Westside High School – *Dance Department*

2013 - 14

**Classes:**

1st period – Westside Pride Dance Team – Audition only – *Brooke DeMartino, instructor, X121*

                2nd period – Intermediate Dance– Audition only– *Sharon Roberts, instructor, X121*

2nd period – Pride Officers– Audition Only *– Brooke DeMartino, instructor, G111*

3rd period – Intermediate/Advanced Level Dance – Audition only – *Sharon Roberts, instructor, X121*

3rd period – PE Dance– Open enrollment *– Brooke DeMartino, instructor, G111*

3rd period – Beginning Break– Open enrollment *– Joel Rivera, Instructor, X121*

4th period – Inertia Dance Company – Audition only – *Sharon Roberts, instructor, X121 & Auditorium*

4th period – Inertia Dance Company – Audition only – *Joel Rivera, instructor, X121 & Auditorium*

4th period - PE Dance – Open Enrollment – *Brooke DeMartino, instructor, G111*

                5th period – Advanced Dance– Audition only – *Sharon Roberts, instructor, Auditorium*

                5th period – Hip-Hop Dance – Audition only – *Joel Rivera, instructor, X121*

                5th period - PE Dance – Open Enrollment – *Brooke DeMartino, instructor, G111*

                6th period – Beginning Dance, Hip Hop – Open enrollment –*Joel Rivera, instructor, X121*

6th period - PE Dance – Open enrollment – *Brooke DeMartino, instructor, G111*

                7th period – Beginning Dance, Hip Hop – Open enrollment – *Joel Rivera, instructor, X121*

**Course Objectives:**

**Beginning Dance, PE Dance**

1. Student will learn to appreciate dance as an art form.
2. Student will develop fundamental skills of beginning level dance. Demonstration of techniques in modern dance, ballet, jazz, or hip-hop (funk) styles.
3. Student will develop an understanding of kinesthetic awareness, creative expression, and self-confidence through the use of the body as an expressive instrument.
4. Student will expand their creative potential through improvisation and choreography.
5. Student will participate in performance opportunities.

**Beginning Break Dance**

1. Student will develop an understanding of Hip-Hop dance as an art form.
2. Student will develop skills and understanding in movement sequences, choreography and combinations unique to break dance. Such as windmills, head spins, flares, air tracks, floor rock, top rock, popping, locking and house.
3. Student will demonstrate upper body strength, a strong kinesthetic awareness, creative expression, and self-confidence through the use of the body as an expressive instrument.
4. Student will participate in performance presentation.
5. Student will learn and become confident with improvisation.

**Intermediate Dance**

*Objectives from Beg. Dance will apply and include:*

1. Student will enter class through an audition process, and/or teacher recommendation.
2. Student will participate in numerous performance opportunities in class and in a traditional setting.
3. Student will explore space, time and energy in dance techniques and improvisational studies.
4. Student should begin or continue training outside of school, in a studio setting.
5. Student will begin to develop a more advanced level of muscle memory.

**Intermediate/Advanced Dance**

*Objectives from Intermediate will apply and include:*

1. Student will enter class through an audition process, and/or teacher recommendation.
2. Student will create as effective personal conditioning program.
3. Student will participate in numerous performances throughout the year.
4. Student should continue studio training in ballet, modern or jazz techniques.

**Advanced Dance, INERTIA Dance Company & Pride Dance Team**

*Objectives from Inter/Adv Dance will apply and include:*

1. Student will enter class through an audition process only.
2. Student will develop higher level skills appropriate to Advanced levels of modern dance, jazz, ballet and hip-hop techniques.
3. Student will develop and perform with proper alignment, strength, endurance and training.
4. Student will perform highly advanced levels of choreography designed for concert and competition presentation.
5. Student will participate in numerous performances throughout the year.
6. Student must maintain UIL eligibility throughout the year.
7. Student will participate in rehearsals during and after school.
8. Student should continue studio training.

**Advanced Break Dance, INERTIA Dance Company**

*Objectives from Intermediate Break Dance will apply and include:*

1. Student will enter class on teacher recommendation only. Recommendation is based on skill level and past performance.
2. Student will create an effective personal conditioning program.
3. Student will increase strength, endurance and training.
4. Student should continue training outside of the school setting.
5. Student will perform highly advanced levels of choreography designed for concert and competition presentation.
6. Student must maintain UIL eligibility throughout the year.
7. Student will participate in rehearsals during and after school.
8. Student should continue break dance training outside of school.

