



Fine Arts Department
Waco Independent School District

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To Whom It May Concern:

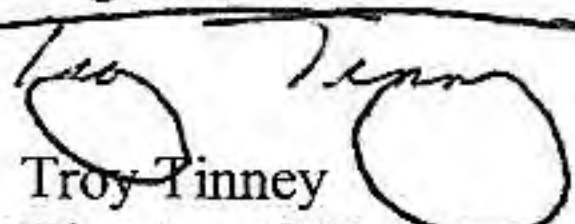
Jonas Basom has been providing outstanding curriculum materials, professional development, and support for teachers in Waco ISD since 2007. We have licensed and trained a significant number of teachers to incorporate *The Drama Game File* as a key part of our strategies to fulfill the mandates of Texas Senate Bill 815 and provide quality arts education at all grade levels. Thus far, we have purchased 3 campus site licenses and provided training for those teacher, plus district content specialists, middle school ELS teachers, and theatre arts teacher. One provider of afterschool programs, Communities in Our Schools, purchased a site license and training for all of their afterschool instructors to use drama for academic intervention and arts enrichment classes. Our ESL department was so impressed with the program's benefits to ELLs and literacy development that they helped fund our initial implementation. Our future plans are to continue to add more campuses and teachers, including our teachers working with gifted and talented students.

Jonas has provided superior professional development for our district. Our elementary, ELA, content area specialists and theatre teachers have commented on the effectiveness of the strategies and high levels of engagement in the classroom when using these activities as presented during professional development. They felt empowered to use the materials after his trainings and have had success using the CD, book, and flash cards on their own. We have used Skype sessions as either an introduction to materials and integration concepts or as follow up for individuals or groups after Jonas comes to us from Los Angeles. The option of training via Skype has helped us deliver training modules that are both compact and economical, introducing or reinforcing critical knowledge for the teachers, and maximizing the hands-on aspect of the training time for these materials.

Drama Education Network has provided us with outstanding customer service, including follow up. To further support our efforts in Texas, Jonas has created a PDF download that correlates his curriculum to the state adopted TEKS. Links to the TEKS have provided credibility and added value for the materials to become part of daily instruction, rather than an added piece of preparation and work for the classroom teachers.

In terms of creative drama and theatre arts, Jonas Basom has followed in the footsteps of Viola Spolin, adding not only value to teaching theatre to all ages, but moving creativity across the curriculum in a practical way for teachers and schools. If you want materials and activities that engage every student, challenge them to the highest levels of creativity, language development and thinking, and are easy to use for the generalist teacher (integrating with existing curriculum), then I recommend for you and your schools to take a serious look at *The Drama Game File*.

Regards,



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