



High-Impact Arts-in-Education Programs

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Nels Ross is a performer, speaker, and oddball who has won the hearts of American and international audiences. Performing "in jest" or in a playful way, he provides high-impact programs that promote character education, wellness, leadership, math, science, reading, and joy.

Applying his Masters in Education and performing arts background, including training with instructors from UB Theatre & Dance and Cirque du Soleil, Nels presents assembly programs that blend physical theater, variety arts, music, humor, and a theme. He also offers playshops, residencies, and student and staff development. Programs can be adapted to highlight specific concepts, and study guides provide curriculum connections.

Nels consistently earns rave reviews from elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as museums, arts institutions, and others (see below).



Assembly Programs

POSSIBILITIES

Nels models and addresses principles of good character in this fun-filled, motivational performance. It can be tailored to focus on issues such as attitude, excellence, respect, responsibility, bullying, leadership, and life choices. (K-12) [study guide](#)

HIGH ON LIFE

This uplifting program promotes wellness and making healthy choices that develop body, mind, and character. It incorporates age-appropriate messages on nutrition, exercise, hygiene, substance abuse, and "joy-full" living. (K-12) [study guide](#)

SCIENCE CIRCUS


Nels and his special guest, The Professor, demonstrate math and science principles through circus skills. Participants will be amazed and amused as they learn about forces, energy, motion, and more. (K-6) [study guide](#) | [news article](#)

READ TO ACHIEVE

This upbeat performance celebrates reading because "the more you read, the more you know; and the more you know, the more you grow." Nels shares how reading can be the start of a journey to wherever you want to go. (K-6) [study guide](#)

THE GREATEST SHOW ON MIRTH

Perfect for the holidays, family fun nights, end of the year, and other celebrations, this mirthful (i.e. joyful) show conveys the value of laughter and play, and how everyone can help make the world a better place. (All Ages) [study guide](#)

 Schools in the Buffalo, NY or Rochester, NY areas can book Nels through [Young Audiences of Western New York](#) or [Young Audiences of Rochester](#).

Playshops & Residencies

JUGGLING & LIFE SKILLS PLAYSHOP

Participants develop confidence, self-discipline, and other life skills through juggling and related activities. These activities appeal to different intelligences and improve tracking, motor, and sequencing skills used in reading, writing, math, and science. (All Ages) [more benefits](#)

JUGGLING FOR SUCCESS RESIDENCY

Combine performances and playshops for a dynamic one-day to five-day residency that teaches juggling and life skills, and promotes positive decision making. Add an evening program or "Family Juggling Night" to involve the whole school community. (K-6) [study guide](#)

Student & Staff Development

LEADERSHIP: IT'S WHAT YOU DO DO

Employing his contagious sense of humor and playfulness, Nels shares with secondary students how every person has the potential to demonstrate true leadership, and the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Available for conferences, and with interactive workshops for small and large groups.

BUILDING NET MIRTH

An entertaining exploration of "play for grown-ups." Nels models the laughter-learning connection, and demonstrates how humor and play can serve as effective tools to enhance wellness, morale, motivation, creativity, communication, team building, and productivity. Available as a one- to two-hour program for in-service training, conferences, and events. [online video](#)

Testimonials

"**AWESOME!** I had so many faculty come up and tell me that they loved your show. They were so impressed with your message and your skill!"

Beth Munro, Griffith Institute Middle School

"One of the most **ENERGIZING** and **ENGAGING** performances focused on bullying and character development that we have seen!"

Frank Spagnolo, Ben Franklin Middle School

"Thank you for contributing to the success of our high school student leadership retreat... We are grateful for your commitment to your work, and we are **IN AWE OF YOUR TALENT!**"

Charmy Perry, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES

"**ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS!** How wonderful it was to have science conveyed in such a fun way! You had everyone on the edge of their seats the whole time."

Kristy Bartenstein, Corning Museum of Glass

"During your family night performance, all I could hear was laughter, the kind that makes your whole body shake... Thanks again for bringing **SO MUCH JOY** to Riverview!"

Paula Gardner, Riverview School

"**FIVE STARS!** Teachers kept stopping by my office to share their delight with the program and the **POSITIVE MESSAGE** on character education. Several said it was the best assembly in all their years of teaching."

June Karassik, Cattaraugus Elementary

"Awesome job with the keynote for our Career Day. It was both entertaining and effective. Faculty and students loved it! Nothing but positive comments. **YOU ROCK!!!**"

Kathy Hoyt, North Rose-Wolcott High School

"Superb! His ability to integrate humor and character education was amazing... This was the **BEST I'VE SEEN IN ALL MY YEARS HERE...** He is so talented and personable, and he never lost focus on the message..."

Teacher Comments, Homer Brink School

"Nels is a talented, caring person who has done great things to motivate our students... His workshops and assemblies are the **HIGHLIGHT OF OUR SCHOOL YEAR.**"

Tyler Eichas, Plank Road South School

"It was a pleasure to have Nels this year. He was perfect for Read Across America Day and with his diversity of subjects he is **A GREAT ARTIST TO HAVE AGAIN AND AGAIN.**"

Suzanne Hattala, Kirk Road School

"Science Circus displayed your amazing juggling and theatrical talents, and kept the audience enthralled while **MOTIVATING** and **INSPIRING** them. Your joy in working with young people is evident."

