

DANCING DISCIPLINE

Garth Fagan, YMCA, police team up to stem violence



Melinda Phillips, center, a teacher from Garth Fagan Dance, leads the way in counting out a series of warm-up moves to local high school students during the first dance class at the Carlson Metrocenter YMCA on Tuesday. SHAWN DOWD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Dance is about movement, taking the right steps, and holding strong when things get painful.

It's about growth and development through discipline and design.

For Rochester's teenagers, many of whom have grown up on streets that lack discipline or design and where violence and crime and other negative influences are the norm and not the exception, life can be a complicated dance.

But some are about to be shown a whole new way of moving.

Garth Fagan Dance and the Carlson Metrocenter YMCA have teamed up with the Rochester Police Department and created "Stop the Violence Dance Alliance."

Twenty students began classes at the downtown YMCA on Tuesday that twice a week for 11 weeks will include 90



Mary Lee, a senior at Wilson Commencement Academy, shares a laugh with fellow Wilson student Pabitra Kami, a ninth-grader, left, as they warm up during dance class at the Carlson YMCA. SHAWN DOWD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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