



2026-2027

7th and 8th Grade Program

The Casteel Dance Program offers a class for every type of dancer!

** All dance classes at Casteel are listed in the course catalogue as “beginning” (DAN700). Students will be placed into their correct class before the start of the next school year.

Beginning Dance: (full year) This is a non-audition group. Students will learn basic dance fundamentals and learn about choreography. Students will perform a dance in two mandatory, end-of-semester dance concerts.

Intermediate Dance: (full year) This is an audition only class. Current beginning students can audition during class at the end of their 7th grade year in May. If a student is **NOT** in a dance class for the spring semester, they can participate in the first day of dance auditions after school. Students take this class for a full year. This class builds on the foundations from beginning dance and focuses equally on dance technique and choreography. Students will perform 2-3 dances in two mandatory end-of-semester dance concerts.

Momentum: (full year) This is for advanced dancers and is an audition only group. Students should have knowledge of ballet, jazz, and contemporary. Dances in class may include other styles such as hip hop, ballroom and tap. Students will perform 3-5 dances in two mandatory end-of-semester dance concerts and have the option of performing at 1 pep assembly.

In Motion: (full year) This is for the most advanced dancers and is an audition only group. Students should have knowledge of ballet, jazz, and contemporary. Dances in class may include other styles such as hip hop, ballroom and tap. Students will also learn pom in class and have the opportunity (optional) to compete. Students will perform at all (4) pep assemblies, and perform 7-10 dances at the mandatory end-of-semester dance concerts.

Mandatory for **ALL CLASSES:**

Students will have to participate in 2 days of dress rehearsal and 2 days of concert both semesters.

Dates are decided typically in February of the previous school year. At that point, the audition packet will be updated to reflect the correct dates.

Fall Dress Rehearsal

2 DAYS, TYPICALLY SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER

Fall Concert

2 DAYS, TYPICALLY SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER

Spring Dress Rehearsal

2 DAYS, TYPICALLY SOMETIME IN APRIL or MAY

Spring Concert

2 DAYS, TYPICALLY SOMETIME IN APRIL or MAY

Optional Events for **In Motion**

- ★ 4 Pep Assemblies. These are typically right at the end of each quarter, during 6th hour. Students have to meet in-class qualifications to be eligible to participate in the pep assemblies. These requirements deal with attendance, coming to class on time, being dressed out, and following class rules. Parents/families can check in with the front office and come watch the pep assemblies. Pep assemblies will include morning practices. Students are to be at school at 6:50 AM and ready to dance at 7:00 AM.
- ★ USA Pom Qualifiers. Dates are not out yet, but the competition will more than likely take place in December 2026 and there is a good chance we will qualify with a digital performance.
- ★ USA Jr. Nationals: Dates are not out yet, but the completion will more than likely take place in February of 2027.)

Commitment for **In Motion**

With the exception of concert week each semester, In Motion does NOT have after school rehearsals to allow for students to be able to freely commit to other after school or extra curricular activities.

However, for optional pep assemblies, pom competitions and the mandatory concerts, there are often 6:50 AM rehearsals. Throughout the year there will probably be about 25 of these morning practices.

Optional Event for **Momentum**

- ★ Final pep assembly (May of 2027). Students have to meet in-class qualifications to be eligible to participate in the pep assembly. These requirements deal with attendance, coming to class on time, being dressed out, and following class rules. Parents/families can check in with the front office and come with the pep assemblies. Pep assemblies will include morning practices. Students are to be at school at 6:50 AM and ready to dance at 7:00 AM.

