

How would your life be different if you had been taught empathy in school?
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Last weekend's EPIC Showcase Fall 2019 brought the fall semester of EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course) to a close. In this week's newsletter, we look ahead to all that is in store for EPIC this Spring. Read below to learn more about Silk Road Rising's arts education program.

EPIC Spring 2020 Builds Empathy in Schools and Communities All Across Chicago

EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course) has been running strong at Silk Road Rising for the past 7 years. Typically, we serve 6th-12th grade students in Chicago Public Schools. However, with great excitement, we have expanded EPIC to reach adult and older adult communities and people with developmental disabilities.



Through either a 10 week or 7 day course, EPIC participants learn to tell personally meaningful stories as a short play or monologue. Professional playwrights and/or actors lead the students through exercises that strengthen empathy and create strong community bonds. Students of all ages and from all over Chicago are learning new creative skills and amplifying their voices with EPIC.

-Tracy Strimple
Director of Education

P.S. We are always looking for new EPIC partners! For more information or to set up an appointment please contact me at 312-857-1234 ext 204 or tracy@silkroadrising.org. Visit www.learnplaywriting.com to learn more about EPIC and to read plays written by EPIC participants.

Learn More About EPIC

This Spring, EPIC Is Taking Place in 12 Classrooms in 6 Schools and 1



Columbia Explorers Academy

Number of Students: 60
 Grade: 6th and 7th
 Class: Social Emotional Learning
 Classroom Teachers: Monika Rauba and Olivia Kirchner
 Teaching Artist: Steph Losada Vondell
 Neighborhood: Brighton Park

Galileo Scholastic Academy

Number of Students: 58
 Grade: 8th
 Class: English Language Arts
 Classroom Teacher: Diana Zurawski
 Teaching Artist: Jarrett King
 Neighborhood: Little Italy



Kelvyn Park School

Number of Students: 28
 Grade: 12th
 Class: English
 Classroom Teacher: Christopher Montoya
 Teaching Artist: Lindsay Hopkins
 Neighborhood: Hermosa



Mather High School

Number of Students: 20
 Grade: 9th and 10th
 Class: Theatre
 Classroom Teacher: Bryan Peters
 Teaching Artist: Janyce Caraballo
 Neighborhood: West Ridge



Misericordia Home

Number of Students: 15
 Program Coordinator: Jillian Roman
 Teaching Artist: Lexi Saunders
 Teaching Artist Assistant: Jaclyn Gessert
 Neighborhood: West Ridge



Ryan Banks Academy

Number of Students: 14
 Grade: 7th and 8th
 Class: Humanities
 Classroom Teacher: Audrey Bland Hampton
 Teaching Artist: Jarrett King
 Neighborhood: Woodlawn



Skinner West Elementary School

Number of Students: 102
 Grade: 7th
 Class: English Language Arts
 Classroom Teachers: Jennifer Christiansen and Conor Fitzsimmons
 Teaching Artists: Levi Holloway & Jarrett King
 Neighborhood: West Loop



SUPPORT EMPATHY AND ARTS EDUCATION BY DONATING TO EPIC



Professional actors (Destiny Strothers and Tina El Gamal) brought "Toast to the Ones Here Today" by 7th Grader Maryna Isho from Daniel Boone Elementary to life at last weekend's EPIC Showcase.

Still Want to Know More About EPIC?

Join us in June for EPIC Showcase June 13 & 14, 2020. See plays written by students from the communities above and engage with Tracy Strimple, our teaching artists, and maybe even a playwright or two! And on Sunday, June 14 there will be a special Silk Road Salon exploring the world of EPIC. This Salon is available only to members, which is all the more reason to become a 2020 Member!

Become a Member for Our 2020 Season

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