

**MEYERLAND PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS MIDDLE SCHOOL
DANCE DEPARTMENT
SYLLABUS & HANDBOOK
2024-2025**

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Overview

Being a student in the Dance program at Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School will provide you with a wealth of experiences and education in the art of Dance. Basic elements and technical skills will be introduced, learned, and mastered in Classical Ballet, Modern Dance, Jazz Dance, and Contemporary techniques, as well as Dance Composition, Performance, Production, Technology, and Conditioning. The goal of each student should be to practice and perfect each element and skill. Historical and cultural aspects of Dance will be addressed as well as involvement in the Houston Dance community through outreach, dance technology, field trips, master classes, and performances. The focus of the curriculum is in developing the well-rounded, technically skilled, and intelligent young dancer and performer who seeks to pursue a career path in dance. Being in this program will foster and nurture a strong education in dance technique, as well as knowledge and appreciation of dance today. Our performance group, The Meyerland Dance Ensemble, is made up of advanced students who excel academically and behaviorally, and have great technical skills and performance qualities, and represent the school, department, and school district in performances and events. This elite group is made up of students who plan to pursue dance in high school and beyond, at a pre-professional level. We also have the Meyerland Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society for Dance Arts, made up of students who apply and are inducted based on accumulated points in their participation in all aspects of Dance, including performance, education, and outreach.

Course Description

We will begin the year with dance fitness and conditioning and then begin a rigorous schedule of Dance Technique classes, which will also include creative writing and units in Nutrition for Dancers, Oral Presentations, Dance History, and Body Awareness. It will be the responsibility of the student to be properly dressed and prepared for each class. The weekly schedule will run such that if a student is on a MW track, they would have Ballet on Monday, Modern Dance/Composition on Wednesday. Students on a TTh track would have Ballet on Tuesday and Modern Dance/Composition on Thursday. All students will have Jazz Dance/Choreographic Studies on Fridays. Therefore, students have a strong technical base in Classical Ballet, Modern Dance, and Jazz Dance.

Ballet: Dancers will learn the fundamentals of Classical Ballet and terminology. Class will consist of ballet barre exercises, floor barre, Pilates stretching and strength exercises, center exercises, and movement and combinations across the floor.

Proper attire and ballet shoes must be worn.

Modern: Dancers will learn the fundamentals of various Modern Dance techniques including Horton, Graham, Humphrey/Weidman, as well as Contemporary Dance styles and techniques. Class will consist of a floor warm-up, work in center, and across the floor movements and combinations.

Proper attire and bare feet or nude color “foot undies” may be worn.

Jazz: Dancers will explore Street Jazz, Lyrical, Musical Theatre, and Hip Hop styles in this class. Class will consist of warm-up, center, across the floor, and combinations. This class will have a concurrent focus on leaps and turns, and elements of performance.

Proper attire and jazz shoes must be worn.

Advanced Dance Workshop and Master Classes: These classes occur at different scheduled days and times throughout the year, participation is based on class performance/behavior, and is by invitation/permission only. This class will cover various techniques, as well as expose the pre-professional dancer to workshops by local and national dance artists. Given permission by Mr. Peters, students may dress accordingly, professionally, and personally for the type of class.

Dress Code/Supplies

FEMALE

Leotard: black princess cut with camisole straps-**only**

Tights: flesh tone or pink (Ballet); black (Modern/Contemporary/Jazz) - all tights **must** be convertible/transitional-**no** shimmery, footed tights or pantyhose

Ballet: Nude/flesh tone or pink split sole canvas ballet shoes-**only**

Modern/Contemporary: flesh tone dance socks or modern foot-thong

Jazz: Black split-sole shoes are required for Jazz classes

Hair: If long, it must be pulled back into a ponytail and pinned securely away from the dancer's face and neck. If short, it too must be tied or pinned back. Bangs, hanging or loose curly hair styles are not allowed. As dancers are learning movement, hair should not be a hinderance to their being able to move freely without distraction, this would include addition of beading or decorations to hair that may strike/hit dancers or fall out during instruction.

