

Transformative Experience in the Dining Hall of Kinhaven Junior Session

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Kinhaven Junior Session is a classical music camp held for two weeks annually in Weston, Vermont. Many campers as well as staff members openly recognize the transformative nature of their experiences there. This research explores situated communication practices in the camp's dining hall. Enacting and negotiating cultural norms in the Dining Hall have significant roles in cultivating a sense of community essential for performing chamber and orchestra music with joy, spontaneity, and interpersonal coordination. Three times a day, guided by staff members, the students practice listening, learning, and internalizing norms in the Dining Hall that are also essential for music performance. More importantly, the communication practices cultivate a sense of what it means to be a good human being, transcending race, sexual orientation, class, gender, ethnicity, and religion. Cultural Discourse Analysis Theory (Carbaugh, 2007) is essential for generating and analyzing data and participatory observations. Interviews are conducted for delineating and explicating both intentional and unintentional functions of particularly situated communication practices for the purpose of making cultural prominence recognizable.

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