

Dance Department Student Guidelines

#WCDD



Dance Department Guidelines

Expectations

The staff is committed to providing the highest quality of education, both artistic and academic, to its students. Likewise, in order to achieve the benefits of this well-rounded education, each student and parent is asked to make a commitment to the rigorous demands of this unique program. Discipline, respect, a positive attitude, a willingness to learn and experience new ideas, dedication, thorough preparation for class, and regular attendance are necessary components for the success of the student.

Class Attendance

Active physical engagement is the work of dance training and it is expected that students will attend every class. Excessive absences will lower your grade according to the following:

Students will receive a grade for their effort and participation in each class. When absent, no points will be earned for effort and participation. Effort and participation points can be made up as outlined in the guidelines.

Students may not enter or leave class without the instructor's permission. If you are scheduled to have an early dismissal, inform the instructor before class begins. If you are unable to finish class due to illness or any other reason, inform the instructor to receive permission to leave class.

All students are expected to participate in class everyday. If you are ill or cannot participate in class, you **must** have a note from your doctor. If you are excused from participation or have an excused absence, you will be allowed to do a small assignment to make up for the daily participation grade. This assignment can be found on canvas. It is not my responsibility to remind you of the assignment. This assignment will be due 2 days after you return to class the following day.

Dress Rehearsals and Performances are absolutely mandatory. Students will be given advanced notice of the dress rehearsal and performance dates in this handbook and will need to make all necessary arrangements in order to participate. Rehearsal and Performance participation will be a portion of the final exam grade.

Tardiness

Punctuality and reliability are valued traits for professional dancers and Wesley Chapel High School holds its dance students to the same standards. You are expected to attend every class in uniform and on time. If a student is 10 or more minutes late, they must observe class, fill out an observation form and turn it into the instructor at the end of class. This will only count as 80% of their daily grade.

Make-Up Policy

All make up work will be located on canvas. You will have 2 days from the absence to complete the assignment. If turned in after one week you will only receive 80% credit.

Missed Skill and Technique grades due to absence or suspension can be made up. Please see the district policy regarding approved completion time. It is the student's responsibility to find out if they have missed a skill and technique evaluation when they are absent.

Extended absences

When injured, extended illness, or other crisis cause a student to miss class for an extended period, every reasonable effort will be made to assist the student in completion of the class. It is the student's responsibility to approach the instructor as soon as possible and discuss their status or make up classes. Upon return to class a student must present a doctor's note confirming that they were unable to participate in classes during that time. Extended absence make up work can be found on canvas.

Illness

If a student becomes ill during school and must sit out of class, they will need to fill out the class observation form completely to earn their effort and participation points.

Injury

If a student becomes injured during class, they must inform the teacher right away. If there is no swelling or pain, the student may be allowed to continue dancing. In the event of a major injury or if swelling occurs, ice will be applied to the affected area immediately. The injury will be reported to the front office and a parent/guardian will be contacted by phone. An incident report will be filled out by the teacher that was present. Staff may recommend further evaluation by a physical therapist or doctor depending on the severity and nature of the injury.

It is very important that dancers follow the advice of their doctors and physical therapists in regards to returning to dance from an injury. Rushing to return to a full work-load can lead to further injury. Dancers must be able to dance full out for a minimum of 2 weeks before a performance in order to participate. In the event that a student is still recovering from an injury during this period, they can assist in the production by working backstage.

Students with a doctor's note restricting movement will be able to earn full effort and participation points by completing the class observation form for each class with detailed notes including corrections and observations.

After returning to dance from an injury, students will be allowed to stay after school to make-up skill and technique grades missed while injured. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule make-up effort and participation evaluations with their teacher.

CLASS CHANGES

A student's enrollment in a designated department is for the duration of four years. The scope and sequence of the Dance Department follows a highly rigorous sequential curriculum that begins with instruction in the traditional foundations and progresses in a designed structure to encompass greater challenge and advanced instruction. Each student must follow this sequence and is not permitted to request changes in their class schedule. No exceptions will be made

2024/2025 – Performance Dates and times – All Performances are mandatory!

