

Beginning Dance

Instructor: Miss Buss

Room: Dance Room

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Course Description: Dance is an elective/PE/fine arts class that will teach students the fundamental techniques and vocabulary in many styles of dance. The students will also cover dance history and explore basic choreography. Emphasis will be placed on technique, movement skills, knowledge, history, and aesthetics of each dance style, while also learning components of health-related fitness. The dance class strives to promote a lifelong interest in both dance and physical fitness.

Course Objectives:

- ★ To develop and maintain a positive self-image.
- ★ To learn different origins and history of dances.
- ★ To gain understanding and develop appreciation of dance through reflection on dances of various styles experienced as participation and audience.
- ★ To provide enjoyment and understanding of health-related fitness.
- ★ To create dances in order to express personal ideas and feelings.
- ★ To have fun while learning a lifetime activity.

Required Materials:

Classroom Essentials: We will occasionally take notes, have written in-class work, and take tests or quizzes. Students should have a pencil and loose leaf paper or a spiral notebook for these assignments.

Proper Attire: You must dress out for class on a daily basis. Dress code for this class is solid color top and dark bottoms. Dress-out items dark jazz or yoga pants, leggings, or knee length shorts. Tops must be SOLID COLOR and may be long or short sleeve. No spaghetti straps or tank tops! School dress code still applies. Tops/shirts must cover midriff even when holding arms up. For males, gym shorts or pants and a solid color t-shirt is acceptable as long as it is made to fit. No oversize t-shirt please.

Dance shoes are not required, but if desired, ballet or jazz shoes may be worn. If you do not have dance shoes, please wear socks or you may dance barefoot. Tennis shoes are not acceptable footwear.

Miss Buss will make the final decision regarding proper attire for class, including jewelry. Your participation grade will be lowered if you are not dressed out in proper attire. The proper attire is necessary as it allows your teacher to see alignment and movements of the body.

Grading System: Students will earn points for daily participation and dressing out. Students will be required to dress out each day, regardless of participation. Failure to dress out or participate will result in a loss of daily points. 20 points per day will be given for participation and dressing out (5 points prompt attendance, 10 points participation, 5 points for appropriate attire as discussed above). Your grade will be based on the following:

70% = Participation and Effort

- ★ Present, prompt, and dressed in appropriate dancewear
- ★ Actively participating on a daily basis
- ★ A positive attitude
- ★ Warm up routines, exercise, locomotor, barre, center work, turn technique, and skill
- ★ Grades on dance combinations and performance
- ★ Choreography projects

30% = Classwork Assignments and Physical and Written Tests

- ★ In-class and homework written assignments
- ★ Projects (handouts/rubrics/info to come)
- ★ Written or physical in-class exams (including semester final)

Grading Scale:

90-100%=A 80-89%= B 70-79%= C 60-69%= D 0-59%= F

Classroom Management Plan

Attendance

It is the student's responsibility to pay attention and be active during attendance time in order to be sure they are counted present. Failure to be active in the attendance process may result in an incorrect absence, which will result in loss of points that cannot be made up. Any student that enters the classroom after attendance is taken will be counted tardy (unless they have a teacher/office pass).

Absences and Illness

Absence – loss of 20 points but can be made up within one week

Excused Tardy (with pass) – no point deduction

Unexcused Tardy – loss of 5 points (or more if not dressed out) and may not be made up **Please note that student who enters class after 15 minutes has passed (without a pass) will be considered absent.***

Medical Excuses

To be excused from physical activities due to medical reasons, you must provide:

- A note from a parent or guardian including a phone number and signature. You must still dress out but you will have an in-class written assignment to make up for your participation – limit two days
- If you are ill and cannot participate in class for more than two days, you

will need to bring in a doctor's note that indicates the extent of your limitations. You must still dress out unless specified by your doctor, and you will have an in-class written assignment to make up for your participation.

Making up absences

Any excused absences must be made up with an Article Write-Up, Solo Performance, Research Poster, or Video Observation on your own time (see handouts). You will need to completely fill out the form and make an appointment with Miss Buss to present or perform if necessary. Any absent assignment that does not follow the precise directions will not be graded. If you fail to submit make-up work within one week, you will NOT be able to regain your missed points.

Non-dress Policy

If a student chooses not to dress properly, the student will lose 5 participation points per day that cannot be made up. After the third non-dress day, a parent phone call will be made and a student/parent/teacher conference may be scheduled.

Cell phones/ Gum

Cell phones, as well as gum, are NOT permitted in the dance room. Leave cell phones in your locker or away in your backpack, and be sure to dispose of any gum before entering the classroom. If you are caught using your cell phone in class for any reason OR if you are caught with gum inside the dance area, you will get a zero for the day. You may also receive a yellow card.

Rules and Expectations: Be Proactive!

1. Be here and be ready to participate.
2. Come prepared and take ownership of your education!
3. Be considerate and respectful: keep objects, including hands and feet, to yourself. Treat others kindly.
4. Please remember to keep your phone and electronics put away, and that only water is permitted in the classroom (no food, no gum). Thank you!

Consequences:

Standard consequences will apply: warning, contact parent, refer to administration (yellow card). I have confidence that we can work together to resolve any issues before they become serious.

In-class Video Assignments:

Parents, please note that in class we will be watching a variety of dance videos, including but not limited to clips from episodes of SYTYCD, Dancing with the Stars, and other dance films. This is to help your child to understand the critiquing process and to help visualize technical elements of movement. If you do not want your child watching videos of any kind in class, please indicate this below your signature, and an alternate assignment will be allowed.

Concerts:

Participation in the concerts April 30th and May 1st is required. You must attend these performances to earn points in the class. However, if you are earning a failing grade up to four weeks prior to the concert you will not be allowed to participate in the performances and will be given an alternate assignment. Date, time, and other information about these performances will follow.

****Additional rehearsal dates will be required the week of Showcase and Concert. Clear your schedule so that you are available for the necessary extra practices. Talk to your employers early.**

Communication:

Grades. All grades are updated at least once a week. Students and parents should check grades often using infinite campus. I am available after school by appointment, both for tutoring and for a discussion about grades. The best way for parents to reach me quickly is by email. If you have questions or concerns about your student, please let me know.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year in dance with you!

Tear off and return

Please sign, print, date, and fill out the contact info below indicating that you have read and understand the course syllabus, expectations, content, and policies for the dance class. Please provide a valid phone number and email address, as well. Concert updates and other information will periodically be sent through email.

STUDENTS: I, _____, have read the student expectation plan and course syllabus and understand it. I will honor it.

Student Signature

Date

PARENTS: My child has discussed the student expectation plan with me. I understand it and will support it.

Parent Printed Name

Parent Signature

Date

Parent contact email address

Parent contact phone number

Class: _____ Period: _____