

**P.E. Dance II/Theatrical Dance II – 7th Period: ADVANCED
2014-2015**

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Description of Course Objectives and Goals

The students in Advanced Dance perform in multiple dance genres, including ballet, modern, contemporary jazz, hip hop, and character, integrating an advanced level of technical skill and clear intent. Students will learn to critically assess and derive meaning from works of dance, performance of dancers, and original works according to the elements of dance and aesthetic qualities. By the end of this course, students will be able to connect and apply what is learned in dance to learning in other art forms, subject areas, and careers. A variety of concert dance styles will be used in choreography. The goal of this class is to prepare the dancer for performance skills at the high school level and to prepare the dancer for further dance study, training, and performing at the college, university, conservatory, or pre-professional level. A second goal of this course is to introduce the high school dancer to the various dance expressions of the “dance-as-art” world, and to engender in the student an understanding and appreciation of dance in our culture and in world cultures. This class combines advanced dance training, audition skills, composition, performance experience, and historical as well as cultural appreciation of dance.

Dress Code

- Ballet: Girls must wear black leotards with pink tights and pink ballet slippers. No skirts, tee shirts, or shorts. Hair in bun and bangs bobby pinned or clipped out of face. Boys must wear a white body hugging tee shirt and black leggings/tights with a dance belt and black or white ballet shoes.
- Modern and Jazz: Girls must wear leotards and tights for technique work. Black spandex shorts with tights and leotard are okay. You can wear socks, dance paws, or bare feet for modern and the first part of jazz. Jazz shoes or socks are advised for turns and jumps across the floor. No bulky tops, bottoms, or wraps allowed. Tight fitting sweats and warm-ups are appropriate for cold weather during the first exercise of class only. Ponytail or bun with bangs pinned back. Boys may wear a body hugging tee shirt, leggings/jazz pants, and a dance belt.
- No large dangling or sharp jewelry.

Daily Class and Rehearsal Schedule

Theatrical Dance II builds upon Theatrical Dance I and combines advanced technique, steps, and choreography. The class routine includes warm ups, technique, stretches, progressions across the floor, and choreography. The class will also include discussions, oral presentations, choreography projects, informal class performances, and written or typed responses related to dance history and culture. These activities may alter the weekly schedule of technique classes. Ordinarily, the weekly schedule will be as follows:

Mondays: Modern Class (Hip Hop on the last Monday of each month)

Mondays 1:30-2:45 (collaboration day schedule): Pilates for Dancers (beginning August 18th)

*Mondays 3:00-4:00: Tap Class and Rehearsal (*voluntary for any advanced, intermediate, and beginning II students starting Sept. 8th)

*Mondays 4:00-5:15: Pointe Class and Rehearsal (*voluntary, for advanced dancers who are currently training *en pointe* starting Sept. 8th)

Tuesdays: Ballet Class (1 hr and 20 min)

Tuesdays 3:00-5:00: Mandatory Class Rehearsal (beginning August 19th)

Wednesdays: Jazz Class

Thursdays: Ballet and Pointe Class (2 hrs)

Thursdays 3:30-5:00: Mandatory Rehearsal

Fridays: Contemporary Jazz/Modern

Rehearsal and Performance Participation Requirements

In addition to the mandatory Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals, some weekend rehearsal time will also be mandatory for Advanced Dance. Rehearsals are when the bulk of the concert choreography is taught and staged. I consider rehearsal times as homework and performances as major class projects. If you do not attend mandatory or voluntary rehearsals, even with a valid excuse, you are in danger of being dropped from the dance. If you are not feeling well, but are not contagious, standing in or sitting and taking notes so that you know your steps and staging will count as attendance at a rehearsal. However, your health needs to be the top priority, so parents need to determine whether or not it is safe for a student to attend, even just to sit out and observe. If you are unexpectedly ill and cannot attend rehearsal, please call my extension or email me to let me know.

“Countdown” is the term we use for the critical weeks of classes and major rehearsals leading up to the production. It is very important to attend classes and rehearsals during the countdown period. Your body needs consistent training, and performance notes are reviewed daily in classes and rehearsals. If you become ill, it may not be safe for you to perform in the show. We don’t want students to dance if they are too sick. If you have a valid excuse for being absent during countdown, then you will still be eligible to perform in the show, but you must contact me as soon as possible. Unexcused absence from class or a major rehearsal during countdown will result in a ten percent reduction of your performance project grade, and unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for this performance project.