December 13th & 14th

All day rehearsal 12/13 7:15am – 1:30pm – Mandatory (unless you have exams on that day)

Performances 12/13 – 12/14 @ 7:00 pm – Mandatory

May 15th, 16th & 17th

All day rehearsal 5/15th – 7:15am – 1:30 pm – Mandatory (unless you have exams on that day)

Performances – 5/15, 5/16, 5/17 @ 7:00pm - Mandatory

DANCE FEES

Dance Department fees for the 24-25 school year will be \$50 per student. Included in this is part of your dress code for part of their daily success in the classroom.

One time fee

\$50.00

Fair Share Fee Payment Schedule

\$25 DUE in 2 monthly increments

Fair Share Fee Payment Schedule (created by family)

Dance fees and payments are non-refundable. The annual budget is based upon the needs of the dance program being divided equally among the program's enrollment. Failure to participate in the dance program will not relieve the student of his/her responsibility. Failure to maintain academic eligibility will not relieve the student of his/her responsibility. Appeal of this policy may be submitted in writing to the dance director.

With this being said, no student will be held out of participation if his or her family is unable to pay their assessment portion. We have numerous plans in place for families that request assistance. Please contact the dance director directly to work out these issues.

STUDIO DRESS REQUIREMENTS

The dance department requires that all students wear a proper dress code to improve attentiveness for class. No outerwear will be allowed in class: shirts, leg warmers, sweatpants, pajama pants or shorts, head scarves, hats and/or bandanas.

Females

Ballet

Black Dance Department leotard
Pink Ballet tights
Ballet/Pointe shoes (when required)

Flesh colored leotard and tights for performances

Dance Technique

*Black Leotard
*Black tights
*Dance Shoes

Flesh colored leotard and tights for performances

Males

Dance Technique

*Black fitted department T-shirt
*Black department athletic shorts
*Dance Shoes
* “movable” black pants for performances

CLASSROOM

HAIRSTYLE FOR GIRLS

ALL hair must be pulled back, away from face in a secure hair tie. Braids can be worn, but the hairstyle must be neatly and securely pulled back.

HAIRSTYLE FOR BOYS

Neatly close-cropped hair, if long must be pulled back as well

PERFORMANCE

HAIRSTYLE FOR GIRLS (ballet and others)

ALL hair will be specified for each piece. If it's a bun, must be pulled back, away from face in a secure bun. Use clips and hair product (gel or hairspray) to secure small flyaway hairs. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO A NEAT BUN.**

HAIRSTYLE FOR BOYS

Neatly close-cropped hair, or neat ponytail or bun

JEWELRY AND BODY ADORNMENTS

- No rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces, earrings will be allowed.
- Nails must be no longer than fingertips and NO nail polish for performances.

Electronics

No cell phones, smart watches in class ever. This includes if you are observing class for the day.

Grades and level Advancement

Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

Each student is evaluated on his or her individual progress in a class. For many reasons, students progress at different rates. Some need more time in a class to develop particular skills; some need less time to learn the same skill. The grade received in any technique class reflects a student's success in that class at that time. A class grade is not an indication of a student's readiness to advance to the next level.

Advancement from level to level is based on demonstrated physical skill. It is possible for a student to receive good grades over several semesters, based on quality and effort yet still not be ready to advance to the next level.

It is important for students to receive a strong dance foundation. This includes not only working strongly but safely as well. In this manner the students of Wesley Chapel High School Dance Department will develop strong disciplined habits that will encourage longevity in their careers.

