

**Seven Lakes High School
Dance Program Syllabus 2011-2012**

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Course Summary

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad understanding of various types of dance. Students will develop various technical skills through participation in ballet, modern, hip-hop and jazz dance forms. Furthermore, students will learn to choreograph their own pieces based on the experiences they have gained from these dance forms. Students will also gain an understanding of the historical influences of dance throughout time. Finally, students will learn how the anatomy of the human body affects them as dancers. Students may receive Fine Art or elective credit dependent on their individual needs towards graduation.

Student Expectations:

1. Students must be on time to class.
2. Student must dress correctly for class each day.
3. Student must spend time rehearsing materials learned in class and be prepared each day.
4. Any student who misses class must learn movement when they return and be prepared with the new material within one day of returning to class.
5. Each student is responsible for knowing and obeying all rules and regulations.
6. If a student is unable to participate in physical activity (under a doctor's direction), the student will complete written work during the period of inactivity. The written work will be much like an academic, non-movement class and will consist of daily reading/responses, written quizzes, and written tests.
7. Bring an open mind and heart to class. BE CREATIVE!

Dance Gym Guidelines:

1. Gum, food and drinks are not allowed in the dance gym or locker room. This does not include WATER.
2. Each student is responsible for personal belongings. Students should always keep their belongings in a locked locker.
3. No gum!!!!
5. Do not give anyone else your gym locker combination for any reason.
6. Students will be required to label all dance clothes and shoes. DO NOT SHARE LOCKERS AT ALL!

*Seven Lakes High School, the Dance Department, Mrs. Copeland or Mrs. Decuir will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

Dance Clothes and Requirements:

1. SLHS dance top. Male students will wear a black top. NO BAGGY T-SHIRTS; NO MIDRIFFS SHOWING!
2. SLHS black cropped pants. Male students will wear black sweat or athletic pants.
3. Black jazz shoes
4. No wraps such as sweatshirts, sweaters, coats, skirts, or pants are allowed except approved dance pants.
5. One small three ring binder with 5 dividers: Vocabulary, Dance History, Anatomy, Nutrition, and Notes.
6. No dangling jewelry. (This includes earrings, necklaces, etc.) Only stud earrings will be allowed (not to exceed 2 in each ear).
7. VERY IMPORTANT—Write your NAME on all dancewear/shoes so there is no confusion in the dressing room on whose attire it is.

Tardy Policy: Students will be required to sign in for each tardy!

Tardy policy will be followed based upon the guidelines set forth by Seven Lakes High School.

1st – 3rd Tardy- No Penalty; will only receive tardy; Parent call on the 3rd tardy

4th Tardy- N in conduct; loss of exemption for final exam in dance

8th Tardy- U in conduct; loss of exemption for final exam in all classes

Students will be given 5 minutes to prepare for class once the tardy bell has rung.

Freaky Fridays:

Each Friday will consist of a different dance topic each week and may include a lecture-type format. The student will be expected to dress in dance clothes unless otherwise instructed by the dance teacher. Students will need to keep written materials covered on Freaky Friday in a dance binder.

Evaluation:

The student's grade will be determined by the following percentages: 15% other grades, 35% daily grade, and 50% major grade.

- The major average will be determined by cumulative written tests, major projects, and skills tests.
- Daily grades will consist of choreography spot checks, minor skills tests, written quizzes, written critiques, and daily participation and dress. Each day of class is worth 20 points of a dress and participation grade. Each day a student does not dress out and/or participate, 20 points will be deducted from the weekly minor grade of 100. 6 minor grades based on participation will be given per six week period (one for every week of the grading period).
- Other grades will consist of journals, homework assignments, and memory checks.

Skills Test Re-takes:

If a student earns less than a 70 on any major skills test, he/she may retest. The maximum grade that may be earned on the retest is a 70. The student will need to attend the designated retest session in order to retest.

Performance Opportunity:

All students enrolled in a dance class must participate in a district wide performance. The Crossroads dance showcase will be held on March 22, 2012 at the Merrell Center. This performance is not optional, but required. It fulfills the performance requirement set by the dance TEKS and is a major grade for the six weeks in which it is performed. Students will also perform in two additional dance concerts held in the performing arts center at Seven Lakes High School. These performances showcase the Seven Lakes High School dance department. The fall concert will be held on December 1, 2011. Students must be academically eligible during the second grading period in order to participate in this concert. If students are unable to perform due to eligibility, they will still be required to attend the dance concert and complete an alternate assignment. The spring concert will be held on May 2, 2012. Like Crossroads, both of these performances are not optional, but required. They fulfill the performance requirement set by the dance TEKS and are major grades for the six weeks in which they are performed.

Sapphires Dance Team Auditions:

Auditions for the Sapphires Dance Team are held on December 8, 2011. There will be an informational meeting for all candidates and their parents on November 8, 2011. Candidates must have a physical exam in order to audition for the team. The forms for physical exams can be found on the Fine Arts webpage of the KISD website. Candidates must have a 2.0 grade point average consisting of grades from the first and second six weeks during the 2011-2012 school year. See the district dance manual for additional audition requirements.

Handouts and other resources are available at the dance department page on the Seven Lakes website.

Thank you,
Kristine Copeland
Melissa Decuir
Seven Lakes High School Dance Instructors