Because dance is a performing art, part of your work will be to prepare for performances in the 2014-2015 concerts: *Dance on Film*, *Fall for Dance*, *Dance Tour*, *A Student Choreography Showcase*, *Spring for Dance*, and *Grease: The Musical*. Participation in these performances and the rehearsals that prepare for them are mandatory and constitute part of your passing grade. Additional performance opportunities, including the Ohlone Festival and *STARZ*, will be voluntary for students who are available and interested in participating. All rehearsal times and performances will be announced in advance so you will have time to adjust your schedule. Admittance to this class is by audition only and space is limited; if, after negotiation, you have a problem meeting the performance responsibilities assigned to you, then re-assignment to another dance class might be advisable, and your space in this class will be given to another dancer.

Grading

Class Participation: 45%

Since dance is a physical participation class, attendance and active participation are essential to improving your skills. Your body is your instrument. It must be tuned, trained, and refined. This training occurs only by practice, repetition, and guidance from your teacher. Therefore, attendance and participation weigh heavily in the grading process. Each day that you participate fully in class, you will earn up to ten participation points. On Monday Collaboration Days, Advanced Dancers are required to take Pilates Class from 1:30-2:45 as part of their Class Participation score. On non-collaboration days, Pilates will be voluntary and can be taken for extra credit. Written make-ups or note taking are worth a maximum of seven points per class. Points will be deducted from your daily participation score if you are tardy, unprepared, or disruptive. To earn full participation credit, you are expected to demonstrate readiness to dance (the dancer's discipline), self-motivation and perseverance in dance training, and a positive, team-player attitude. If you are absent, you may make up the absence by attending an after-school workshop, a rehearsal, or by writing a one page handwritten or typed report on a researched dance-related subject. Since this is a physical participation class, you can only make up five days per quarter with written work. If you have more than five absences in a quarter, you must make up your absences by attending workshops, rehearsals, performances, or, if you have an open period, you can participate in one of my other dance classes during the school day. If you have a serious illness with a projected long-term recovery period (broken bone, chicken pox, pneumonia, etc.), see me for an accommodated participation plan.

Rehearsal Participation: 30%

As stated above in the Class Schedule section, two days per week rehearsal time (every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:40 until 5:00) and some weekend rehearsal time are mandatory for Advanced Dance. If you are unable to come to certain weekend rehearsals, you may be excused from that dance. Participation in all of the guest choreographers' works will be voluntary for students who want more involvement in the shows. Please notify me as soon as possible if you will be unable to participate in certain guest choreographers' pieces/rehearsals. See the attached putative schedule of rehearsal and performance times. If you decide to enroll in the after-school tap and/or pointe classes, your regular attendance is mandatory. If you do not attend rehearsals, even with a valid excuse, you are in danger of being dropped from the dance or you may not be included in whatever section of the dance is being worked on at the rehearsal(s). If you are not feeling well, but are not contagious, standing in or sitting and taking notes so that you know your steps and staging will count as attendance at a rehearsal.

Dance Journals/Papers/Presentations/Projects: 15%

You will need a small composition notebook and a pencil/pen to complete dance journal entries on concepts learned in class. A limited supply of notebooks and writing utensils are available to students who are unable to provide their own classroom materials. You will have group choreography projects, oral reports, and poster presentations throughout the year. Advanced dancers will also work on a personal Portfolio project throughout the school year, tailored to their individual grade level.

Quizzes/Tests/Exams: 10%

For each course unit, you will have movement examinations; you will be evaluated on technique skills' acquisition, performance quality, and choreography. You will complete in-class performances on choreography projects. All performance assessments will be considered "Tests". You will also have written quizzes and exams on dance topics discussed in class.

Class Rules

1. Be dressed in appropriate dance attire in order to participate. Leotards and tights were developed for dance for practical as well as aesthetic reasons. They show the shapes and lines of the body. They allow technical errors to be seen so that they can be corrected. A limited supply of dancewear is available for check-out to students who are unable to purchase their own dance clothes. Students are expected to strictly respect and follow the class dress code policy.
2. Be on time and prepared for class. You must be in the locker room before the tardy bell rings. In dance, it is neither professional nor safe to be late. Dancers must develop the habit of being ready to dance when class begins:
 - Class starts 5 minutes after the tardy bell and ends 5 minutes before the passing bell. You will be counted tardy if you are not in your place on the dance floor as I start class.
 - If you arrive before class starts, then please go directly to your place on the dance floor to begin warming up, and practice material to be performed in class. You can always improve by rehearsal.
 - If you are late to class, then you need to begin with a proper warm-up before joining the class in subsequent exercises.