Program Committee, Young Audiences

"Our students and staff absolutely loved the performance. The skills were **INCREDIBLE**, the physical comedy had us in stitches, and the message was **INVALUABLE!**"

Pam Fitzmorris, Cosgrove Middle School

"I am still hearing rave reviews about the assembly and workshops. Both faculty and students have had only great things to say about your **AMAZING SKILLS** and **DELIGHTFUL HUMOR.**"

Kristin Malone, Our Lady of Mercy High School

"The workshops went fantastically well. We had **100% PARTICIPATION** of the students. Even the medical excuse students wanted to be involved. And the lessons about success were well received."

Deb Glisson, Marcellus High School

"You taught not only juggling but **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE SKILLS...** Your artistry and sincerity captivated everyone, and I personally relished the upbeat effect you had on the entire school."

Deborah Rose, Washington Irving School

"Excellent program! 'Possibilities' was the perfect complement to our values education theme. You **MODELED OUR VALUES PRINCIPLES** and kept everyone fully engaged."

Michelle Kavanaugh, Maplemere Elementary

"The assemblies were some of the best we have ever had. **PROFESSIONAL... ENGAGING...** and your rapport with both junior and senior high students was **EXCELLENT!**"

Tim Rankin, Cambridge Springs High School

"'Read to Achieve' was right on target! Just the right combination of **FUN AND INSPIRATION** to kick off our reading program."

Mary Mulcahy, Highland Elementary

"Your ability to be humorous and to address important issues at the same time is **EXTRAORDINARY.** Students and teachers said it was the best program they had ever seen! It's wonderful to see this kind of talent combined with a **POSITIVE MESSAGE.**"

Linda Hewes, Chautauqua Lake Central School

References

As there are too many schools to list, here are some districts in western and central New York where Nels has performed. (Yes, he performs in other areas as well.) Current references and contact info can be provided upon request.

Addison	East Syracuse-Minoa	Lewiston-Porter	Rochester
Akron	Eden	Liverpool	Rome
Albion	Elba	Livonia	Royalton-Hartland
Alden	Ellicottville	Lockport	Rush-Henrietta
Alexander	Elmira	Lyndonville	Salamanca
Alexandria	Evans-Brant	Lyons	Sauquoit Valley
Allegany-Limestone	Fairport	Maine-Endwell	Seneca Falls
Altmar-Parish-	Fayetteville-Manlius	Manchester-Shortsville	Sidney
Williamstown	Forestville	Marcellus	Sodus
Amherst	Franklinville	Marion	South Jefferson
Attica	Fredonia	Medina	South Lewis
Auburn	Frewsburg	Mexico	Southwestern at Jamestown
Avon	Frontier	Morrisville-Eaton	Spencerport
Barker	Gananda	Mount Markham	Springville-Griffith Institute
Batavia	Gates-Chili	Mount Morris	Starpoint
Bath	General Brown	Naples	Susquehanna Valley
Bemus Point	Geneseo	Newark	Sweet Home
Binghamton	Geneva	Newfane	Tonawanda
Brasher Falls	Gorham-Middlesex	Newfield	Town of Webb
Brighton	Grand Island	Niagara Falls	Trumansburg
Brockport	Greece	Niagara-Wheatfield	Tully
Buffalo	Hamburg	North Collins	Union Springs
Caledonia-Mumford	Hamilton	North Rose-Wolcott	Union-Endicott
Camden	Hilton	North Syracuse	Van Hornesville-Owen D
Canandaigua	Holland	North Tonawanda	Young
Cattaraugus-Little Valley	Holley	Norwich	Vestal
Chautauqua Lake	Homer	Oakfield-Alabama	Victor
Cheektowaga	Honeoye	Olean	Warsaw
Cheektowaga-Maryvale	Honeoye Falls-Lima	Oneida	Waterloo
Cheektowaga-Sloan	Hopevale at Hamburg	Orchard Park	Watkins Glen
Chenango Valley	Horseheads	Oswego	Wayland-Cohocton
Cherry Valley-	Ilion	Palmyra-Macedon	Wayne
Springfield	Iroquois	Panama	Webster
Churchville-Chili	Ithaca	Pavilion	West Irondequoit
Clarence	Jamestown	Pembroke	West Seneca
Clymer	Jamesville-Dewitt	Penfield	West Valley
Corning	Jasper-Troupsburg	Penn Yan	Westmoreland
Cortland	Jordan-Elbridge	Perry	Wheatland-Chili
Cuba-Rushford	Kendall	Phoenix	Williamson
Dansville	Kenmore-Tonawanda	Pine Valley	Williamsville
Depew	Lancaster	Pittsford	Wilson
Dunkirk	Lansing	Port Byron	Windsor
East Aurora	Laurens	Potsdam	Wyoming
East Bloomfield	Le Roy	Red Creek	York
East Irondequoit	Letchworth	Ripley	Yorkshire-Pioneer
East Rochester			

Did you know?...

Besides schools, Nels performs for museums, arts institutions, theatres, libraries, youth bureaus, and others...

