

Theatrical Dance Performance Ensemble 2017-2018

Teacher: Mrs. Courtney Wadman
Phone: (530) 273-4431 x 2103

Email: cwadman@njuhsd.com
Website: www.nevadauniondance.com

Description of Course Objectives and Goals

The students in Theatrical Dance Performance Ensemble perform in multiple dance genres, including ballet, modern, contemporary jazz, hip hop, and character, integrating an intermediate/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 choreography and 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 world cultures. This class combines dance performance experience, audition skills, composition, and historical as well as cultural appreciation of dance.

Daily Class, Rehearsal, and Performance Requirements

Theatrical Dance Performance Ensemble builds upon the coursework and technique of Intermediate and Advanced Dance. Therefore, students enrolled in Performance Ensemble must be concurrently enrolled in either 5th period (Intermediate) or 6th period (Advanced) dance. Admittance in this class is by audition only. Performance Ensemble will include rehearsal, choreography projects, and performance preparation for multiple productions and field trips throughout the school year. Part of your work will be to prepare for the 2017-2018 productions: *Fall for Dance* (November), *Dance Tour* (December), *A Student Choreography Showcase* (February), and *Spring Dance Concert: Contemporary Classics* (April). Participation in these performances and the rehearsals that prepare for them are mandatory and constitute part of your passing grade. In addition to the daily Performance Ensemble class, some additional after-school and weekend rehearsals will be mandatory to prepare for these performances. Additional performance opportunities, including the Ohlone Festival (March), and the community productions of *Winter Dance* (December) and *STARZ* (April) will be voluntary for students who are available and interested in participating.

Grading

Class Participation and Citizenship - 50%: 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. 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 have an excused absence from class, you may make up the absence by attending an after-school workshop, an extra 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 semester with written work. 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. You are allowed five absences plus one documented (parent or doctor) emergency from performance ensemble per semester. After your fifth absence, points for each subsequent absence will be doubled, and you may be ineligible for voluntary rehearsals/activities (you will still be required to attend the mandatory rehearsals/performances).

Rehearsal and Performance Participation - 35%: As stated above, additional after-school and weekend rehearsals are mandatory. These include the staging, tech, and dress rehearsals for all performances. “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. Please schedule appointments (e.g. dentist, doctor, etc.) around your dance class period or rehearsals so that you do not miss out on important show preparations. Your body needs consistent training, and performance notes are reviewed daily in classes and rehearsals. Unexcused absence from the required countdown classes and/or rehearsals, including staging, tech, and dress rehearsals during countdown may result in your being staged out of the show completely. If you become ill, it may not be safe for you to perform in the show. Your health always 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 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, if you are unexpectedly ill or have a family emergency and cannot attend a rehearsal or performance, please contact Mrs. Wadman as soon as possible at (530) 273-4431 ext. 2103. 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). Unexcused absence from class or a major rehearsal during countdown will result in a ten percent reduction of your performance project grade for that production, and unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for that individual performance project.

Performance Ensemble Portfolio and Assignments - 15%: Students will work on a year-long portfolio project that includes performance critiques, research related to dance history and cultural studies, college preparatory writing assignments, and career skills. This portfolio is designed to prepare the student for college and careers in dance-related fields. Students are required to attend and participate in a Dance Research Conference (May) with student and professional presentations to a public audience. Additional assignments include publicity, performance reflections, and costume care. Costumes will be determined as we get closer to show time. Dancers will need a nude leotard and nude tights to wear as undergarments. All costumes should be kept clean and neat. NUHS Costumes must be stored on hangers enclosed in a garment bag. Please bring your costumes to ALL of the required tech and rehearsals. Costumes need to be cleaned and returned within one week of the last performance. All assignments need to be turned in on time or before the due date. Late work will be accepted with a ten percent reduction in the grade on that project.