Nails: Should be kept neat and clipped--- **long nails, acrylic nails, or nail art is NOT** acceptable in the dance classroom, as it is dangerous and distracting, and may result in students' removal from participation in dance class, thus affecting grades.

MALE

Top: white or black fitted t-shirt

Bottom: fitted black sweats (w/elastic at ankle so can be rolled up) or men/boys' black tights/leggings with black athletic shorts (no logos)

Ballet Classes: Black or flesh-tone split sole canvas ballet shoes-only

Modern/Contemporary classes: flesh tone dance socks or Modern foot-thong

Jazz classes: Black split sole Jazz shoes are required for Jazz classes

Undergarments/Dance belts: thong back or full seat dance belt, or compression shorts are **required** and **must** be worn in all classes and rehearsals.

The following items ARE NOT permitted in class or changing rooms:

Leggings, loose sweatpants, plastic pants, athletic shorts, big shirts, headscarves/bandanas, and jewelry are not allowed. No food, drinks, candy, or chewing gum in the dance or dressing room. Water bottles are always allowed.

As a reminder, dancewear should be washed daily, after classes, and proper hygiene is expected in the dance learning environment. Undergarments must be neatly concealed under dance clothes (brassiere straps must be pinned to leotards)-no visible undergarments!

You may get your dancewear from your choice of store, but it must be the styles as listed in the dress code, as well as from discountdance.com by clicking the link and inputting the code for the dress code list for Meyerland PVA, #TP39609:

http://www.discountdance.com/teacher_convert.php

All supplies for new MPVA Dance students must be purchased by the end of Week 3 of instruction, as full grading policies will be in effect during Week 4; including deductions for not being dressed properly, bringing supplies, and class participation. Returning students are required to have all materials by Week 2 of school, as continuation of grading policies and class procedures will resume.

Grading Policy

Dress and Participation Grade consists of:

- **Dress-** Neat, clean, and untorn required attire must be worn for every class. **Hair must be neatly pinned and/or pulled back in a secure pony tail or bun, and NO jewelry allowed (if ears are recently pierced, student may wear small posts only until able to remove—2 weeks maximum).** This requirement lends itself to not only a neat and uniformed appearance, but also promotes safety, discipline and professional qualities. **Please discreetly mark all dance clothes and dance shoes with student's name on the interior of supplies.**

If a student does not dress out for class they will earn a zero for their daily grade, and they will be required to take detailed notes (to possibly earn max of 50% partial credit for the class) and parents will be notified immediately. If problem persists, Assistant Principal and Magnet Coordinator will be notified, and student will receive a discipline referral and be referred a Magnet Growth Plan.

*25 points will be automatically deducted, as a starting point for the daily grade if student is dressed out but not in the appropriate dance attire or missing any part of their required attire. (i.e. shoes, tights, etc...)

- **Participation-** This is an **active** performing arts class. Students are expected to learn and master techniques, dance, and participate in every class. A daily participation grade will be given based on a Dance Rubric. Students may only be excused from participation if they have a Doctor's note. If the student is under Doctor's restrictions for a long period of time an appropriate assignment will be given. If excused, when a student does not participate, they will have a written assignment to complete, take detailed well-written class notes, and they will be responsible to make up the skills worked on that day. Points may be deducted from participation grade if the quality of work on the classroom assignment is not appropriate or a student is asked to sit out for lack of participation or dance class etiquette.

GRADING POLICY

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| • Classwork | 45% |
| • Performance/Assessment | 35% |
| • Self-Directed Studies/Quiz | 20% |

Attendance- Daily attendance is very important. If a student even misses one day, he/she will fall behind in the class. It will be the responsibility of the student to make up any missed work, assignments, or tests as it regards to school guidelines.

Promptness- Students are to be in the dance studio, and on the dance floor before the tardy bell rings. After the bell rings they have five minutes to dress, secure their personal belongings, and sit in assigned row in the dance studio. Students will have approximately five minutes at the end of class to change back into their school clothes, and wait in the dance studio for the bell to ring. **Students are not allowed to go back and forth to the changing room once class has started, or to the dance studio once their class is over for the day.**

- **Restroom policy** -Students are to use the restroom before and after class, so as not to interrupt the learning and creative process.
Leaving class to use restroom will be permitted sparingly and/or on an emergency basis only.