**Student Performances:**

All students enrolled in dance are required to participate in performance as part of the dance curriculum.

This TEA requirement is fulfilled with class skills tests presentations, as well as Westside Dance Department hosted performances which will include all dance students.

Dance performances are held in the evening. In the event that tickets are sold, students must then meet UIL eligibility requirements, which is a grade of 70 or better in all classes on the most recent report card. If a student goes ineligible for a required performance, he/she will be given an alternative assignment. All performances are recorded as a skills test grade.

**Westside Dance Department 2013-14 Concert Dates**

* “Random Acts of Dance”, October 25-26, 2013 @ 7:30 PM, in the Westside Theatre

Participation by all Upper Level Dance Classes

Concert may be used for Activity Points

* The No Costume Concert, November 21, 2013 @ 5:30 PM, in the Westside Auditorium

All Westside Dance students will participate

Concert may be used for Activity Points

* INERTIA Spring Concert, April 24-26, 2014 @ 7:30 PM in the Westside Theatre.

Participation by Upper level dance classes

Concert may be used for Activity Points

* The May Concert, May 2, 2014 @ 5:00 PM & 7:30 PM, in the Westside Auditorium.

Participation by all Westside Dance Students

**Teacher Contact:**

Sharon Roberts: [srobert2@houstonisd.org](mailto:srobert2@houstonisd.org)

Joel Rivera: [jrivera9@houstonisd.org](mailto:jrivera9@houstonisd.org)

Brooke DeMartino: [bdemarti@houstonisd.org](mailto:bdemarti@houstonisd.org)

**Grading and Evaluation for Westside Dance Classes:**

1. Students are evaluated daily on their class participation and preparation. Each student starts class with 100 points. Appropriate dress for activity is required for class each day. If a student does not dress out for activity their grade will be deducted 50 points.
2. As stated, student skill and participation are evaluated daily. If a student does not participate they will be deducted 50 points on the day. After 3 days of non-participation the student will be referred to their Dean.
3. In keeping alignment with the WHS 2009-10 Grading Policy all dance students will have at least 1 minor grade (30%) per week. Minor grades may include, but are not limited to, daily grades for participation and dress out, pop quizzes, homework, journals, choreographic projects, dance technology projects.
4. Students will also have bi-weekly Major Grades (70%). Major grades may include, but are not limited to, skills evaluations, dance terminology evaluations, both practical and written evaluations, accumulative choreographic projects, group projects.
5. In keeping alignment with the WHS 2009-10 Grading Policy students will be given 1opportunity to retake or redo any assignment with a grade less than 80 within 1 week of the original grade being posted on GradeSpeed. Please refer to the WHS Grading Policy for further explanation of this.
6. Students are expected to participate in all aspects of class on a daily basis. In the event the student is ill or injured they must have a note signed by a parent or guardian, a doctor or clinic, or the WHS nurses office. If a student in going to be out of activity for more than 3 days, a doctor’s note is required. If these procedures are not followed then the student’s grade will be negatively affected. The student will loose the opportunity to acquire participation and dress out points for the day.
7. No excused days will count against the student’s evaluation.

*Activity points: The final exam will contain 20 activity points. Students are expected to attend dance performance in order to obtain activity points for dance. These activities include ballet performances, musicals, dance concerts, etc. Dance performances and Westside Theatre productions are good sources of activity points. However students are encouraged to attend professional events as well.*

*Instructors will keep students informed of events in and around the city that may be used for activity points. Each event will be worth 10 points. To document attendance the student will turn in a ticket stub and/or program from the event.*

**Dress Requirements for Dance**

Girls:

1. Leotard or leotard style top. Tight and fitted to the body.
2. Leggings, jazz pants, tights, yoga pants are all acceptable. Capri or full length. Stretch fabric.
3. Black split sole jazz shoes or jazz sneakers are recommended. Tennis shoes for hip-hop.
4. Hair must be pulled securely back from the face in a band.
5. Sports bras are recommended.

*What is unacceptable?*

Jeans, shorts, skirts, large baggy t-shirt, socks, low cut tops, tube tops, low rise pants, fashion tops, excessive jewelry, caps or head scarves.

