

HSPVA Dance Department Audition Requirements

The emphasis of the HSPVA Dance Department program is in both ballet and modern dance. This is in keeping with the audition requirements of most professional dance companies as well as the requirements for college conservatories and university dance major programs. Due to the vigorous physical demands of a concentration in dance, students with chronic health problems and/or injuries (bad knees, weak ankles, back problems etc.) are not encouraged to apply for the HSPVA Dance Department program.

Length of Audition: Three hours

What to bring: Ballet shoes and pointe shoes if auditioning for pointe.

Audition Attire:

- **Girls:** Leotard and convertible tights, ballet shoes with the elastic sewn on and tie strings tucked for ballet and bare feet for modern dance. Hair should be nice, neat and away from the face and neck with no jewelry, bows or accessories other than bobby pins and/or a hair net.
- **Boys:** Solid T-shirt with tights or gym shorts, ballet shoes with the elastic sewn on and tie strings tucked for ballet and bare feet for modern dance. Hair should be nice, neat and pulled away and secured from the face and neck.

What to Expect:

Our audition begins in ballet with an amended barre followed by exercises and combinations in center and across the floor. There will be a quick break to transition into the modern dance portion of the audition. During this time students will remove their ballet shoes and prepare to work with bare feet. The modern dance portion of the audition will consist of a warm-up in center, followed by exercises and combinations in center and across the floor. Students will be required to sight read and reproduce movement in groups for the dance faculty. **Auditionees do not need to prepare a solo.**

Students with pointe experience must bring pointe shoes for the pointe portion of the audition. Pointe work is a prerequisite for entry into all upper-level advanced ballet classes. Previous pointe training is not required to be considered for the intermediate level class (Level 1).

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Potential for a career in dance
2. Physique and Body Alignment
3. Coordination and Flexibility
4. Evidence of Natural Ability and Potential
5. Rhythmical Accuracy
6. Healthy body weight conducive to dance as a major or career
7. Ability to sight read and reproduce movement combinations given by dance faculty.

Other Helpful Tips:

1. In most ballet classes each barre exercise begins with the left hand on the barre so dancers are working with their right leg first.
2. Do not talk while the instructor is teaching but do ask questions if you need additional clarification.
3. Know how to stagger in a line up with one dancer forward and the next back when performing center combinations.
4. Know how to line up chronologically and from left to right unless instructed otherwise.
5. Participate fully in each combination at the barre, in center and across the floor.
6. Hold the end of the combination until given the "Thank You" from the adjudicator.
7. NO FOOD, GUM OR DRINK including water are permitted during the audition, even if you are observing and waiting for your audition.
8. NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN THE AUDITION STUDIOS.
9. Body Language is important Smile and Enjoy!
10. Thank the teacher.