Class Rules

1. Be dressed in appropriate dance attire in order to participate: leotard with tights/leggings for girls, and body hugging t-shirt with leggings for boys. Students are expected to strictly respect and follow the class dress code policy, even in rehearsals after-school and on weekends. Appropriate dance warm ups may be worn at the start of rehearsal, but need to be removed after warm up. Tight fitting shirt over leotard (only with choreographer's approval – come to your first rehearsal in just your leo to show the choreographer that you are a professional and you take your dance training seriously). Your choreographer needs to be able to see the lines of your body clearly. It is wise to bring layers in case you have down time during rehearsal for small group sections, or if you are doing floor work and your choreographer requests long sleeves. Hair should be secured away from face in a ponytail/bun/braid without long bangs in your eyes.
2. Be on time and prepared for class:
 - During the school day: 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 must present a pass to excuse your tardy, and you need to begin with a proper warm-up before joining the class in subsequent exercises.
 - Weekend/Theatre rehearsals: 15 minutes early to warm up and be ready to go! Warming up is critical for dancers – it helps to reduce the risk of injury, and it makes movement/exercise easier and safer for your body. The better your warm up, the better prepared you will be to perform your very best! Even if your choreographer is going to give a class, it is best to arrive early and do what you need for your body. It also gives you time to prepare yourself mentally as well as physically for rehearsal.
3. Call Mrs. Wadman (and your choreographer, in the event of a student choreography rehearsal or guest choreographer, if applicable) at 273-4431 ext. 2103 if you have an emergency/sudden illness and will be late or absent from rehearsal.
 - Before you consider being absent from a rehearsal, ask yourself these questions: if I was the choreographer and it was my rehearsal, would I be too sick to go? If I was cast as the lead in the show and had the starring role, would I have something more important to do than come to rehearsal? You demonstrate professionalism by treating every rehearsal with the utmost importance. Show respect to your peers, your choreographer, and yourself by making rehearsals a priority. Demonstrating that you are reliable and committed is an important life skill that will serve you well in school and in your career. If you are seriously ill/contagious/have an unexpected emergency, you must communicate with your teacher/choreographer as soon as possible.
 - No Shows/Unexcused Absences: If a dancer is a “no show” or has an unexcused absence, the choreographer reserves the right to remove the dancer from the piece entirely. The choreographer may choose to keep the dancer as an understudy, or to use the dancer in only parts of the dance as the choreographer deems appropriate. This will be determined by the choreographer.

- Excused Absences (sick or notified teacher and student choreographer absence & reason ahead of time): Even if the dancer has an excused absence, the choreographer reserves the right to remove the dancer from the piece or from sections of the piece that are worked on during the dancer's absence. The choreographer may decide to hold a spot for the dancer, but it is the dancer's full responsibility to learn the choreography, staging, and notes from this missed rehearsal. Dancers can arrange a time with Mrs. Wadman to make up the absence by coming in to workshop with a fellow dancer during lunch or after class. All dancers should be fully prepared and caught up by the next rehearsal with their choreographer.
4. You must also 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. Parent notes are allowed for only three consecutive days. A physician's note specifying limitations and modifications must be presented if illness/injury lasts more than three days.
 - 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/choreographer as soon as possible. Please fill out the injury report form available in the dance room.
5. Follow class etiquette rules. These are general habits to develop in the world of dance and dance classes:
- 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. Your choreographer may be expecting you to workshop choreography and practice on the sidelines. Workshop until you have your movements down perfectly! When you have "down-time" during rehearsals, you are expected to stay warm by doing your Pilates exercises, using a roller, etc. Make sure you can hear your choreographer at all times. Show them that even on the sidelines you are "at the ready!"
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - All electronic devices must be put away and should not be visible during class or rehearsal time, unless students have received permission to use them for course-related reasons. During weekend rehearsals, please keep your phone put away and keep conversations to rehearsal material only.
6. Follow all school rules and uphold the Miner Code of Conduct at all times. 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. You are ambassadors of this program, and you represent N.U. to our community through your public performances. As a result, any major violation of a school rule (e.g. bullying another student, engaging in illegal behaviors) will result in a school disciplinary referral as well as removal from the upcoming public performance production/event. Students can work as backstage crew to receive participation credit in the event that they are unable to perform. Repeated or ongoing violations may result in removal from the Theatrical Dance Ensemble class.

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 Performance Ensemble is very important. Please communicate any challenges with the assignments that you might have, and I will be happy to help you. I look forward to working with all of you and making this year's shows successful. Most of all, I look forward to helping you develop your passion for dance and the performing arts! GO MINERS!

Required Performance Ensemble Events

Fall for Dance – Don Baggett Theatre

- Saturday, September 30th: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm – Brazilian Dance Rehearsal (full ensemble cast)
- Tech Rehearsals in the Don Baggett Theatre – Pieces by Schedule –November 6, 7, 8, 9: 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Dress Rehearsals: November 13: 2:30-6:00 p.m. (collaboration schedule – 1st run-through) and November 14, 15, 16 (preview performance for staff/sponsors): 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Performances: Friday, November 17th 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (CAST CALL at 5:00 p.m.) and Saturday, November 18th 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (CAST CALL at 12:00 p.m.)

