



# Students heat up the dance floor at Colors of the Rainbow dance competition

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LAKE CHARLES, LA (KPLC) - It's that time of year again! Hundreds of Southwest Louisiana students put on their dancing shoes for the 7th annual Colors of the Rainbow team match ballroom dance competition at Burton Coliseum in Lake Charles Sunday, May 3.

More than 250 5th grade students from 16 elementary schools from Calcasieu and Jeff Davis parishes competed in this year's competition. In addition, some middle and high school students showed off their advanced dancing skills for entertainment.

"When we started this program, we only had two schools that first year," said part time educational consultant and one of the competition's judges Marybeth Hubert. "It has grown unbelievably. The opportunities that it gives our children now in this world and in this society, it's just wonderful."

Six girls and six boys were chosen from each school and trained for the competition for about 10 weeks. Dressed in their perfectly-fitted dresses, the girls shined with energy while the boys made sure their moves were on point.

Students competed in various dance genres such as the Merengue, Fox Trot, Rumba, Tango and the popular Swing dance.

"I want to see them having fun," said owner of Boogie Woogie Ballroom in Lake Charles and competition judge Steven LeBlanc before the show. "That's the number one thing is that we're out there having fun."

The event filled up nearly half of Burton Coliseum with almost twice as many people as last year's competition, which took place at the Lake Charles Civic Center.

"It's not just about dancing," said Hubert. "It's about all the life skills that they learn. It's about working together with another person, of course learning the skill of dance, but it builds up character. It teaches them responsibility. It teaches them respect and of course, it teaches them how to connect."

The top schools from each region competed for the title of Dancing Classrooms State Champion. Dolby Elem. took home last year's title.

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