3. Have a medical excuse if you are unable to fully participate in class and/or rehearsal:
 - If you are ill or unable to physically participate in dance class, you need to bring a note from home or the doctor/school nurse on the day of your non-participation in order to be excused from physical participation.
 - When you have an excused note to sit out a class, you still must actively participate by taking notes on the entire lesson given that day. These notes are to be handed in to me immediately after class; they make up that day's absence from physical participation for up to seven participation points, and these notes are a guide for you to use so that on the next day you will be prepared to participate fully and without a loss of knowledge.
 - If you have any type of injury that may affect your full participation in dance, it is important to report the injury to Mrs. Wadman as soon as possible. Our Pilates instructor, Roxanna Cohen, is a certified physical therapist and can assist students who may have injury concerns. Please fill out the injury report form available in the dance room.
4. Follow class etiquette rules. These are general habits to develop in the world of dance and dance classes:
 - Please keep street shoes off the studio dance floor. Shoes can carry in glass, pebbles, and dirt from outside. For the health and safety of all dancers, please leave your street shoes in the cubbies by the door.
 - Dispose of gum/food before starting class.
 - Please be attentive during class and listen carefully. If you have a question, please raise your hand. Limit conversation to course or rehearsal material and save personal conversations for after class.
 - Many corrections in dance are given by touching or physically placing the student's body into alignment, but if you are not comfortable with your teacher or choreographer giving you a physical correction, be sure to inform and remind them in a polite way. Remember that when your teacher gives you a correction, it is an honor. It means your teacher is investing time and effort to help you become a better dancer. Whether a class correction or an individual correction, listen to them all and absorb them as if they were directed especially at you.
 - Observe other students in class. This can help you develop an eye for line, design, correction and inspiration. Encourage your peers when they are struggling and acknowledge accomplishment and artistry. Dancers receive a lot of criticism, work very hard, and push way beyond the average human capacity. We all can benefit from sincere kind words and applause.

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices must be put away and should not be visible during class or rehearsal time. Students will be notified when an upcoming lesson or choreography project will require research or use of an electronic device. In certain instances, students will be encouraged to bring their device to class to assist in research, to play music for their choreography project, or to view choreography videos.

Lockers

You will be issued a locker for your own use. Keep it locked and don't share your key or combination. If you already have a P.E. locker or a sport locker, you may use that for this class. Key locks tend to get lost, so I recommend a combination lock. You will need to supply your own lock.

Expectations

I expect you to treat each other, me, and all your guest teachers and choreographers with respect. I expect you each to work to your individual capacity and to improve. Your success in Advanced Dance is very important. Please communicate any challenges with the assignments that you might have, and I will be happy to help you. Your commitment to yourself as a growing dancer who needs to work hard to perform well, and as a team member who needs to work consistently with your fellow dancers in order for the whole dance to look good, is a primary requirement of this course. Dance is a tremendous amount of work and tremendous fun. If you work hard and keep yourself open to new ways of moving as well as thinking, by the end of the year you'll have a skill to be proud of, no matter where you started the year. The dancers and dance program at Nevada Union High School have a reputation for excellence in Nevada County, and they are commanding respect in dance programs throughout California and beyond. I know we will continue our tradition of excellence in dance through you. I look forward to working with all of you and making this year's dancers and shows successful. Most of all, I look forward to helping you develop your passion for dance and the performing arts!

PUTATIVE REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

(Schedule is also available on the Calendar Section of our website: www.nevadauniondance.com)

Weekend Rehearsals

- Student Choreography Showcase Mandatory Rehearsals (Schedule of choreographers' time slots will be available after proposals have been submitted and casting completed):
 - September 20th and 21st
 - October 4th and 5th
 - November 9th and 10th (Sunday and Monday, due to SAT testing on that Saturday)
 - December 6th and 7th
 - January 24th and 25th
- Dance on Film/Fall for Dance/Spring for Dance Weekend Rehearsals (Schedule of guest choreographers' time slots may vary or change, depending upon travel availability. Additional rehearsals may be added or revised as necessary):
 - August 30th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. *Dance on Film* MANDATORY Rehearsal (Class check-in and warm up in the dance room, then remaining time reserved for group filming at individual locations)
 - September 22nd and 23rd OR 27th and 28th – Alison Clancy from New York, small cast piece, VOLUNTARY
 - October 18th and 19th – Karen Attix, small cast piece, VOLUNTARY
 - November 1st and 2nd – Efren Corado from Utah, 2 split cast pieces, VOLUNTARY
 - December 13th and 14th – Sienna Powell, full cast piece, VOLUNTARY
 - January 17th through 19th – Chelsea Asman from Los Angeles, full cast piece, VOLUNTARY
 - February 13th through 16th – Jesse Beck, full cast piece and small cast piece, VOLUNTARY

