Moonachie School District Dance Curriculum: Grades 6 - 8

New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Visual and Performing Arts

Born On: August 23, 2022

Re-Adopted: August 26, 2025

	1.1 DANCE: Grades 6-8				
	ARTISTIC PROCESS: Creating				
ANCHOR STANDARD	ENDURING UNDERSTANDING	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PRACTICE		
Anchor Standard 1	Choreographers use a variety of sources as inspiration and transform concepts and ideas into movement for artistic expression.	Where do choreographers get ideas for dances?	Explore		
Anchor Standard 2	·	What influences choice-making in creating choreography?	Plan		
Anchor Standard 3	to communicate meaning.	How do choreographers use self-reflection, feedback from others, and documentation to improve the quality of their work?	Revise		

- 1.1.8.Cr1a: Implement movement created from a variety of stimuli (e.g., music, sound, literary forms, notation, natural phenomena, experiences, current news, social events) to develop an original dance study.
- 1.1.8.Cr1b: Explore various movement genres though the elements of dance. Identify and select personal preferences to create an original dance study.
- 1.1.8.Cr2a: Demonstrate a variety of choreographic devices and dance structures (e.g., ABA, palindrome, theme and variation, rondo, retrograde, inversion, narrative, accumulation), to collaboratively develop a dance study with a clear artistic intent. Use dance terminology to articulate and justify reasons for movement choices.
- 1.1.8.Cr2b: Establish criteria to choreograph a dance that communicates personal, historical, sociopolitical, or cultural meaning. Articulate how the criteria clarify or intensify the artistic intent.
- 1.1.8.Cr3a: Revise choreography collaboratively or independently based on artistic criteria, self reflection and the feedback of others. Explain movement choices and revisions and how they impact the artistic intent.
- 1.1.8.Cr3b. Record changes in a dance sequence through writing and/or drawing (e.g., directions, spatial pathways, relationships) using dance notations symbols, or forms of media technology.

Key Vocabulary	Student Learning Objectives	Suggested Tasks/Activities	Evidence of Learning (Assessment)	
Grade 6	Students will be able to replicate	Choreography/Dance Composition	Just Dance Project	
Imagine, plan, count,	a piece of choreography from the	Group work	Instructions: You are to choose a "Just Dance" video to recreate	
rhythm, format, visualize,	'Just Dance' library of	- Just Dance Project	and perform (and memorize) to the best of your ability.	
pattern, phrase, review,	choreography.		Include an entrance/exit	
compromise, mirror, isolate,			2. Demonstrate at least 1 Verse and 1 Chorus;	
cue, formation, canon			approximately 1 minute or more	

Grade 7 Invision, incubate, plan, construct, review, revise, rehearse, feedback	Students will be able to develop a slide show presentation describing how a choreographer choreographs.	Choreography/Dance Composition - Group work - The Choreographer's Creative Process Presentation	The Choreographer's Creative Process Presentation Instructions: You will create a presentation (PPT, Google Sheets, Microsoft Sway) detailing the SIX Steps of YOUR choreographic process. Your presentation should have at least 6 slides with all 6 steps and a title page with your name. 1. Inspiration (preparation) 2. Choose Music 3. Blueprint of Music (map of counts) 4. Gather steps (refer to your inspiration to 'borrow' steps) 5. Add Choreographic tools (cannons, change direction, reorder steps already used)
fear, happiness, contempt,	Students will be able to create a short movement piece based on the 7 Human Emotions and present the piece.	Student Choreography - 7 Human Emotions Project	6. Entrance/Exit and finesse what is in between 7 Human Emotions Project You will choose a partner or partner(s) 2-4 people and choose an emotion. Your short movement phrase should clearly convey your chosen emotion without relying on music with lyrics or dialogue.
Counting, Planning, Invision,	Students will be able to create a full dance piece based on their own creative ideas and process.	Choreography/Dance Composition - Group Work - So You Think You Can Choreograph Project	So You Think You Can Choreograph Project Instructions: You will create your very own short dance piece to music of your choosing. Requirements: - Appropriate music - Use one jazz step that you have learned throughout our class. Examples: grapevine, box step, pirouette, step touch, ball change - 4 Counts of 8 or more - Include an Entrance/Exit - Demonstrate: - Use of Space (change direction, formation) - Use of Time (vary your timing) - Use of Body (adding levels) Flipgrid: Student Choreography Final Video
Resources/Materials	Just Dance videos or video game Internet with Youtube access	<u> </u>	I

