

# Science of Juggling

with Jeffrey Daymont

Learn more! at [ScienceofJuggling.com](http://ScienceofJuggling.com)



## Getting the Most from Your School Assemblies

When you invite special guests into your school for assemblies you want to make sure your students enjoy a great show and remember a valuable lesson. The performers want to leave a positive impression on your students and faculty by doing their best. With nearly 25 years of experience performing on stages worldwide, Jeffrey humbly offers these tips on how you can get the biggest impact for your investment.

- 1. Selecting the Right Program:** It is important to choose a program that is worth both the money spent and the time spent away from the classroom. How can you know that your students will walk away from an assembly entertained and informed? Ask for references! Ask potential performers for their references and ask fellow principals and teachers about their most successful assemblies. Have you just had a great assembly? Tell your colleagues the good news!
- 2. Confirmation:** It is the policy of Science of Juggling to reconfirm the date, time and other performance details with the school office or assembly coordinator. Since not all companies may do this we recommend to call a few days before the assembly date to confirm the date and time if they have not already done so. Also as soon as you schedule your assembly double check the information when you put it in your school calendar (so a little mistake doesn't become a big problem later).
- 3. Stage Setup:** Be sure your custodian gets advanced notice about when the stage will be needed. Ideally the stage area should be cleared and swept before the performers arrive so they don't have to wait to begin setting up. Find out what is the minimum space the performers require and if they need to use your P.A. system.
- 4. Lighting:** Proper lighting can help the audience focus on the assembly by making the performers stand out. By dimming the lights on the audience and aiming the lights onto the performance area (pointed to the performers, not at their feet) your assembly will get a better response. Ask your custodian aim the lights and to replace any burnt out bulbs.

5. **Seating:** Assembly performers have a message to communicate and work to connect with your students. By minimizing the distance between the first row and the stage the message will have a greater impact. Your students should be seated as close to the performers as safely possible, with no gaps between grades.
6. **Multiple Presentations:** Sometimes you need more than one seating to let all of your students experience the show or workshop. Excitement and anticipation about the assembly tends to be higher when the higher grades get the first seating, then work down to the youngest. Older students can be more reserved towards a show they know the younger kids liked, but the younger ones will look forward to anything the younger ones have already enjoyed.
7. **Introduction:** A proper introduction can build anticipation just before the assembly. When the introduction is given by the school principal the assembly becomes even more of a community event and commands a certain level of respect. If the principal is unavailable, ask a teacher to introduce the assembly. (The Science of Juggling comes with a short prewritten introduction.)
8. **Audience Manners:** Usually a principal will remind their students about appropriate audience behavior at the start of a show. Audience behavior is actually part of the Calif. Dept. of Ed. Curriculum Standards. That speech can be as simple as, “I want to remind you to be a good audience for our guests. A good audience gives the performers their complete attention. The performers also appreciate it when you applaud. Speaking of which, let’s welcome them now with a big round of applause!” Experienced assembly performers will know how to manage an audience from that point.
9. **Teachers’ Attention:** How teachers behave during an assembly sets an example to their students how to behave. We understand that some teachers will use assembly time to grade papers since their free time is limited. However when teachers talk to each other during a performance it is just as distracting to the performer and the audience as when students talk during class time. Students are at their best behavior when their teachers sit with them and participate during the assembly.
10. **Sharing Assemblies:** Performers who travel from town to town appreciate a chance to stay in one place for a while. When you’ve decided on an assembly, check with other schools in your district if they would be interested in the show as well. The performers might even offer a discount if they can do both shows in the same day or on back-to-back days.

Assembly programs are a valuable resource in providing a well rounded education for your students. We at Science of Juggling wish you and your school the best in all of your academic endeavors!

Learn more! at [ScienceofJuggling.com](http://ScienceofJuggling.com)