Requisite Dance Master Class and Performance – N.U. Dance Studio

- Master Class with company director, Jenna Monroe: Friday, October 27th (during class/ensemble time)
- Performance by Requisite Dance on Saturday, October 28th from 11am to 1pm (\$15 suggested donation)

Dance Tour – Field Trip to Local Schools

- Dress Rehearsals in the dance room on Monday, November 27th and Tuesday, November 28th
- Tour on Wednesday, November 29th and Thursday, November 30th (full school days)

17th Annual Student Choreography Showcase: “Uplift and Inspire” – Don Baggett Theatre

- Weekend Choreography and Staging Rehearsals in the Dance Studio (1 piece = 2 hour rehearsal. Times for each piece will be announced once casting is complete)
 - September 16 & 17
 - October 14 & 15
 - November 10 & 11 (Friday and Saturday)
 - December 2 & 3
 - January 13 & 14
- Runthroughs on Thursdays during ensemble time (except on advanced ballet master classes with Tish – see calendar for details). Friday afternoons (during ensemble class time) will be added in January.
- Tech Rehearsals in the Don Baggett Theatre – Pieces by Schedule – dancers will only need to be present for their individual piece(s), and a more specific schedule of tech times will be announced as we get closer to the show. Dates/times for tech will be scheduled for January 22-25: 3:30-7:30 p.m.
- Dress Rehearsals: January 26: 3:30-7:30 p.m. (finale, stage bows, photo shoot, run-through), January 29, 30, 31 (preview performance): 3:30-6:00 p.m.
- Performances on Thursday, February 1st and Friday, February 2nd: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (CAST CALL at 5:00 p.m.) and Saturday, February 3rd: 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (CAST CALL at 12:00 p.m.)

Spring Dance Concert: “Contemporary Classics” – Don Baggett Theatre

- February 16, 17, 18, 19 (President’s Day Weekend) – Rehearsal with New York choreographer, Jesse Beck
- Staging/Tech Rehearsals – Pieces by Schedule – dancers will only need to be present for their individual piece(s), and a more specific schedule of tech times will be announced as we get closer to the show: April 9-13 and April 16-19: 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- Dress Rehearsals –April 20: 3:30-7:30 p.m. (photo shoot, staging bows, and 1st runthrough), April 23: 2:30-5:30 p.m. (snow make up day / collaboration day schedule), April 24: 3:30-6:00 p.m. (preview performance for N.U. staff and sponsors)
- Assembly Performance Wednesday, April 25: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (CAST CALL 8:00 a.m.) (schools visit)
- Performances on Thursday and Friday, April 26th and 27th: 7:00-8:30 p.m. (CAST CALL 5:00 p.m.) and Saturday, April 28th: Matinee Performance 2:00-3:30 p.m. (CAST CALL 12:00 p.m.) & Evening Performance 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (CAST CALL 5:30 p.m.)

Dance Research Conference – Wednesday, May 30th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Science Lecture Hall

Theatrical Dance Ensemble Banquet – Monday, June 4th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the N.U. Café

Dancers will be notified as soon as possible of additional performance opportunities and voluntary rehearsals with additional guest choreographers throughout the school year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our rehearsal/performance schedule, please contact me as soon as possible, especially regarding any potential schedule conflicts.

Voluntary Theatrical Dance Events

Please Note: fees may be required for some trips/special events, and some choreography rehearsals may be by audition only.

Hip Hop Crew: Thursdays at Lunch from August to November (Auditions on August 24th)

Enrichment Classes: Tap Class with Sommer on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and Fusion Class with Sommer on Fridays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Advanced Ballet/Pointe class and choreography with Stephanie Stevens: Wednesdays 5:00-6:30 p.m. – talk to Mrs. Wadman for more information or to register. Start dates and pricing will be announced soon!

San Francisco/Berkeley Field Trip: Wednesday, October 11th and Thursday, October 12th (Visit LINES Ballet, UC Berkeley, attend the OCD Performance of *Boulders and Bones*, overnight at the Embassy Suites. Next morning, take a class at ODC, and enjoy lunch at Pier 39 before returning home) – price TBA

Winter Dance Community Dance Performance: Dec 1 & 2, 2017

Ohlone Festival Field Trip to Fremont, CA: March 16 & 17, 2018 (Compete in Theatre and World Dance categories and watch performances from Bay Area schools)

Starz Community Dance Performance: April 13 & 14, 2018

Auditions for the 2018-2019 school year: Wednesday, March 21th 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.



Performance Ensemble Code of Conduct Contract

To ensure the best possible experience in this art form for all students, it is important that you be aware of the requirements for this co-curricular class. Your support is essential in maintaining the high level of quality dance education at this high school. Please read carefully all of the information about our course policies for Theatrical Dance Performance Ensemble, and communicate any potential conflicts or concerns you may have regarding our schedule of required events. Sign this form as acknowledgement of the requirements for this course.

STUDENT NAME: _____

I have read the course syllabus and understand the rules, expectations, grading policy, and required co-curricular events for the Theatrical Dance Performance Ensemble class at Nevada Union High School.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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:

Comments/Questions: _____

Please return this signed form no later than Friday, August 25th for 10 points.