

# Oakmont High School

## Dance Syllabus

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### Dance Department Mission Statement

The purpose of the Dance Department is to; enhance body awareness, including strength and flexibility; to improve individual skill level; to develop a positive self-esteem through dance, and to gain appreciation and knowledge of Dance through various movement styles and techniques.

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### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Attend class in proper clothing (see clothing)
2. Be on time. Change clothes quickly and be in roll call on time.
3. Participate daily and try your best. Poor attendance and lack of participation will **affect your grade.**
4. Complete all assignments and required work.
5. Keep the dance room clean. NO GUM, FOOD, OR DRINKS (except water)
6. Hair must be pulled back at all times. Points will be deducted if you don't.
7. Take care of bathroom needs before class begins. Students will not be allowed to use the restroom 15 minutes after class has started or the last 15 minutes of class.
8. Keep a positive attitude.
9. Treat all individuals with respect.
10. Attend all after school rehearsals and perform in the show in order to pass.

### CLOTHING

Each student will be expected to participate in the dance program wearing the correct dance attire. You must be dressed to participate in activities, no exceptions!

### DANCE LOCKERS

Dance students will be given a locker in our Girls locker room which sits right on the back side of the dance space. Students who have **Dance only** will receive a locker and ***will need to provide their own lock to secure their belongings.*** This rule will be enforced!! *If students choose not to lock their lockers or refuse to secure their belongings it is at their own risk of theft and the dance department will not be held responsible for any missing items.* If students have PE and Dance in the same semester they will continue to change in the PE locker across the way. Boys will also use the PE locker room. During class the Dance Locker Room will be closed and students will not have access until class is dismissed. So plan accordingly. ***Also please note that is not allowed to take photos or etc. in the locker room area, as it is a safety issue and is inappropriate for so many reasons.***

## **MEDICAL NOTES/DOCUMENTATION**

Most importantly, students must dress and participate in as much as possible with a medical note. A signed parent note, including phone number must be presented at roll call. 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. \*Please note that a Doctor's Verification might be asked for any parent note when necessary.  
LONG TERM: (Longer than 5 weeks)

Students who need to be medically excused for a period longer than five weeks will be taken out of their dance class or will have a counselor discussion on what is appropriate for the student. The student will be withdrawn from the class and welcomed back another semester when he/she will be able to successfully complete the semester. A student who is withdrawn from Dance due to a medical condition will not receive credits for that semester.

## **EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT**

**30% PARTICIPATION AND DAILY REHEARSAL** - Each day will be worth **10** participation points

- You will lose **10** points for any excused absence. The points may be made up through participation in an Invention period or the written make up assignments.
- You will lose **10** points for every *unexcused* absence.
- You will lose **5** points if you are more than twenty minutes late to class unless it is an excused tardy with teacher approval.
- You will lose **5** points for having cell phones out in class, chewing gum, and having food and drinks out in class.
- You will lose **3** points for a partial non-suit, not having correct footwear, sitting in class without permission, leaving you hair down, or being tardy.
- Observation of your behavior and effort will be looked at throughout the year. I expect you to come dressed and prepared for class and to have a positive attitude. Disrespectful students will not receive any points for the class period. This grade is based on teacher observation.

**30% PERFORMANCE/SKILL** – Students will be evaluated on knowledge of dance skills and combinations presented in class.

- You will have a weekly skills test, or evaluation at the end of learning each dance.
- If you miss a test, you do not receive any points until you make it up. I will not remind you to make it up. You can make an appointment with me to make up before or after school, or at lunch. Intervention period may also be used for in class make ups.
- You should plan on performing every Friday.
- The show and your rehearsals are most of your final. This will be crucial to you grade.

**20% WRITTEN WORK/EXAMS** – Vocabulary quizzes, dance history, in class assignments, choreographic techniques, video analysis, self-reflections, video/book reviews, VAPA Day Assignment and a written final.

**A written critique of a live dance performance will be required. Please see us for show dates.**

**20% DANCE CLASS ETIQUETTE** – Behavior and attitude is everything in dance. Working well with others, cooperation, collaboration, and group work, following directions and being on task at all times.

## GRADING SCALE

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% and below (NO CREDIT)

EXTRA CREDIT – Attend a dance workshop or see me for details

## DANCE SHOW ATTENDANCE AND REQUIREMENTS

In order to run a successful dance program, attendance is crucial. It is important to have 100% commitment from each and every dancer. It is important to have all the dancers in attendance in class as well as the scheduled practices. The only reason a dancer should miss practice is if he/she is not at school, due to illness or a family emergency. Doctor's appointments and other commitments should be scheduled around the rehearsal schedule and class time.

## REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

It is the students' responsibility to know when rehearsals and performances are scheduled. A master calendar will be posted in class and often updated, calendars will also be sent home. If a student does not show up for a dance rehearsal or performance or is absent more than twice without permission from Ms. Bettencourt or Mrs. Caruso, the student will be cut from that dance. \*this does include class time.

### ATTENTION ATHLETES:

If you are involved in a spring sport please pay close attention to the show and rehearsal dates. In order to not have conflict you need to speak to your coach immediately and share these dates with him/her and have them sign the Athletic/Dance Agreement (see Ms. Bettencourt and/or Mrs. Caruso for this form)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Dance Show dates have been set. **Please do not schedule dental/doctor appointments, family observances, vacations or SAT/ACT test dates when students are scheduled to perform or rehearse.** The week of the show we will need to meet daily to work on spacing, cleaning, and rehearsing that will be vital to the success of the show. See rehearsal schedule.

If your student is unable to meet the rehearsal obligations please email me immediately so arrangements can be made if possible. Please understand that not missing this time is crucial and that the time in the theatre is critical for a successful show.

Please read and discuss this information with your dancer and please sign and return the last page. I am looking forward to a great, strong start for this dance season. Keep this document to refer to throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns please email us.

Sincerely,

*Cami Bettencourt & Katie Caruso*