Boys:

1. T-shirts, sweat pants, warm –up pants and jackets.
2. Tennis shoes only. No boots.
3. Caps, beanies, or wraps may be worn for protection.
4. Elbow pads, knee pads & wrist pads are encouraged (for break dance)
5. Sweat pants, bungee pants, all pants must be loose fitting.

*What is unacceptable?*

Tight pants, heavy extra large jeans,. No extra low sagging pants.

*Appropriate dance clothes may be purchased at:*

Academy, Target, Wal Mart, Ross, etc…

*Dance shoes may be purchased from:*

Dance Trends 1450 Memorial Dr. Houston, Tx 77079 281.558.1400

**Dance Class Procedures**

1. **All cell phones must be in your bag or backpack during class**. Student must separate themselves from their phone will in the dance room.
2. Instructor will confiscate any cell phone that is being used by the student.
3. Instructor will confiscate any cell phone that the student has in his/her immediate possession during class. If you have your phone on your belt during class, or in your pocket, you will be asked to put your phone in your bag or backpack.
4. Numbers 1, 2, & 3 also apply to Personal Listening Devices
5. No gum in the dance room or auditorium.
6. Water only, no canned sodas or colored drinks in the dance room or auditorium.
7. No food in the dance room or auditorium.
8. Dressing out for class in limited to the attire mentioned in the requirements. Do not wear dance clothes over school clothes. Remove flip flops, heals and boots in the dance doom. Do not dance with your phone or iPod in your pocket.
9. If your phone is in your backpack and it rings during class, you will need to turn it off.
10. Students are not to use their phones in the rest room or locker room.
11. Dance students enrolled with Ms Roberts & Mr. Rivera will use the girls and boys restrooms in the “Vendoland” hall for changing or dressing out for class. Students enrolled with Mrs. DeMartino will dress out in the girl’s locker room.
12. Dance students enrolled with Ms Roberts & Mr. Rivera MUST be past the corner of the Commons and Vendoland by the ringing of the tardy bell. If not, the student will be marked as tardy to class, and will need to get a tardy pass.
13. Dance students enrolled with Mrs. DeMartino must be in the girl’s locker room by the ringing of the tardy bell.
14. Dance students will be given a few extra minutes to change before attendance is taken in the dance room.
15. Dance students are expected to come from the restroom or locker room directly to the dance room or wrestling room. Do not visit the vending machines before class. Do not hang out in the gym.
16. Once in the dance room students are expected to put their bags on the floor in the back of the room, and then move to the center to begin stretching or working on combinations.
17. Only students enrolled in the class are permitted in the dance room or auditorium. Unless they have teacher approval to be in the dance room.
18. Dance students are to treat the teacher and fellow students with respect and courtesy.

Dance @ Westside

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Who teaches dance at WHS?**

Westside has 3 distinctly different dance instructors. While all 4 teach along the TEA guidelines for dance, their styles are varied.

***Sharon Roberts****…teaches intermediate-advanced levels of all styles of dance. She is the Artistic Director of INERTIA Dance Company*

***Brooke DeMartino****…teaches beginning level PE dance. She is the Director of the Westside Pride Dance Team*

***Joel Rivera****...teaches beginning level Fine Arts Dance, Break Dance & Hip Hop dance. He is the Co-Director of INERTIA Dance Company*

1. **What credit can I get for a dance class?**

Students may enroll in dance for PE, Fine Art or General Elective Credit. Each semester is worth ½ credit.

1. **How do I get in a dance class?**

Dance classes are popular at Westside and they fill up fast. This year WHS is offering 5 beginning level classes:

3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th: B. DeMartino

3rd, 5th, 6th, & 7th : J. Rivera

\*Advanced classes require an audition process.

1. **When are dance audititions?**

All auditions for advanced level classes, INERTIA Dance Company and Pride Dance Team take place in the Spring Semester.

1. **I missed the auditions last spring, can I still try-out?**

INERTIA Dance Company and Pride Dance Team will not have try-outs once school starts. If you are interested in being a member of either of these groups for 13-14, make sure you enroll in a dance class this year, and specifically with Ms Roberts or Mr. Rivera for INERTIA, and Ms DeMartino for Pride.

\*If you are having trouble getting enrolled in a dance class, see Ms Roberts, and she will help you.

1. **What is the difference between INERTIA Dance Company and Pride Dance Team?**

Pride Dance Team is spirit dance organization which represents WHS at football games, pep rallies, parades, and competition. Pride traditionally closes the year with their popular Spring Show.

