

Press Release : Tri-County Schools Website

North Star News

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Spoken Word Artist Visits Tri-County

High school English students in grades 8, 10, 11 and 12 at Red Lake County Central will Tri-County Schools had the opportunity to write Spoken Word with artist, Desdamona the week of December 16 – 20. This residency gave the artists and students the chance to look into themselves to write about their experiences and feelings.

Desdamona is a writer and an engaging performer who works in the realm of Spoken Word and Hip-Hop. She stumbled upon the art of spoken word as an outlet for her lyrical expression. As a student, the opportunity to experiment and create helped to develop her identity and self-esteem. When she struggled in some areas of school, art led her through and gave her something that made her feel powerful. “It taught me to adapt and change and this ability is one that has benefited me greatly in life.” She loves to share her work and learn about students and what they are interested in so that together they can create something that makes them feel powerful.

In the classroom, Desdamona’s process is one of learning where students are at and beginning there, providing inspiration, guidance and scaffolding in the art form of Spoken Word and Hip-Hop. Des has worked in over 300 schools throughout the Midwest and France.

Desdamona is an international award winning artist who has received five MN Music Awards for her music and poetry. She is a co-founder of B-Girl Be, a celebration of women in Hip-Hop that brought women from across the globe to the Twin Cities. She continues to create spaces for women to express and create. Des has toured the US and abroad.

Teacher, Melissa Thompson said, “Students enjoyed Desdamera’s teaching style, specifically her use of templates while teaching poetry styles. The templates were easy to modal and gave students more confidence when writing and creating their own poetry. She also resonated with all students, not just the ones who always actively participate in class.”

The residency is arranged with COMPAS. COMPAS programs are made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. We enjoyed this great learning opportunity.