Interdisciplinary	Comprehensive Health and Physi	cal Education				
Connections	settings (e.g., games, spo	 2.2.8.MSC.1: Explain and demonstrate the transition of movement skills from isolated settings (e.g., skill practice) into applied settings (e.g., games, sports, dance, recreational activities). 2.2.8.MSC.2: Demonstrate control of motion in relationship between force, flow, time, and space in interactive dynamic 				
	 environments. 2.2.8.MSC.3: Create and demonstrate planned movement sequences, individually and with others, based on tempo, beat, rhythm, music, and physical activities (e.g., creative, cultural, social, fitness aerobics, dance, yoga). 2.2.8.MSC.4: Analyze, and correct movements and apply to refine movement skills. 2.2.8.MSC.5: Predict the impact of rules, etiquette, procedures, and sportsmanship on players' behavior in small groups at large teams during physical activities and games. 2.2.8.MSC.6: Demonstrate offensive, defensive, and cooperative strategies in a variety of games and settings. 2.2.8.LF.2: Explain the importance of assuming responsibility for personal health behaviors through physical activity throughout one's lifetime. 2.2.8.LF.3: Explore by leading self and others to experience and participate in different cultures' physical fitness activities. 					
	 English Language Arts SL.PE.6.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly SL.II.6.2. Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study SL.PE.7.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly SL.UM.7.5. Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points SL.PE.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly 					
Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills	 9.4.8.Cl.4: Explore the role of creativity and innovation in career pathways and industries. 9.4.8.GCA.1: Model how to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect. 9.4.8.GCA.2: Demonstrate openness to diverse ideas and perspectives through active discussions to achieve a group goal. 9.4.8.IML.13: Identify the impact of the creator on the content, production, and delivery of information. 9.4.8.TL.3: Select appropriate tools to organize and present information digitally 					
Computer Science and Design Thinking	8.1.8.DA.1: Organize and transform data collected using computational tools to make it usable for a specific purpose.					
		Modifications				
Multilingual Learners	Special Education	At Risk for Failing School	Gifted and Talented	504		
Scaffolding Word walls	Word walls Visual aides	Teacher tutoring Peer tutoring	Curriculum compacting Challenge assignments	Word walls Visual aides		

Sentence/paragraph frames	Graphic organizers	Study guides	Enrichment activities	Graphic organizers
Bilingual	Multimedia	Graphic organizers	Tiered activities	Multimedia
dictionaries/translation	Leveled readers	Extended time	Independent research/inquiry	Leveled readers
Think alouds	Assistive technology	Parent communication	Collaborative teamwork	Assistive technology
Read alouds	Notes/summaries	Modified assignments	Higher level questioning	Notes/summaries
Highlight key vocabulary	Extended time	Counseling	Critical/Analytical thinking tasks	Extended time
Annotation guides	Answer masking		Self-directed activities	Answer masking
Think-pair- share	Answer eliminator			Answer eliminator
Visual aides	Highlighter			Highlighter
Modeling	Color contrast			Color contrast
Cognates				Parent communication
				Modified assignments
				Counseling

	1.1 DANCE: Grades 6-8 ARTISTIC PROCESS: Performing	2	
ANCHOR STANDARD		ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PRACTICE
Anchor Standard 4		How do dancers work with space, time and energy to communicate artistic expression?	Express
Anchor Standard 5	movement quality vary in different dance styles, genres and	How is the body used as an instrument for technical and artistic expression?	Execute
Anchor Standard 6	performance is an interaction between performer, production elements and audience that heightens and amplifies artistic	What must a dancer do to prepare the mind and body for artistic expression? How does a dancer heighten artistry in a public performance?	Present

- 1.1.8.Pr4a: Perform planned and improvised movement sequences with increasing complexity in the use of floor and air pathways, including various spatial designs for movement interest and contrast to sculpt the body in space.
- 1.1.8.Pr4b: Perform planned and improvised movement sequences of varying lengths with increasing complexity in the use of metric, kinesthetic and breath phrasing.
- 1.1.8.Pr4c: Perform planned and improvised movement sequences and dance combinations applying dynamic phrasing, energy, emotional intent, and

characterization.

