



CEDAR HILL DANCE DEPARTMENT

Dance Handbook

Welcome to the Dance Department, one of the finest organizations in the Cedar Hill Independent School district!

You and your family are now involved in a program that will have a positive effect on your life. This handbook is provided to help ensure that Dance will be an enjoyable and rewarding educational experience. The clear expectations outlined in this packet will help make that possible.

The Dance Department includes the following courses, Dance I, Dance II, Advanced Dance, Drill Team & JV Drill Team. This year we will focus on Technique, Creative Expression, Performance, & History. I encourage input and participation from all students and parents. It will only help in making the student enrolled in Dance to have a successful year. I look forward to an exciting, challenging, and educational year. Get ready to work hard, learn a lot, and have some fun along the way!!!

Please read and submit the Dance Handbook and Media Release Forms from a valid parent email for a Quiz grade by the next day of class. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask!

Again, welcome to Longhorn Dance!



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I. TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Mila McQueen- HS Dance/ Head Highstepper Drill Team Director

Work Phone: 469-272-2000 ext. 7206

E-mail Address: mila.mcqueen@chisd.net

Taylor Givens- HS Dance/JV Sweetheart Director/Asst. Highstepper Drill Team Director

Work Phone: 469-272-2000 ext. 7208

E-mail Address: taylor.givens@chisd.net

II. CLASS MATERIALS

- Spirals due by second class meeting.
- Clothing to Dress Out. This is not negotiable! Appropriate dance attire is needed for dance class by 9/5 or 9/6 depending on A or B day schedule for daily grade & performances.

• **Girls:**

1. Fitted Solid Black Leotard, Tank, T-shirt or Dance Department T-shirt
2. Solid Black Leggings
3. Nude Leather Turning Shoes(avg.\$18.00)
4. For Performances Only DanceNMotion 719 Convertible Toast Tights

Boys:

1. Fitted Solid Black T-Shirt (underarmour, etc.) or Dance Department T-shirt
2. Black Gym Shorts or Fitted Joggers

- Spiral
- Blue or Black Pen
- A Positive Attitude

*Parents Clothing Item for girls can be purchased at DancewearEtc. They have all of the specific clothing items that are required. The store is located in Cedar Hill at 405 W. Beltline Rd. in a green & red house. The number to DancewearEtc. is 972-780-8657. Cedar Hill Students get a 10% discount on any dance items purchased. You can choose to go anywhere and purchase the leotard & leggings (ie. Walmart, Online, etc.), however the turning shoes **MUST** be purchased at a dance store. Boys can purchase items at any sporting goods store. Dance Department Shirts will be ordered through PepWear Link by 8/25. **All students Dance Clothing should be purchased and ready to dress out on 9/5 or 9/6.**



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III. DANCE I, II, III-VI, & Pre-Drill CURRICULUM

Here is an overview of the topics and techniques that we will be covering throughout the year. Depending on the level of Dance your student is signed up for will determine the level in which the following areas are explored each six weeks.

- 1st Six Weeks- Intro to Dance / Ballet Technique and History
- 2nd Six Weeks- Modern Technique and History
- 3rd Six Weeks- Jazz Technique and History
- 4th Six Weeks- Ethnic / Social Dance Technique
- 5th Six Weeks- Improvisation / Choreography
- 6th Six Weeks- Improvisation / Choreography cont. / Dance Performance

IV. GRADING POLICY

Grades will be determined by participation in daily activities, written homework assignments, written journal entries, written exams, projects, and performance exams.

According to district policy, daily grades will be averaged and constitute 60 percent of a six-week grade. Written exams, major projects, or major assessments will constitute 40 percent of a six weeks grade.

In addition to written and performance grades, each student will receive 2 participation grades per week.

- PDO- PARTICIPATION DRESS OUT GRADE

Students are responsible for dressing out each day for dance class, at 50 points per day.

- PDC-PARTICIPATION DANCE CLASS GRADE

Students are responsible for actively participating during class at 50 points per day.

- Each student will be given **ONE** pass for an Observation Day **per semester**. This will give them the chance to observe the lesson for the day, and then they will be required to write a one page observation to earn full participation points.

You cannot pass dance class if you do not participate. This includes dressing out and dancing everyday☺!



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Students will also be required to participate & perform in the December Winter Dance Concert Dec 14th & the Highsteppers Spring Show April 26th & 27th. Students must perform for major test grades. Student's grades will be checked prior to Spring Show performance & must be passing all classes with a min. grade of 70% in order to perform. Possible Solo Dance Department Contest & Choreography Concert in the works. Details TBA.

V. CLASS CONDUCT POLICY

A. In order to create and maintain a learning environment for the enjoyment of all members of the class, scholars will follow all district, school, and the following the Longhorn Essentials, virtual, & in class rules:

1. Be on Time in person or virtually w/ camera on!
2. Dress Out in the Appropriate Dance Attire for All Dance Classes.
3. No Gum, Food, or Drinks in the Dance Studio. NO Exceptions!!
4. Respect Every Dancer and Their Belongings.
5. Do Not Engage in any Behavior that Takes Away from Another Students Ability to Learn.
6. Full Attention, Active Participation, & Involvement in the Creative Process.
7. Do Your Personal Best!!
8. Have Fun!!

B. Consequences

- Daily Participation Grade
You will lose your daily participation points if you violate rules 1, 2,3,4,5, or 6.
- Tardy Policy
You will be sent to the office for a tardy pass if you violate rule1.
- Others
In the real world, consequences are judges by the severity of your actions.

C. No Tolerance Items

1. Fighting or threatening to fight.
2. Damaging or destroying school, teacher, or student property.
3. Refusing to work when capable.
4. Profane language directed at a person.

*Student will be immediately referred to the office administration for engaging in any of the above activities.