Countdown Rehearsals and Mandatory Productions/Performances

1. *Dance on Film* – Friday, October 10th (Silent Auction, Raffle, and screening of student films) 7:00-8:30 p.m.
2. *Fall for Dance* – Don Baggett Theatre
 - November 13th and 14th: Staging Rehearsals (2:30-5:00 p.m.)
 - November 15th, 16th and 17th: Tech Rehearsals (pieces by schedule)
 - November 18th, 19th, and 20th: Photo Shoot and Dress Rehearsals (2:30-6:30 p.m.)
 - November 21st: Opening Night Performance (5:00 cast call – show runs from 7:00-8:30 p.m.)
 - November 22nd: Matinee and Evening Performances (12:00 p.m. matinee cast call – show runs 2:00-3:30; 5:00 p.m. evening cast call – show runs 7-8:30)
3. *Dance Tour* – Performance Field Trip to Local Middle Schools: December 3rd, 4th & 5th
4. *14th Annual Student Choreography Showcase*: Don Baggett Theatre
 - January 28, 29, and 30: Staging rehearsals (Pieces by schedule – you only need to be present for the dance(s) you're in)
 - January 30th and February 1st: Tech rehearsals (Pieces by schedule)
 - February 2, 3, 4: Photo Shoot and Dress Rehearsals (2:45-until done, usually around 6:30 p.m.)
 - February 5, 6, and 7: Performances (5:00 cast call – show runs from 7:00-9:00)
5. *Spring for Dance*: Don Baggett Theatre
 - March 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8: Staging and Tech Rehearsals (Pieces by schedule)
 - March 9-11: Photo Shoot and Dress Rehearsals (2:30 – until done, usually around 6:30 p.m.)
 - March 12, 13, 14: Evening Performances (5:00 cast call, Performance runs 7:00-9:00)
 - March 14: Matinee Performance (12:00 cast call; Performance runs 7:00-9:00)
6. *Grease: The Musical*: Don Baggett Theatre
 - Staging/Tech Rehearsals TBA by Theatre Department
 - April 23: Preview Performance at 7:00 p.m.
 - April 24 and 25: Evening Performances (5:00 cast call – show runs from 7:00-8:30 p.m.)
 - April 28 and 29: 10 a.m. performances for local schools visiting N.U.
 - April 30, May 1, and May 2: Evening Performances (5:00 cast call – show runs from 7:00-8:30 p.m.)
 - May 2: Matinee Performance (12:00 cast call – show runs 2:00-4:00)

Special Events/Field Trips

- 4th Annual NU Dance Yard Sale: Saturday, Sept. 6th – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the District Office Parking Lot
- Blue 13 Dance Company Voluntary Casting Audition and All-Day Rehearsal on Saturday, September 6th; Performances in Tahoe on October 24th and 25th; Performance at the Don Baggett Theatre on Sunday, October 26th (at least 5 dancers from Nevada Union will be cast to perform, but all are encouraged to audition!)
- Ashland, Oregon Shakespeare Festival (collaboration with Theatre Department: September 25-28)
- Ohlone Festival, Voluntary Performance Field Trip to Fremont, CA : March 20th and 21st
- Auditions for 2015-2016 Intermediate and Advanced Dance: Wednesday, March 25th 2:30-6:30 p.m.
- *STARZ Show* – Center for the Arts (Voluntary participation. Performance Dates TBA, likely March 27th and 28th)
- Informational Meeting for 2015-2016 Advanced Dance on Wednesday, May 27th at 3:00-3:30 p.m.
- Summer Dance Workshops on July 20-24, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily



Nevada Joint Union High School District
Nevada Union High School Theatrical Dance

11761 Ridge Road; Grass Valley, California (530) 273 4431 X 2103

August 13, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian of NUHS Dance Student:

We are very happy to have your child enrolled in our dance program at Nevada Union High School. To ensure the best possible experience in this art form for your student, it is important that you be aware of the co-curricular performance activities required for this class. Your support is essential to maintaining the high level of quality dance education at this high school. We have attached the course policies for Theatrical/PE Dance to this form. Please read through the class requirements, sign this form as acknowledgement of having received the information, and then have your student return this form to Mrs. Wadman.

I, parent/guardian of _____ (student's name), have read the course policies and understand the expectations and requirements of the dance class in which my child is enrolled.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If there is any information that you would like to share with me regarding your child's involvement in my class, feel free to contact me via email or phone at your convenience. You may also include in the space provided below any additional comments, questions, concerns, etc. that you would like to share with me:

Questions/Comments: _____

Please return this signed form no later than Friday, August 15th for 10 points. **Thank you!** -Mrs. Wadman