- 1.1.8.Pr5a: Examine how healthful strategies (e.g., nutrition, injury prevention, emotional health, overall functioning) and safe body-use practices are essential for the dancer.
- 1.1.8.Pr5b: Examine how kinesthetic principles and various body systems (e.g., cardiovascular, respiratory, musculoskeletal) relate to the dancing body.
- 1.1.8.Pr5c: Demonstrate use of elongated spine and engage in release of tension from spine/shoulders. Demonstrate the placement and shifting of energy in the body. Use vertical, off-center and non vertical alignment. Maintain organization of the body while moving through space.
- 1.1.8.Pr5d: Explore movement that develops a wide range of motion, muscular flexibility, strength, and endurance. Explore different body conditioning techniques (e.g., yoga, weight training, aerobics, Pilates).
- 1.1.8.Pr5e: Transfer vocabulary and codified movements from various styles/genres with genre specific alignment. Demonstrate, through focused practice and repetition, breath control, body part initiation and body sequencing.
- 1.1.8.Pr6a: Investigate visualization, motor imagery and breath to apply and enhance the quality of body mechanics and the energy related to the movement skill.
- 1.1.8.Pr6b: Apply specific feedback in rehearsal to refine performance accuracy, consistency and expressiveness. Clarify the execution of complex patterns, sequences and formations.
- 1.1.8.Pr6c: Apply feedback to make changes to and adapt movements to performance area. Use performance etiquette and performance practices during class, rehearsal and performance. Accept notes from the choreographer, apply corrections and document performance process using dance and production terminology. Analyze and evaluate the success of a performance.
- 1.1.8.Pr6d: Differentiate technical and production elements and terminology to communicate with performers and backstage personnel to enhance the artistic intent of the dances.

Key Vocabulary	Student Learning Objectives	Suggested Tasks/Activities	Evidence of Learning (Assessment)
Grade 6 Social Dance, African rhythm, Jazz, Style, Parallel, Turn-out, Isolate, Flex, Extend, Flat Back	Students will be able to understand the history of Jazz and evaluate the various styles of Jazz dance.	Introduction to Jazz	What is Jazz Dance? Ted Ed Lesson https://ed.ted.com/on/APeNLqPE
Grade 7 Ballet narrative, Ballet dance style, Technique, Articulate, Posture, Rounded arm, Rotation, Turn-out, Parallel, Arch, Metatarsal	demonstrate the basic positions	Provide students with and introduction to the basic positions of ballet	Ballet Positions of the Feet and Arms You are to teach someone at home or a friend (you can work remotely and then share their work via video or photos) the 5 Positions of the Feet and Arms. Remember, if you can Teach someone something well, then you have mastered it! Flipgrid: You're the Teacher Ballet Edition!
Grade 8 Alonge, Plie, Releve, Tendu, Chase, Saute, Soutenou, Sussou, Passe, Grande battement, Port de bras, Pas de bourrée, Arabesque, En haut,	their vocabulary and knowledge	Teach the proper names of basic ballet positions and terms.	Ballet Quiz Ballet Terminology Quiz

En bas, En avant			
Resources/Materials	What is Jazz Dance? Ted Ed Lesso Flipgrid: You're the Teacher Ballet Ballet Quiz Ballet Terminology Quiz	-	qPE
Interdisciplinary Connections	applied settings (e.g., gar 2.2.8.MSC.2: Demonstrate environments. 2.2.8.MSC.3: Create and rhythm, music, and physites and large teams during periodic the and large teams during periodic transfer and large teams du	demonstrate the transition of mes, sports, dance, recreational attended to control of motion in relationsh demonstrate planned movement ical activities (e.g., creative, cultud correct movements and apply impact of rules, etiquette, procedy impact of assuming responsibilities. It offices and others to experience well in a range of collaborative discontinuous procedures, and issues, building on comedia components and visual discontinuous procedures and visual	ip between force, flow, time, andspace in interactive dynamic t sequences, individually and with others, based on tempo, beat, aral, social, fitness aerobics, dance, yoga).
Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills	 9.4.8.CI.4: Explore the role of creativity and innovation in career pathways and industries. 9.4.8.GCA.1: Model how to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect. 9.4.8.GCA.2: Demonstrate openness to diverse ideas and perspectives through active discussions to achieve a group goal. 9.4.8.IML.13: Identify the impact of the creator on the content, production, and delivery of information. 9.4.8.TL.3: Select appropriate tools to organize and present information digitally 		
Computer Science and Design Thinking			

