English Language Arts	
ELA.K12.EE.1.1	Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.
ELA.K12.EE.2.1	Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently.
ELA.K12.EE.3.1	Make inferences to support comprehension.
ELA.K12.EE.4.1	Use appropriate collaborative techniques and active listening skills when engaging in discussions in a variety of situations.
ELA.K12.EE.5.1	Use the accepted rules governing a specific format to create quality work.
ELA.K12.EE.6.1	Use appropriate voice and tone when speaking or writing.
Theater	
TH.K.C.3.2	Share reactions to a live theatre performance.
TH.1. H.3.1	Identify similarities between plays and stories.
TH.2. O.3.1	Identify theatrical elements and vocabulary found in everyday life.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS DONORS

We thank the Broward Performing Arts Foundation and the following funding partners for their support of educational programming at the Broward Center this season.

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