

Dance Syllabus
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Room 1213/1216
Conference: 8th Period

Welcome to dance class! I am extremely excited for this upcoming year! This will give you a general overview of what to expect in dance class this year. Assignments may vary depending upon which level of dance you are taking.

What will we learn?

We will learn a little bit of everything this year! We will focus on learning proper technique and the foundations of dance while exploring styles such as Ballet, Jazz, Broadway, Contemporary, and Hip-Hop. We will also touch on dance vocabulary and explore current dance trends. Students will be given performance and choreography opportunities throughout the year.

What does dance class look like?

We will begin every class with stretching and conditioning. Dance is very physical and we must train our bodies to be able to execute dance movements safely and properly.

We will then begin working on technique for the specific style we are studying- building up to the more advanced skills and combinations as the year progresses.

Each style of dance will be focused on for 4-6 consecutive weeks at a time. During those weeks, students will learn:

- The basic fundamental skills of that style (more advanced classes will be able to build more quickly on those skill sets)
- Dance combinations in each style of dance (combinations will build upon the fundamentals being taught in class)

What do we wear for dance class?

Students need to wear something that will allow them to properly execute dance movements while keeping them appropriately covered, according to school dress code. All shorts must be in compliance with the school dress code. **NO JEANS**-you cannot dance in jeans! Students may be barefoot, wear socks, or dance shoes. Dance shoes can be purchased at Academy or online (jazz shoes are preferred). Street shoes are not allowed in the dance room.

How are we graded?

All dance classes will receive a participation and effort grade daily. This is the main component of your grade so it is important that you give 100% effort every day! Participation and effort includes executing the movements we are working on, dressing out, and maintaining a positive attitude. There will also be writing assignments, vocabulary quizzes, skills tests, and performance opportunities, which will all count towards your grade.

Materials Needed

1. Appropriate dance clothes
2. Dance shoes (not required)
3. Journal or Notebook
4. Pen or Pencil

Classroom Rules

1. Cell phones or electronics are not permitted during class
 2. No street shoes in the dance room
 3. Give 100% effort every day and have fun!
 4. Be Safe
 5. Be Responsible
 6. Be Respectful
- (4-6 are outlined in further detail on page 4)

Classroom Procedures

1. Be in the dance room, ready for roll to be taken by the time the tardy bell rings. After taking attendance, students will be given 5 minutes to change clothes IN THE DRESSING ROOMS (boys will change in the men's restroom around the corner). You are responsible for bringing your dance clothes and storing your regular clothes appropriately. Not dressing out will result in the loss of ½ of your daily participation grade. If a student is 1-10 minutes late at the beginning of class they will be considered tardy, after 10 minutes students are considered absent.
2. There are dressing rooms in the dance room that will be used for changing. Clothes, backpacks, and ALL electronics will be stored in these rooms during class. After changing into appropriate dance clothes, students will return to the dance studio, sit down, and begin stretching/warming up. The lockers may be used to store belongings, however, **you must provide your own lock.**
3. This class is participation based-to get daily points you must dress out, participate physically, and participate verbally.
4. If for any reason you must sit out you must do the following: 1) Bring a note from a doctor and/or parent explaining why you are sitting out and how long you must sit out for. 2) Write a 1 page summary of the lesson including an overview of skills covered during that class.
5. This class is a positive learning environment promoting creativity-ANY negativity towards other dancers or dance styles will not be tolerated. Repeated offences will result in removal from the class.
6. You will be dismissed to change out of your dance clothes 7 minutes prior to the bell.
7. If you must leave class for any reason you will need to have a hall pass. Ask permission before taking the pass.
8. Cell phones are NOT permitted in the classroom. All electronic devices must be kept in the dressing rooms with all other belongings until the end of class.

Overview of Grades

Semester 1

Writing Assignments

These written assignments will differ from Dance 1-4 and will be discussed in detail at least 2 weeks before their due date. Examples include: self critiques, opinion papers based on current styles being studied.

Minor or Major Grade

Skills Tests

Students will be evaluated based on selected choreography, skills, and technique learned in class. This grade will be based upon effort, memory of required material, and how well the students implement technical skills that have been taught in class. More detailed guidelines will be provided at least 2 weeks in advance. Major Grade

Midterm Project (December)

Students will be asked to choreograph and perform a dance in groups. Students will not only be graded on how well they execute the dance, but also on how hard they try and how well they cooperate with their group. Students will also write an essay explaining the skills used in their choreography. Major Grade

Vocabulary Quizzes

These quizzes will cover dance terminology and definitions discussed in class. This is a great way to ensure the students understand and remember the terms used in class each day. Minor or Major Grade

Participation and Effort Grade

Students receive up to 20 points per day based on participation and effort. This is the main component of their grade in dance class. Participation points are split evenly between participating physically in class and dressing out. 100 points per week-Daily Grades

Semester 2

Writing Assignments

These written assignments will be discussed in detail at least 2 weeks before their due date. Minor or Major Grade

Skills Tests

Students will be evaluated based on selected choreography, skills, and technique learned in class. This grade will be based upon effort, memory of required material, and how well the students implement technical skills that have been taught in class. More detailed guidelines will be provided at least 2 weeks in advance. Major Grade

Quizzes

These quizzes will cover dance terminology and definitions discussed in class. This is a great way to ensure the students understand and remember the terms used in class each day. Minor or Major Grades

Spring Show

Each dance class will be responsible for choreographing a dance for Spring Show. Class time will serve as rehearsal to avoid having to practice outside of school hours. This performance is **mandatory and will occur after school hours.**

50% of Final Exam Grade + Major Grade. (this includes all rehearsals and performance)

Final Project (May)

Dance 1 & 2: Students will be asked to choreograph and perform in a group of 2-3 along with a poster board depicting a costume idea, lighting, inspiration, etc. Students will present their posters to the class then perform their dance. Students will be graded on how well they execute the dance as well as their poster board presentation.

Dance 3-4: Students will be asked to choreograph and perform a solo along with a poster board depicting a costume idea, lighting, inspiration, etc. Students will present their poster to the class then perform their solo. Students will be graded on how well they execute the dance as well as their poster board presentation.

Remaining 50% of Final Exam Grade

Participation and Effort Grade

Students receive up to 20 points per day based on participation and effort. This is the main component of their grade in dance class. Participation points are split evenly between participating physically in class and dressing out. 100 points per week-Daily Grades

In this class, everyone is expected to be....SAFE, RESPONSIBLE, and RESPECTFUL. Here is how we will accomplish those things in dance class:

BE SAFE:

1. Follow Classroom Rules
2. Always participate in stretching/conditioning before dancing

BE RESPONSIBLE:

1. Be on time
 - a. Be on time at the beginning of class
 - b. Return to class in a timely manner after changing
 - c. All assignments need to be turned in on time
2. Be prepared
 - a. Bring dance clothes each day
 - b. Be ready to participate and give 100% effort each day
3. Seek help when needed
 - a. Feel free to ask questions throughout the learning process. It takes time and practice to master new dance skills, if you ever need to review or slow down, please let me know and I would be happy to help you.

BE RESPECTFUL:

1. Treat others with respect
 - a. Electronic devices are not permitted during class.
 - b. Refrain from talking during teaching or while others are speaking.
 - c. During skills tests or any performances, show respect by watching silently without judgement.
2. Maintain a clean and orderly classroom
 - a. Throw any/all trash away
 - b. Take all belongings with you or place them in your locker before the end of class
3. Use appropriate language and volume (this applies to music as well)