Education at Ford’s Theatre

Supporting our nation’s educators, cultivating the next generation of leaders and improving the ways American history is taught across the country, while deepening our ability to inspire and teach on the Ford’s Theatre campus.

On-site Learning Programs

235,000 students visited Ford’s Theatre.

4,182 local students received free, education staff-guided field trips to the Ford’s Theatre Museum and Historic Site.

3,000 local students were provided with 91 free buses to transport them to field trips and matinee performances.

1,525 students attended free matinee performances of our theatrical productions.

448 students performed speeches by Abraham Lincoln on the historic Ford’s Theatre stage as participants in the annual Lincoln Oratory Festival, following residencies with Ford’s Theatre Teaching Artists.

Ford’s Education Programs

In Newspapers across the Country!

Photo of Jayda Kelly of Wichita, KS, by Gary Erskine.

Professional Development for Teachers

Ford’s Theatre Society has partnered with teachers in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

31 teacher leaders in 17 states and D.C. partnered with Ford’s Theatre and participated in the National Oratory Fellows program. Collectively, they provided oratory-integrated instruction for 3,174 students.

63 educators from across the country participated in our Summer Teacher Institutes, week-long experiences that supplied them with the knowledge and resources to teach about Abraham Lincoln’s leadership, legacy and the Civil War. These educators shared their knowledge with more than 3,150 students last year.

“Through oratory integration, students not only learn public-speaking skills, but they also develop their sense of civic duty and gain confidence speaking about the issues that matter most to them.”
- Lancaster Online, Lancaster, PA

“Teachers who work with the Ford’s education team return to their classrooms with new knowledge, resources, and a professional support system to implement lessons that deepen their students’ understanding of the complexity of the Civil War and its ongoing legacy.”
- East Idaho News, Ammon, ID
Given Twelve Angry Men’s content and focus on implicit bias in the justice system, Ford’s Theatre partnered with Challenging Racism, a widely respected, local organization that holds workshops with the community, local schools and nonprofits to teach people about issues surrounding race. Together we developed our Twelve Angry Men teacher workshops in conjunction with our student matinee program. We offered two in-depth workshops for 29 D.C.-area teachers to learn and develop their ability to facilitate conversations about race and privilege in their classrooms and better understand the biases that affect their students’ lives. Teachers were grateful for the opportunity to participate and felt better equipped with skills to bring these conversations back to their classrooms.

Virtual Field Trip _______________
95,250 students and teachers viewed this interactive tour of Ford’s, which includes an engaging social media conversation.
https://www.fords.org/visit/virtual-tour/

Assassination Pages _______________
153,872 users made use of the assassination pages on the Ford’s website. These resources utilize constructivist learning principles by encouraging visitors to trace the story of Lincoln's assassination on their own—from the genesis of the conspiracy to the event’s impact on Lincoln’s legacy.
www.fords.org/lincolns-assassination

Remembering Lincoln _______________
This primary source learning site welcomed
25,735 users (with 66,973 page views) to explore personal responses to Lincoln’s untimely death.
rememberinglincoln.fords.org

So many aspects of this work are rewarding, but my favorite thing is seeing a student develop confidence. Speaking in front of others is a necessary life skill, and if people can feel self-assured doing that when they’re young, they’ll be ready to face the world—and their future careers—as adults. I also like to think that we’re cultivating an engaged and thoughtful citizenry who can both articulate their own beliefs and analyze the rhetoric of those in power so they can make informed choices.

— Victoria Reinsel, Ford’s Theatre Teaching Artist

A California class engaged in their Virtual Classroom with Detective James McDevitt.

A local class tweeted out their appreciation following the Lincoln Oratory Festival.