

MS Choreography 3 Syllabus

Teacher: Ms. Harrison/Ms. Mercurio
Loiederman Middle School

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the creative process for developing group and solo dances and is open to 7th and 8th grade students who have successfully completed MS Dance 1 or higher. This course will focus on creating dances using a variety of techniques such as improvisation, self-exploration, group interactions, character development, and abstract movement invention. Students will use a variety of techniques to develop solos, duets, small group and class works. Students need to be enrolled in a technique class in conjunction with this course and will be required to participate in two evening performances during the school year. This course aligns with the National Dance Standards, Maryland State Standards and MCPS Dance Curriculum.

Quarter 1 - Choreographic Devices and Structures, Elements of Dance

Quarter 2 - Small group class Choreography Project and Performance

Quarter 3 - Concert Adjudication

Quarter 4 - Connections through Choreography and Solo Projects

Dance Program Goals

The student will demonstrate:

- the ability to perceive, perform, and respond to dance
- an understanding of dance as an essential aspect of history and human experience
- the ability to create and perform dance
- the ability to make aesthetic judgments in dance



Dance Department Contact Information

Ms. Harrison	Sarah_A_Harrison@mcpsmd.org
Ms. Mercurio	Jenna_M_Mercurio@mcpsmd.org
Office Phone	240-740-5830 ext. 12143

Dress Code

Dress Code Expectation: Students will need to come to class in dance clothes (preferably fitted clothing such as leggings). Students may use their dance locker and locker room to change if not already wearing appropriate clothes for dance. All dancers are required to have their hair pulled back off of their face and neck with a hair tie, clip, or a black colored scarf. Shirts should be long enough to cover the stomach during movement.

Participation in Class:

Students are expected to fully participate in every aspect of the dance program. Students earn a daily grade based on an 8 point scale that encompasses: musicality, creativity, application or choreographic elements, performance qualities, group dynamics. Please come prepared for dance class with your clothes and materials, just as you would by bringing your math book to math! Students are encouraged to dress and perform every day. Being prepared shows your commitment to growing as a dancer at Loiederman Middle School.

Injury Policy: Any student that is sick or injured must have a parent/Doctor's note in order to be excused from class. If a student is sick or injured he/she will have an alternate assignment to complete related to the class objectives. A parent may excuse a student only 3 times during the course of a semester. After these days are accumulated the student will need a doctor's note to excuse them from class and must complete a make-up assignment. Students, parents, and doctors are encouraged to discuss the injury to minimize loss of valuable class time.

*If you are sick, PLEASE stay home. Class material will be available through Canvas and class work will be available for make-up credit.

Dance Concerts

Each year the dance department hosts two dance concerts that students participate in.

Please add these dates to your calendars now as to avoid any conflicts in January and April. But please note that things can change.

*******Note: Students enrolled in choreography may perform multiple nights of the concert and should make sure they are available all three nights of the concert.*******

Winter Dance Concert Night

Event	Dates	Students Report	Show Start
Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal	During School	During School	During School
Winter Concert Performance	January 11, 12, 13	6:30pm	7:00pm
Spring Concert Rehearsal	During School	During School	During School
Spring Concert Performance	April 5, 6, 7	6:30pm	7:00pm

Grading Policy:

10% Homework: Daily Journals, Reflections, Questions of the Day

90% All Tasks (Formative and Summative)::

- Class work
- Projects
- Tests/ Quizzes
- Dance Performances (dress rehearsal & concerts)

Students earn a daily grade based on an 8 point scale that encompasses: musicality, creativity, application or choreographic elements, performance qualities, group dynamics.

Additional Course Information

Course Expenses

- Tickets to the dance concerts are \$5. Parents who volunteer to help backstage one night receive 2 free tickets to the night of their choice. Children 5 and under are free.
- Throughout the year there may be a nominal fee for any dance field trips. Students will receive information about these trips in their classes.

Lockers

Students will be assigned a locker for the year that is specific to Dance class, separate from PE lockers. Students may use these lockers during dance, but may not use them as their regular lockers throughout the day. Loiederman Middle School is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please lock away all personal items and for the safety of your items do not share your locker or your combination with anyone.

Video/Photography Policy

It is the practice of the dance department at Loiederman Middle School to use video and photography for education purposes. This creates learning opportunity for students by allowing students to see themselves dancing and to analyze their movement. This practice also allows for the dance department to archive performances and promote the dance department in the greater Montgomery County community. Below is a waiver allowing your student to be photographed for educational and archival purposes.

Bathroom Policy

Students are given time at the beginning and the end of the class period to change in the locker rooms. Students should plan on using this time to use the restroom because students are discouraged from leaving the dance room during class. If there is a medical need in which the student will frequently need to use the restroom during class, this should be documented with the school nurse.

Dance Related Film Release

Throughout the year the dance department will be showing clips from some films in order to relate the students' movement to that of professionals or contemporary and historical artists. The film list for those films rated PG is below. Please inform your child's teacher if you do not give permission to view these films.

Cirque du Soleil (PG): Modern Dance and Arco-based movement

Dance with Me (PG): Latin dance

Newsies (PG): Jazz dance

This is It (PG): Dance creation and jazz technique

Mad Hot Ballroom (PG): Latin Dance and choreography documentary

Singing in the Rain (G): Dance and music, dance on film

Hairspray (PG): Dance and music, dance on film

Happy Feet (PG): Tap technique and animation from real movement

Happy Feet Two (PG): Tap technique and animation from real movement

First Position (PG) - Ballet Technique

Mao's Last Dancer (PG) - Ballet Technique

Strictly Ballroom (PG) - Ballroom Technique

Swing Time, Top Hat - Tap

The Ballet Shoes (PG) - Ballet Technique

Jig (PG): Irish Step Dance – Cultural Dance

Breakin' 2 (PG): Hip Hop and Breakdance

Fame (2010 PG): Modern and Jazz dance

The Wiz (G): Rhythmic

Ballet 422 (PG): Ballet Company

Dance on Film: Alvin Ailey, Martha Graham, Grupo Corpo, Dance Afrika, Stomp

First Position: Ballet documentary about students preparing for Ballet competition

A Ballerina's Tale: Documentary about Misty Copeland's rise to principal ballerina

The Greatest Showman (PG) - Choreography

Mary Poppins (PG) - Jazz



Ms. Alastanos Tiffany A Alastanos@mcpsmd.org Dance 1 Dance 3 Dance for Athletes	Ms. Kerr Elena Kerr@mcpsmd.org Dance 1 Dance 2 Dance for Athletes	Ms. Harrison Sarah A Harrison@mcpsmd.org Choreography Dance as a Fine Art	Ms. Mackie julianna D Mackie@mcpsmd.org Dance 2 Perspectives
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