



proudly presents

# MOLODI



## CURRICULUM GUIDE



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

MOLODI is a Las Vegas based body percussion ensemble that blends collegiate stepping, dance, and immersive storytelling with robust personalities to bring to life high-energy rhythmic experiences. Co-founded by performing artists Jason Nious, Khalid Freeman, and Antwan Davis, they share a passion to experiment and push the boundaries of stepping.

Molodi's members are a collection of world-class artists who share a love of rhythm. They have created, choreographed, and performed with Cirque du Soleil, Stomp, Step Afrika, Usher, Michael Jackson Evolution, corporate campaigns, television, film, and theaters across the globe. Highlights include performing at the closing ceremonies of the European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan, Dansencore Festival in Quebec, Canada, and being featured at the International Body Music Festival in Indonesia, France, and Ghana.

In addition to performing on the world stage, Molodi calls Las Vegas home and holds it close to heart performing locally and teaching through their arts education program, Molodi Unplugged, which reaches over 20,000 students per year.

## Program Synopsis

Molodi Unplugged assemblies promote rhythmic awareness, teamwork, discipline, leadership and self-confidence in a fun, energetic atmosphere. The program includes several performance pieces from Molodi's repertoire featuring collegiate stepping and body percussion, with insights into the cultural histories of the art forms and inspirational stories from the artists.



## Program Objectives

1. Students will watch a performance featuring a blend of traditional stepping and progressive body percussion styles.
2. Students will learn the history of who cultivated stepping as a dance style and watch a sample of what a “Unity Step” would look like on a college campus.
3. Students will explore different percussive sounds they can make with their bodies in a follow-along call and response game.
4. Students will learn and recite a Pledge of Positivity
5. Students will participate in learning Stepping choreography. Teachers, beware! You are encouraged to participate as well 😊

## Vocabulary Words

1. PERCUSSION — The striking of two things together to make a sound.
2. STEPPING — a percussive dance cultivated by African American college students.
3. CULTURE — The way we do things around here.
4. COLLEGE — An institution of higher learning.
5. FRATERNITY — A group of men who form a brotherhood while in college. They help each other with their homework, help their communities, and have fun at social and sporting events.
6. SORORITY — A group of women who form a sisterhood while in college. They help each other with their homework, help their communities, and have fun at social and sporting events.
7. PLEDGE — A promise you make to yourself and your team.
8. ATTENTION — The first position and call to order of traditional step shows.

## Connections to Curriculum

Body percussion relates to the following Nevada Department of Education's Art Standards:

**2.8.4** Play a varied repertoire of instrumental literature representing diverse genres and styles.

**6.8.2** Describe the uses of the elements of music in aural examples representing diverse genres and cultures.

**7.8.2** Evaluate the quality of their own and others' performances and compositions, justifying their opinions.

**9.8.1** Describe distinguishing characteristics of representative styles from a variety of historical periods, American musical history, and world cultures. And more generally "Through the study of music, students move, sing, play, dance, and create as well as engage in the fundamental musical processes of analyzing, evaluating, and listening to sound." ..."enhancing body directionality and kinesthetic development; understanding human experiences, both past and present; learning to adapt to and respect others"

## **P.E. STANDARDS**

**1.0:** Demonstrate competency in motor skills, movement patterns and safety needed to perform a variety of physical activities.

**2.0:** Apply knowledge of concepts, principles and strategies related to movement, performance and safety within physical activities.