Performances

Winter, Spring, and/or Showcase Performances are **MANDATORY**. Students are assessed both on and offstage, and for backstage etiquette. Missed rehearsals and/or performances will be reflected strongly, overall, for the six week grading period.

Examination/Projects

Each student will be given a pre-test and post-test to see their knowledge of dance vocabulary, forms of dance and dance history. Tests and projects will be given covering skills and terminology taught in class throughout the year. Written and skills test will be used to monitor student's progress.

Interactive Notebook/Dance Journal

Students will utilize Response Cards, an Interactive Notebook and need a Composition Notebook to record daily corrections, vocabulary, skills taught and choreography notes. Records in Journals will count for one test grade each grading period.

Student Conduct

All students will be expected to follow the rules of the District, School as well as those expected as Magnet Transfer MPVA students, and should regularly demonstrate appropriate Dance Class Etiquette.

Dance Class Rules

Students are not to leave worn dancewear at school. They should be clean and stored in their issued dance attire bag, brought in daily for class, and should leave after class. This is for health and hygiene reasons, keep students responsible for their belongings, and create self-discipline.

- ***Be** on time
- ***Be** prepared
- ***Be** courteous and respectful
- ***Participate**
- ***Practice and Perfect**
- ***Maintain a Positive Attitude**
- ***Do AMAZING Work**
- ***No** food, drinks, gum or candy
- ***No CELLPHONES!**

Consequences of not following rules/procedures:

1st offense- Student conference

2nd offense- Parent contact, Student conference, and a ½ Conduct cut

3rd offense- Parent contact, Discipline referral, Behavior Contract, and an S in conduct

4th offense-Administrative referral, P/U in conduct, and Magnet Growth Plan

Dance Magnet Program Cost

MPVA Dance Students pay a Magnet Program Cost of \$75.00 at the beginning of the school year. This covers the cost of **one** uniform leotard and skin tone tights (female) **one** dance shirt/bottoms (male) (these are used as bases for costuming and workshop classes), **one** MPVA dance bag, performance costume rental and maintenance, department performance/event production materials, and tickets and transportation for at least 2 field trips (pending qualification to participate/attend). Magnet Program costs should be paid by September 20th in full, or in installment payments if necessary, by October 1st, and can be paid online.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Students enter our Magnet program through the audition process in their primary/1st areas of interest. Students will remain in that discipline for their three years at Meyerland PVAMS and will not be permitted to leave their primary/1st area of interest. Students are also expected to remain in their secondary/2nd magnet class throughout their time in our program unless there is sufficient reason (after conference with teachers, change deemed necessary) presented to necessitate a change. Should a student with definitive mitigating circumstances wish to change their primary/1st area of acceptance, he/she must get permission from that teacher and Magnet Coordinator, be in good standing, AND reapply and audition for placement in the following year. If they are not accepted in the area they are auditioning for as a replacement, they will be exited out of our magnet program and thus return to their zoned school. As Magnet Transfer students, you must maintain a minimum grade of 70 in Magnet and Academic classes, as well as no less than an S in conduct. If a student fails to meet this requirement, he or she will be placed on a Magnet Growth Plan to improve their grades or behavior, and an accumulation of three Growth Plans will directly affect a student's magnet status and enrollment at Meyerland PVAMS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Parents/guardians and students need to read the Meyerland PVA Dance Handbook, thoroughly, and sign and return this form to Mr. Peters. This will count as a major grade, and is due by Friday, August 23rd 2024.

***I have read the Meyerland PVA Dance Handbook and I understand and agree to the expectations and requirements for my child to be enrolled in Dance at Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent E-mail _____

Parent Phone Number _____

***I have read the Meyerland PVA Dance Handbook and I understand and agree to follow the requirements to be successful as a student enrolled in Dance at Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____