

Beginning Dance Syllabus

Instructor: Ms. Keddi Murrish, M.Ed.

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Remind Messages: See Remind section of my website for subscription information.

Course Overview:

This course, designed for the beginning level dancer, introduces basic technique in ballet, modern, jazz, and other styles such as tap as time permits. It will also include study in improvisation, choreography, anatomy and dance history. This is a fun, challenging, active course emphasizing all aspects of the art of dance. Class activities will include performances and written assignments. Students will also participate in the Perry Student Dance Show.

Course Goals/Objectives and minimum expectations:

The student will be able to...

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of correct body alignment, anatomy and warm-ups for prevention of injuries and safety factors related to dance movements.
- Properly perform a variety of beginning modern, jazz, and ballet techniques, as well as other techniques as time permits.
- Recognize and use choreographic and improvisational tools to interpret and create movement.
- Recognize important dance figures and identify their roles in dance history.
- Demonstrate and reflect on knowledge of dance terminology related to course content.
- Demonstrate the ability to work with various styles of music and rhythmic forms.
- Attend a live dance performance (**1 each semester**) and complete a concert critique on the performance.

Course Fee: \$25 Course fee must be paid to the bookstore in the first 2 weeks of school. Please show your receipt to your dance teacher to check you off.

Materials Required Daily:

Lockers:

Each student will be issued a lock and a locker. Do not share your locker or lock combination with other students. Report a lost lock to your teacher immediately. If you are unable to find your lock, there will be a \$5.00 fee for a new lock. Please be sure to double check that your lock is locked before leaving class. **We are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please leave your valuables at home!** Please bring deodorant, hair ties, tissues, lotion, powder, or other personal items you may need, and leave them in your locker at all times.

Dance Notebook:

Every student must bring a 3-ring binder and 8 divider tabs to be used as a dance notebook. We will label the tabs together in class, and use it periodically throughout the course. All class handouts to be included in the notebook will be available on my website. Students are best advised to store the notebook in their dance locker so that it is always available without carrying it to and from school every day. The notebook contains information for all written quizzes, tests, as well as the concert critique assignment requirements. Bringing the notebook to class on assigned days is a class requirement.

Dance Journal:

Dance journals will be done on google classroom this year. You are expected to complete one journal entry each week, and they will be graded at unannounced intervals, like a pop quiz. Stay up to date, as no late journals are accepted.

Dress Out Requirements: All attire must adhere to the PHS Dress Code

Footwear: Students may dance barefoot, but shoes must be worn to and from the teaching space. Some students keep a pair of flip-flops in their lockers for convenience. No specific dance footwear is required, however many dancers prefer to dance in toddler socks for ballet or Foot Undeez for other units.

Females: **Hair:** All hair must be pulled up off the face and neck for class. Keep extra hair ties in your locker.
Bottoms: Fitted black leggings/yoga pants. Leggings are preferred, but yoga pants or jazz pants are acceptable. No sweats or long shorts. *Ensure that leggings are opaque.*
Tops: Snug-fitting **solid black** tee shirt or tank top – no spaghetti straps, revealing necklines, crop tops, or bra straps showing. Length must cover belly and lower back when bending/stretching. No large baggy tops, and no large or torn arm holes.

Males: **Hair:** All hair must be pulled up off the face and neck for class. Keep extra hair ties in your locker.
Bottoms: Black joggers or men's jazz pants that can be rolled up above the ankle. No long shorts. Leg rotation must be visible.
Tops: **Solid black** tank top or snug-fitting tee shirt. Length must cover belly and lower back when bending/stretching. No large or torn arm holes. No baggy tops, alignment must be visible.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices:

In general, electronic devices are not allowed in dance class. There may be designated days when dancers are allowed to bring devices to class in order to record themselves as a form of video notetaking to assist in home practice. Recordings may only be made with permission from students appearing in the picture/video. Devices are **ONLY** allowed on days that the teacher specifies, and not on any other days.

Students bring these devices to school at their own risk, and there is no safe storage space for them in the dance room. Leave these items at home or locked in the locker. I will confiscate any cell phone that is out during class without prior permission, and turn it over to administration. **Taking pictures/videos is never allowed in locker rooms.**

Assignments and Grading: Scale A = 90% - 100%
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = 59% and below

Semester grades are calculated using the 45-45-10 formula: Quarter 1 & 2 = 45% each, Final Exam = 10%

Quarter grades are comprised of the following categories:

Participation 50%

This grade is based on your behavior and participation in class along with dressing out in the required attire. All students who do not dress out completely or participate fully will lose points for that day. An unexcused absence will be considered a ditch. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, TARDIES, AND NON-DRESSES CANNOT BE MADE UP AND WILL LIMIT YOUR GRADE.** Excused absences can be made up. (See Make-up Work policy.)

Skills Tests 20%

You will be graded on proper knowledge, memory, and execution of the movements learned in class, along with how well you are improving your movement skills as a dancer.

