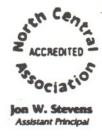


## Vine Street Alternative High School

604 W. VINE STREET · KALAMAZOO. MICHIGAN 49008 · (616) 337-0760 · FAX (616) 337-1756

John Severson Principal



Arts Fund/Kalamazoo County Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo 100 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3693

September 5, 1996

To the Arts Fund Committee members:

I am in support of Dan Runyan's project that uses theater as an educational tool. The possibilities for our students are immediately evident.

I have an interest in pscholinguistics. Research shows that most young people tend to be global learners, as opposed to analytical. The failure of schools in traditional settings to recognize this contributes to students' negative learning experiences. Traditional ways of teaching have not reached many of the students that come to us. Intuition tells me our students are full of global learners, students who have not been reached through their own learning styles.

These students need to learn through their senses, with full involvement, hands-on experiences, in order to connect to what's being taught in a meaningful way. This approach is also a highly effective retention strategy. Theater in the classroom is the creative key; the potential of what you present to us is enormous, exciting and diverse.

Well planned activities are in line with whole language principles, involve the senses, push students into higher cognitive levels by helping them make connections, and triggers the memory process in powerful ways. This is precisely what our students at Vine St. need.

Expectantly

Eva Kendrick

English Teacher

Y Walter Town

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