	Modifications				
Multilingual Learners	Special Education	At Risk for Failing School	Gifted and Talented	504	
Scaffolding	Word walls	Teacher tutoring	Curriculum compacting	Word walls	
Word walls	Visual aides	Peer tutoring	Challenge assignments	Visual aides	
Sentence/paragraph frames	Graphic organizers	Study guides	Enrichment activities	Graphic organizers	
Bilingual dictionaries/translation	Multimedia	Graphic organizers	Tiered activities	Multimedia	
Think alouds	Leveled readers	Extended time	Independent research/inquiry	Leveled readers	
Read alouds	Assistive technology	Parent communication	Collaborative teamwork	Assistive technology	
Highlight key vocabulary	Notes/summaries	Modified assignments	Higher level questioning	Notes/summaries	
Annotation guides	Extended time	Counseling	Critical/Analytical thinking tasks	Extended time	
Think-pair- share	Answer masking		Self-directed activities	Answer masking	
Visual aides	Answer eliminator			Answer eliminator	
Modeling	Highlighter			Highlighter	
Cognates	Color contrast			Color contrast	
				Parent communication	
				Modified assignments	
				Counseling	

1.1 DANCE: Grades 6-8 ARTISTIC PROCESS: Responding					
ANCHOR STANDARD	ENDURING UNDERSTANDING	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PRACTICE		
Anchor Standard 7	Dance is perceived and analyzed to comprehend its meaning.	How is a dance understood?	Analyze		
Anchor Standard 8	Dance is interpreted by considering intent, meaning and artistic expression as communicated through the use of the body, elements of dance, dance technique, dance structure, and context.	How is dance interpreted?	Interpret		
Anchor Standard 9	Criteria for evaluating dance vary across genres, styles and cultures.	What criteria are used to evaluate dance?	Critique		

- 1.1.8.Re7a: Use genre-specific terminology to compare and contrast recurring patterns of movement and their relationships in dance in the context of artistic intent.
- 1.1.8.Re7b: Use genre-specific dance terminology. Explain how the elements of dance are used and how they differ in a variety of genres, styles, or cultural movement practices to communicate intent. Use genre-specific dance terminology.
- 1.1.8.Re8a: Examine a dance and explain how artistic expression is achieved through relationships among the elements of dance, use of body, dance technique,

and context. Interpret using genre specific dance terminology.

1.1.8.Re9a: Examine artistic criteria to determine what makes an effective performance. Consider content, context, genre, style, and /or cultural movement practice to comprehend artistic expression. Use genre-specific dance terminology.

Key Vocabulary	Student Learning Objectives	Suggested Tasks/Activities	Evidence of Learning (Assessment)
Grade 6 Tinikling, Bachata, Salsa, Waltz, Irish Step, Hip Hop, Ballet, Samba, Haka, Dragon Dance	Students will be able to compare and contrast the various dances from around the world.	Dance Styles-Introduction to World Dance	Dance Styles from Around the World Ted Ed Lesson: https://ed.ted.com/on/XDMoOYzz
Grade 7 Louis XIV, Positions, French Renaissance, Corpse De Ballet, Paris Opera	Students will be able to understand who developed ballet and when.	Origins of Ballet	Origins of Ballet Ted Ed Lesson: https://ed.ted.com/on/p40ZC4s8
Grade 8 Training, ballet, position, technique, corpse de ballet, pas de deux, concert dance, dance company, principle, soloist	<i>o</i> ,	Famous Ballet Dance Research Project	Famous Ballet Dancer Biography Project: Slide Show 1. How did your dancer begin dancing? 2. What are your dancer's major accomplishments? 3. Must include: - 8 Slides or more with photos - At least 1 video - Resource and Reference Slide (bibliography) - Closing Slide
Resources/Materials	Dance Styles from Around the W Origins of Ballet Ted Ed Lesson: <u>I</u>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Interdisciplinary Connections	 applied settings (e.g., ga 2.2.8.MSC.2: Demonstratenvironments. 2.2.8.MSC.3: Create and rhythm, music, and phys 2.2.8.MSC.4: Analyze, ar 2.2.8.MSC.5: Predict the and large teams during persons. 2.2.8.MSC.6: Demonstrate 	d demonstrate the transition of names, sports, dance, recreational ate control of motion in relations demonstrate planned movements activities (e.g., creative, cultinal correct movements and apply impact of rules, etiquette, proceedings activities and games. In offensive, defensive, and cook	hip between force, flow, time, andspace in interactive dynamic at sequences, individually and with others, based on tempo, beat, ural, social, fitness aerobics, dance, yoga).