ESTIMATED Yearly Cost of **In Motion**

These fees will be charged through the CCHS bookstore:

- Practice Shirt: \$15.00 (optional to purchase AND any old Casteel dance shirt can be used as a practice shirt).
- Performance Shirt: \$25.00
- Hoodie: \$30.00
- Dance Class fee per semester: \$25.00. All dancers in all classes pay this and the fees go towards concert supplies.
- Music Mixing (ONLY if Casteel end up competing pom): \$30.00.
- Pom Uniform Maintenance: \$15.00 (ONLY if we end up competing pom, for new rhinestoning/replacement of rhinestones)

Items to buy yourself:

- Black leggings
- Black joggers
- Black mid-thigh biker shorts
- Black tap shoes
- Ballroom shoes
- Jazz Shoes for pom. We will decide on a style later. Please do not go buy until further notice. *** Please note that students can still participate in pom for the pep assembly even if they are not competing it.

Costumes for dance concerts: Casteel does have some dance costumes that they continue to accumulate through the years from proceeds of our concerts, however, students often want to buy their own costumes. They will choose items from Amazon, Shein or some other online store. Students in In Motion typically do not spend more than \$75.00 a concert on extra costumes they want.

Optional: Competing Pom

Families will have to decide before fall break if they are going to compete in pom. There will be 1 regional competition in December (to qualify) and then nationals in Anaheim. Details will come out once USA has released those dates. The cap that a student will be charged for the trip is 350.00 PLUS all the comp fees

Approximate Costs:

Regional Competition Fees: \$60.00

National Competition Fees: \$110.00

Travel to/in Anaheim (air or bus plus transportation while in Anaheim), hotel,
Disneyland tickets: \$350.00

These next items would be NOT through the school, but you want to budget for them:

Trip shirts/sweatshirts: \$50.00

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Food while on trip: \$175.00

TRIP TOTAL: \$ 745.00

APPROXIMATE COST FOR THE YEAR **WITHOUT** POM NATIONALS: \$265.00
APPROXIMATE COST **WITH** POM NATIONALS: \$1010.00

ESTIMATED Yearly Cost of **Momentum**

These fees will be charged through the CCHS bookstore:

- Practice Shirt: \$15.00 (optional to purchase AND any old Casteel dance shirt can be used as a practice shirt).
- Performance Shirt: \$25.00
- Hoodie: \$30.00
- Dance Class fee: \$25.00. All dancers in all classes pay this and the fees go towards concert supplies.

Items to buy yourself:

- Black leggings
- Black joggers
- Black mid-thigh biker shorts
- Black tap shoes
- Ballroom shoes

Costumes for dance concerts: Casteel does have some dance costumes that they continue to accumulate through the years from proceeds of our concerts, however, students often want to buy their own costumes. They will choose items from Amazon, Shein or some other online store. Students in Momentum typically do not spend more than \$40.00 a concert on extra costumes they want.

Yearly cost of Beginning and Intermediate

Dance Shirt: \$25.00

Class Fee: \$25.00 (This goes towards supplies for the concerts)

Optional Hoodie: \$30.00

COSTUMES

The dance department tries to provide as many costumes from school as possible to keep cost down. However, there may be dances where the dancers decide to bring costumes from home because we do not have what they need/want for their dance. Often dance groups will choose to buy costumes from Amazon, Shein, or another online store. When students choose to buy their own costumes, I ask that they not spend more than \$20.00 a costume.

8th Grade Eligibility for In Motion, Momentum (& elite)

All students who are auditioning for any class ABOVE intermediate dance must finish their current dance class with at least an 85% to be able to audition.

This will move to Q1, Q2, & Q3 the 2026-2027 school year.

Technical Requirements

In Motion and Momentum

Students must have high technical skill in:

1. Ballet
2. Jazz
3. Contemporary

Additions encouraged skills:

1. Hip Hop
2. Tap
3. Ballroom
4. Acro

Students should have:

1. Leaps: Grand jetes, saut de chats, center leaps, single stags
2. Triple pirouettes on the right
3. Double pirouettes on the left
4. Excellent use of the floor in a petit allegro
5. Excellent flexibility/leg extensions
6. Basic acro skills: front/back walk overs
7. Right aerial

Please note....

Students must also possess the ability to catch onto movement of various styles quickly. Students must be able to learn complete dances and retain them within 3-4 class periods. Students will perform 7-8 dances in the dance concerts.