**3.0:** Participate regularly in physical activity.

**4.0:** Achieves and maintains a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.

## **Reading & Resource List for Further Study**

### **VIDEOS**

1. Molodi performance @ Dancencore 2019

<https://youtu.be/uSkiY-r3PvY>

2. Pass The Sound - Body band skills lesson #4

<https://youtu.be/vE-jTil-Ch4>

3. NAACP Awards - Unity Step -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lg06b3VOLMk>

4. Step Afrika - Divine 9 Fraternities & Sororities - Identity, self-pride, purpose

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU\\_JEZF7wiE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU_JEZF7wiE)

5. Barbatuques - tone, pitch, exploring sounds of the body

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tz7KROhuAw>

6. Stomp Hands & Feet - volume, dynamics, tension

[https://youtu.be/MqFz\\_jmcYF0?t=209](https://youtu.be/MqFz_jmcYF0?t=209)

7. South African Gumboots - Language, communication through rhythm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPB9rz1qSfE>



## Hands-On Activities

### THE GREEK ALPHABET

Αα

ALPHA [a]  
άλφα

Ββ

BETA [b]  
βήτα

Γγ

GAMMA [g]  
γάμμα

Δδ

DELTA [d]  
δέλτα

Εε

EPSILON [e]  
ε ψιλόν

Ζζ

ZETA [dz]  
ζήτα

Ηη

ETA [e:]  
ήτα

Θθ

THETA [tʰ]  
θήτα

Ιι

ΙΟΤΑ [i]  
ιώτα

Κκ

KAPPA [k]  
κάππα

Λλ

LAMBDA [l]  
λάμβδα

Μμ

MU [m]  
μύ

Νν

NU [n]  
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Ξξ

XI [ks]  
ξεί

Οο

OMICRON [o]  
ὀ μικρόν

Ππ

PI [p]  
πεί

Ρρ

RHO [r]  
ρώ

Σσς

SIGMA [s]  
σίγμα

Ττ

TAU [t]  
ταύ

Υυ

UPSILON [u]  
ὕ ψιλόν

Φφ

PHI [pʰ]  
φεί

Χχ

CHI [kʰ]  
χεί

Ψψ

PSI [ps]  
ψεί

Ωω

OMEGA [ɔ:]  
ὦ μέγα

# The Greek Alphabet Exercise

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The letters below represent the names of the historically African American fraternities and sororities who practice stepping. Three letters of the Greek Alphabet represent each name. Using the Greek Letter Chart provided, write out the full name of each of the organizations listed below.

## Fraternities

**ΑΦΑ** \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity, Inc.

Founded: 1906 Colors: Black and Old Gold

**ΚΑΨ** \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity, Inc.

Founded: 1911 Colors: Crimson and Cream

**ΩΨΦ** \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity, Inc.

Founded: 1911 Colors: Purple and Gold

**ΦΒΣ** \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity, Inc.

Founded: 1914 Colors: Royal Blue and Pure White

**ΙΦΘ** \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity, Inc.

Founded: 1963 Colors: Charcoal Brown and Gilded Gold

## Sororities

**ΑΚΑ** \_\_\_\_\_ Sorority, Inc.

Founded: 1908 Colors: Salmon Pink and Apple Green

**ΔΣΘ** \_\_\_\_\_ Sorority, Inc.

Founded: 1913 Colors: Crimson and Cream

**ΖΦΒ** \_\_\_\_\_ Sorority, Inc.

Founded: 1920 Colors: Royal Blue and Pure White

**ΣΓΡ** \_\_\_\_\_ Sorority, Inc.

Founded: 1922 Colors: Royal Blue and Gold

Write your own name using the Greek Capital and Lower-case letters:

## Follow-Up Questions

- What is the WORD for a group of MEN who come together during their college years and form a Brotherhood? They do community service, help each other with their homework, hang out and have fun, and they step. \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the WORD for a group of WOMEN who come together during their college years and form a Sisterhood? They do community service, help each other with their homework, hang out and have fun, and they step. \_\_\_\_\_
- What must you do before you can step? You must make a \_\_\_\_\_, a promise to yourself and to your team that you will always do your best.
- What is it called when you strike any two things together to make a sound?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Can you recite the Pledge? \_\_\_\_\_  
Good, Better, Best. Never let it rest, until your Good is Better, and your Better is Best!



Pioneer Center Youth Programs is the educational outreach division of  
the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts



For more information about our programming and organization,  
please visit:

[www.pioneercenter.com](http://www.pioneercenter.com)