INERTIA Dance Company is a co-ed performing group, which emphasizes theatrical dance. Throughout the year INERTIA will perform on campus, around the state and in national level competitions.

1. **How much does it cost to be in dance?**

Students need to provide their own clothes for dance class activity. This consists of fitted t-shirts and stretch pants for girls, and t-shirts and sweat pants for boys. Dance clothes may be purchased at Target, Wal Mart, Academy, or any variety of discount stores. Pride Dance Team has uniform requirements that students are financially responsible for.

1. **Do I get to perform? Do I have to perform?**

All dance students have the opportunity to participate in the 2 annual dance concerts. “The No Costume Concert” in the fall and “The May Concert” in the spring.

Tickets are sold for these performances, therefore all students participating will have to meet UIL eligibility standards.

TEA requirements for dance indicate that all students enrolled in a dance class must participate in a performance in order to meet credit standards. Westside Dance provides this opportunity each semester for all dance enrolled students. It is important that students maintain their eligibility for participation in this performance. If a student is ineligible for the concert, an alternative option is assigned.

1. **Can I sign up for break dance?**

Westside offers beginning & advanced break at 3th period. Both classes are taught by Mr. Garcia or Mr. Rivera. You must try-out to be in advanced, but beginning is open to any student enrolled in Westside. **This is not music video** **hip-hop, this is traditional b-boying**! With Top Rock, Up Rock, Footwork, Freezes, Transitions, Power Moves, Popping, Locking and House techniques.

1. **Can I be in both INERTIA and Pride?**

INERTIA and Pride are 2 distinct dance organizations. Each has their own style and requirements. That is on the dance side, on the practical side, the time commitments required for both would not be possible.

1. **How much does it cost to be in INERTIA or Pride?**

Both groups have financial requirements attached. This varies from year to year based on school budgets, and expenses that need to be covered.

All members of both organizations will have fund raising activities throughout the year.

1. **What do I do if I realize that dance is not the class for me?**

You can see your dean and transfer out of the class. You must do this within 3 weeks of the start of the semester.

1. **What do I do if I want to change dance classes?**

Fill out a change of schedule form, and have your dance teacher sign it. You can transfer classes based on space availability.

1. **Do we dress out every day?**

You are expected to dress out for every activity day. If the class is not expected to change into dance clothes, you will be notified in advance.

1. **When do we start dressing out?**

All classes will begin dancing on the second day of school. We will begin dressing for activity then.

1. **Where do I dress out for class?**

All students enrolled with Ms Roberts or Mr. Rivera will change in the Vendoland restrooms. All students with Mrs. DeMartino change in the locker rooms.

**Westside Dance Instructors:**

Sharon Roberts [srobert2@houstonisd.org](mailto:srobert2@houstonisd.org)

Phone: 281.920.8055

Joel Rivera [jrivera9@houstonisd.org](mailto:jrivera9@houstonisd.org)

Phone: 281.920.8055

Brooke DeMartino [bdemarti@houstonisd.org](mailto:bdemarti@houstonisd.org)

Phone: 281.920.8000

When students are assessed through skills tests, this is a sample of the grading criteria that will be followed:

WESTSIDE DANCE DEPARTMENT

SKILLS EVALUATION – SCORE SHEET

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Knowledge of Choreography (25 points) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Rhythm and Timing (25 points) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Ensemble/Group (25 points) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Overall Individual Performance (25 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Score \_\_\_\_\_

**Westside Dance Mission Statement**

*We promote for all of our students to have a desire to participate, create, and to push themselves to learn skills and techniques. We also expect students to challenge themselves to be open minded and to explore different dance styles and music.*

*Our goal is to educate and pursue dance in a fun and informative way. Participation, preparation and creativity will make that happen.*

* If you are interested in getting your PE credit, please pursue a PE class.
* If you are a student who needs an elective and you don’t really want to dress out, dance, and perform, please select another elective that better suits your interests.
* If you are a student who doesn’t really know what they want, please give dance a try, and if it’s not for you, you are welcome to transfer out of the class.

Participation is very important to not only the structure of the class, and the overall environment, but also to your grade. No students are allowed to sit on the floor while dance class is in progress. So please come to class prepared, dressed to dance, and to be a part of a positive environment.

Teacher Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Westside House\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_