Intermediate Dance

Students need to have mastery of the basics ballet/jazz training:

1. Battements (good height and form)
2. Pirouettes: double turns both sides
3. Chainé Turns
4. Pique Turns
5. Grand Jetes
6. Saut de chats
7. Center Leaps
8. Single Stag

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Auditions 2026-2027

MAY 4-MAY 6

*Before auditioning please look at the required performances above and note that they are **mandatory**. Students will not be excused for other performances or competitions with their studio.*

Please do not audition if you aren't going to commit to the required dress rehearsals, performances (and, for In Motion, the morning rehearsals).

Monday, May 4: 2:45-5:00 * Current elementary students should arrive no later than 3:30
Across the floor/technique audition for In Motion, Momentum and Intermediate

*For Intermediate, if you are a current 7th grade **dance** student at Casteel, you do NOT need to come. Your audition will be in class.*

A week before auditions, Mrs. South will post on the google classroom (please email her if you're not in the classroom), the across the floor combos that students will use for auditions. Students will audition in small groups. Students may leave after their group is done. We will start with students who are already at Casteel and then move onto current elementary students. A callback list will be posted that evening by 10:00PM for those who were auditioning for Momentum and In Motion. (Across the floor is all that students auditioning for Intermediate have to do and will NOT be needed for a callback.) If you are called back you need to be there on both Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tuesday, May 5: 3:30-5:30

Callbacks for In Motion and Momentum: Learn 3 combinations.

Students auditioning for Momentum and In Motion who received a callback will learn 3 different dance combinations. Videos of the combos will be posted afterwards on Mrs. South's in the google classroom for students to use as reference.

Wednesday, May 6: 2:45- 5:00 * Current elementary students should arrive no later than 3:30
Final auditions for those who had a callback for In Motion and Momentum

Students will audition all three combos in small groups. After their group auditions, they may leave.

Friday, May 8

Results posted

Results for Momentum and In Motion will be posted in the google classroom. ** Results for intermediate will not be posted until all students in class are done auditioning on May 19.

Questions?

Please email Marie South at South.Marie@cusd80.com

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Dance Audition Paperwork

Please print off the following 2 pages and bring to the first day of auditions.

Dancer Name: _____ CUSD Student ID# _____

Grade for the 2026-2027 school year _____

Email: _____

Summer Contact Information

Guardian 1 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Guardian 2 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

What elective will you need to drop if you make the group you're auditioning for (if any)? _____

Please mark the highest group you're auditioning for:

- ☐ In Motion
- ☐ Momentum
- ☐ Intermediate

I _____, the parent of
_____, give permission for my
dancer to audition for the dance program at Casteel High School. I understand that
this is a physical activity and do not hold the Casteel dance program or CUSD
responsible for any injuries that may occur. I have read over the required
performances for the class my dancer is auditioning for and agree to have my child
participate. I know that these are MANDATORY. I understand that students will not
be allowed to continue in the class if they do not fully participate in those events.

Guardian signature

Date

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Please initial by the following statements,
ONLY if your dancer is auditioning for for **IN MOTION**

_____ I understand that the **estimated** cost of being in the In Motion for the 2026-2027 school year is \$265.00 if my dancer chooses not to do pom nationals. The estimated cost is \$1010.00 if choosing to do pom nationals.

_____ I know that my dancer must fully participate in the fall spring dress rehearsals AND dance concerts. Not doing so will result in not being allowed to continue on the team, and, if a 7th grader, will affect placement for the following year.

_____ I understand that if I make In Motion, I will have to make a decision by the end of the first grading quarter if about choosing to participate in the pom nationals or not.

_____ I understand that all payments made for competitions and trips are non refundable, even if I choose to leave Casteel before those events.

_____ I understand that there will be approximately **25 MANDATORY** 6:50 AM rehearsals throughout the year before events such as pep assemblies, competitions and concerts and I will find a ride to school those days to get my dancer there on time.