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Highlight key vocabulary	Notes/summaries	Modified assignments	Higher level questioning	Notes/summaries
Annotation guides	Extended time	Counseling	Critical/Analytical thinking tasks	Extended time
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Modeling	Highlighter			Highlighter
Cognates	Color contrast			Color contrast
				Parent communication
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				Counseling

1.1 DANCE: Grades 6-8 ARTISTIC PROCESS: Connecting				
ANCHOR STANDARD	ENDURING UNDERSTANDING	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PRACTICE	
Anchor Standard 10	Enduring Understanding: As dance is experienced, all personal experiences, knowledge and contexts are integrated and synthesized to interpret meaning.	How does dance deepen our understanding of ourselves, other knowledge and events around us?	Synthesize	
Anchor Standard 11	Enduring Understanding: Dance literacy includes deep knowledge and perspectives about societal, cultural, historical, and community contexts.	How does knowing about societal, cultural, historical, and community experiences expand dance literacy?		

- 1.1.8.Cn10a: Explain how the perspectives expressed by the choreographer impact personal interpretation. Consider how personal background and experiences influence responses to dance works.
- 1.1.8.Cn10b: Employ a variety of research methods to inform the development of original dances about global issues, including climate change. Articulate ways the research deepened understanding of the topic and how big ideas are expressed metaphorically through dance.
- 1.1.8.Cn11a: Research and analyze how dances from a variety of cultures, societies, historical periods, or communities reveal the ideas and perspectives of the people from whom the dances originate.

Key Vocabulary	Student Learning Objectives	Suggested Tasks/Activities	Evidence of Learning (Assessment)
Samba, Bachata, Waltz, Tango,	Students will be able to demonstrate a cultural dance of their choosing.		Cultural Dance Challenge; Students will demonstrate a cultural dance of their choosing. Examples: Samba, Bachata, Waltz, Tango, Polka, Hip Hop, Tinikling, African, Ballet, Cha Cha, Irish Step, Tap Dance, etcPerformance may be performed live for the class or via FlipGrid. 1. Name of your Cultural Dance and WHERE the dance originates from. Please type this information with your video on FlipGrid (under description or Title) 2. Use appropriate Music in the style of your chosen dance. 3. Feel free to add a family member or friend. 4. Have fun with it! 5. Please submit on Flip Grid.
Samba, Cha Cha, Bachata, Salsa,	I		Cultural Dance Slide Show Presentation 1. Choose Cultural Dance to research 2. Begin research (during class) Bookmark online sources.

Tinikling, Hip Hop, Ballet, Haka, Polka	and compare the evolution of the dance.		Complete OUTLINE (will be graded) 3. Begin Adding Slides. Create Title page 4. Add Slides: WHERE the dance is from 5. WHEN the dance was first created 6. WHO performs the dance 7. WHY the dance is performed and/or celebrated 8. HOW to do the dance. Include a step by step explanation. 9. MODERN DAY looks into the dance. 10. Must include: 8 Slides or More with photos and video
Grade 8	Students will be able to have a	Social Dance Lesson	Social Dance Lesson: Ted Ed
African rhythm, community,	clear understanding of HOW		https://ed.ted.com/on/mU2stiUI
slavery, Big Apple, The Bop, the	Social Dance has evolved and		
Charleston, The Twist, The	WHO has influenced American		
bugaloo, line dance, Cabbage Patch	Dance styles through the years.		
Resources/Materials	Social Dance Lesson: Ted Ed https://ed.ted.com/on/mU2stiUI PowerPoint, Google Slides or Sway		
Interdisciplinary Connections	Comprehensive Health and Physical Education 2.2.8.MSC.1: Explain and demonstrate the transition of movement skills from isolated settings (e.g., skill practice) into applied settings (e.g., games, sports, dance, recreational activities). 2.2.8.MSC.2: Demonstrate control of motion in relationship between force, flow, time, andspace in interactive dynamic environments. 2.2.8.MSC.3: Create and demonstrate planned movement sequences, individually and with others, based on tempo, beat, rhythm, music, and physical activities (e.g., creative, cultural, social, fitness aerobics, dance, yoga). 2.2.8.MSC.4: Analyze, and correct movements and apply to refine movement skills. 2.2.8.MSC.5: Predict the impact of rules, etiquette, procedures, and sportsmanship on players' behavior in small groups and large teams during physical activities and games. 2.2.8.MSC.6: Demonstrate offensive, defensive, and cooperative strategies in a variety of games and settings. 2.2.8.LF.2: Explain the importance of assuming responsibility for personal health behaviors through physical activity throughout one's lifetime. 2.2.8.LF.3: Explore by leading self and others to experience and participate in different cultures' physical fitness activities. English Language Arts SL.PE.6.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly SL.II.6.2. Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study SL.PE.7.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse		

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