Written Tests 20%

You will be tested periodically over dance terminology, anatomy, and history. Refer to your dance notebook for study guides and information for each unit.

Assignments 10%

Various assignments, such as Dance Journals and the Concert Critique will be given throughout the year.

Concert Critique: Each student is required to attend one live dance concert during Fall Semester. Students may attend any DANCE concert of their choice. A performance list will be posted as a reference. This is only a reference; other dance concerts which are not listed may be used as well. A written critique is required **within two weeks** of seeing a show. Refer to the dance notebook for all requirements. If a student cannot attend a live concert due to hardship, an alternate assignment will be given in its place. The student must see the teacher at least **3 weeks in advance** of the due date to receive the alternate assignment.

Student Dance Concert: Each class will showcase a dance piece they have learned at the annual Perry Student Dance Show. **This Dance Concert is mandatory (all 3 performances) and is considered a culminating project which will be given a grade. Extra after-school rehearsals will be required during the 10 days prior to the concert. The actual concert dates are May 14-16, 2020.** More specific details will be issued at a later date. Please be sure to save the date and plan accordingly.

NOTE Dancers who do not take both 1st and 2nd semester dance will not perform in the student Dance Show but instead will work behind the scenes to earn their points. Students who are failing the class at specified checkpoint dates will not perform either, and will work behind the scenes to earn their points.

Dance Daily Participation Points

Your participation grade is worth 50% of your overall grade. You begin the quarter with 100 points in the participation category. This can be thought of as “100%” to start off the quarter. Failing to follow the Perry High School Dance expectations will result in a loss of points. See the following chart for examples:

Point values included in Daily Points:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Unexcused absence | -3 |
| Excused absence | -3 |
| Not dressed properly | -4 |
| No participation | -2 |
| Tardy, Phone or Gum | -2 |
| Poor/Partial Effort | Up to -3 |
| Unacceptable behavior | -2 |

Absences: After 7 absences, or excessive non-participation, students may be placed on an attendance contract or dropped from the class. Ten absences will result in automatic withdrawal from the class. **Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up those absences.** Students with excessive absences or non-participation may be ineligible to perform in the Student Dance Show (concert). Each student is personally responsible for any assignments missed. Students are also responsible for scheduling make-up exams with the teacher. Missing a make-up appointment will result in a zero for the exam.

Tardies: Please do not be tardy to class. It is disruptive to the class and will result in a loss of points. Students who are not inside the locker room when the late bell rings or who arrive late to roll call will be considered tardy, and will lose 2 participation points for the day. Students arriving after roll call will not be let into the locker room to dress out. Students who miss more than ½ of class time will be counted as absent. Students may not make-up points lost due to tardies. School policy dictates that after 4 tardies a student will receive an administrative referral.

Non-Dresses: A non-dress results when a student does not comply with the complete required uniform as outlined above. All non-dresses will result in a loss of participation points for the day. A student may still participate in class if the non-dress attire permits safe and full participation in the class. If not, the student may not participate and will lose ALL participation points for that day.

Make-Up Work: Students are responsible for all assignments/quizzes/tests missed. Make-up assignment instructions are always available on my website. **Make-up assignments must be completed and submitted on the specified due dates, and should be emailed from home if you are absent on the due date.** Late makeup work is not accepted. See assignment for details.

Injured/Long Term Illness/Medical Excuses:

If a student is injured and unable to participate in class, the student **MUST** have a note to excuse her/him. The note may be from a doctor, parent, school nurse, or athletic trainer. If the excuse is for more than three (3) class periods, the student must bring a doctor’s note. Once a doctor’s note has been received for an injury, the student **MUST** provide a doctor’s note for clearance to resume participation. Any time a student does not fully participate in class she/he will lose participation points for the day. If the non-participation is excused, she/he will be required to

complete an alternative assignment, which is due at the end of the period. ALL students are expected to dress out in required attire EVERY DAY, regardless of injury, illness, or non-participation.

***Please note that dance is a very physically demanding activity.** Success in dance class is heavily dependent on daily participation, and making up points from frequent non-participation can be time-consuming. If you suffer from a chronic or recurring physical injury you should consider taking a different course to fulfill your graduation requirements or taking this class at a later time when you have healed completely.

Tactical Teaching: Dance teachers frequently find it necessary to give hands-on instruction in order to correct technique and benefit the dancers. If you have any problems with this, please talk to your teacher so that accommodations can be made.

Late Work Policy: Students are expected to turn in assignments when the teacher asks for them, which is typically during Roll Call. Any work turned in afterward (including later the same day) is considered late. In most cases late work is not accepted in dance class.

Media Policy: Perry Dance students may be featured on school-related social media periodically. If you prefer to opt out, please contact your child's teacher via email to do so and your child will not be featured.

Parents/Guardians:

Both student and parent/guardian signatures are required to participate in Perry High Dance. Your signatures indicate a clear understanding of all class requirements and an agreement to abide by class policies. Please contact the teacher with any questions.

Class Period: _____

Printed Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Printed Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Must be signed and turned in by Friday Aug. 2, 2019