The Dance Department grade scale is as follows:

All courses

70% - Daily Technique/Rehearsals

30% - Assessments/Quizzes/Performances

0% - Weekly classroom comments

Honors Courses

70% - Daily Technique/Rehearsals

30% - Assessments/Quizzes/Performances

0% - Weekly classroom comments

Skill and Technique: Students will receive a skill and technique assessment grade once per quarter. These grades will reflect the skills being focused on in that class (example: developpé). Skill and Technique grades will be worth 25 points (up to 5 points in each category). Each score will evaluate that skill in relation to the following 5 categories:

Alignment- demonstrates an understanding of alignment evident through the ability to maintain that alignment during movement or execution of the focus skill

Coordination- demonstrates coordination of the body in simple and complex movement patterns

Clarity- demonstrates the ability to execute movements with intended form, space and rhythm

Conditioning- demonstrates necessary strength and flexibility in execution of focus skill

Movement Pick Up- demonstrates ability to pick up movement sequences consistently and efficiently

Early release days

Terminology will be the focus of class these days. You will need a notebook to write down all the terminology. You will be expected to know how to spell all the terms and know what they mean. You will have a quiz on the 2nd and 4th early release day in the 1st semester.

Effort and performance: Students will receive 10 points for effort and class performance each time a class meets. This score reflects the student's level of focus and concentration, consistency of work habits, understanding class etiquette and a conscious exertion of work, the total work done to achieve a particular result during that class.

Regular Participation

- 5 points = full or excellent participation
- 4 points = good but not excellent participation
- 3 points = fair effort or participation
- 2 points = poor effort or participation
- 1 point = barely participating
- 0 points = absent or sitting out with no observation form

Observation With and without Doctor's Note:

- 5 points = excellent and insightful notes
- 4 points = ok notes, all elements included
- 3 points = missing some of the required elements
- 2 points = missing many required elements or poor quality and has doctor's note
- 1 point = minimal notes
- 0 points = no notes turned in

*Observations must include writing the exercises, writing down corrections, and personal observations of class. See make-up policy under absences.

Dress Code: Students must be in proper dress code as outlined in the Dress Code section of this document. Students will receive 5 points each time a class meets.

- 5 points = in proper dress code with hair secured (ladies)
- 4 point = dress incorrect in some way (ex. wrong tights etc.)
- 3 point = additional dress incorrect in some way (ex. wrong tights etc.)
- 2 point = additional dress incorrect in some way (ex. wrong tights etc.)
- 1 point = additional dress incorrect in some way (ex. wrong tights etc.)
- 0 points = not dressed to dance

Studio Policies

Students are not allowed to hang on ballet barres.

- Street shoes are not allowed in the dance studio.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the dance studio except for water.
- No gum chewing in class
- Cell phones/smart watches are not allowed in the dance studio. Phones will be confiscated and given to the main office.
- No guests are permitted in class unless as part of a designated day or activity.

STUDENT USE OF DEPARTMENT SPACE, EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS OUTSIDE OF REGULAR CLASS TIME

Students who wish to practice or rehearse in the Dance Department studios outside of regularly scheduled instruction should make arrangements with the Dance Department Head. Studio space is to be used for rehearsals and course work related to Wesley Chapel High School classes and activities.

STUDENTS ARE TO FOLLOW THE WESLEY CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL TIMES.

Wellness

Dancers are athletes and must care for their body by eating a healthy diet and drinking plenty of water. We encourage dancers to bring water bottles to classes and rehearsals. If your student begins to complain of pain, we recommend having them be evaluated by a physical therapist.

Common Expectations and Standards:

- **Places - Be on time to school and to class. Come prepared with all materials, supplies, appropriate dress and attitude.**
- **Harmonize - Respect each other and work together.**
- **Collage - Seek and receive wisdom -- all voices complete the picture.**
- **Direction - Be willing to lead and follow.**
- **Arrangement - Consider the shared space. Leave things better than you found them.**

**** No food or drink (except bottled water) will be allowed in class at any time.**

**** Absolutely NO street shoes on dance floors**

**** All electronic devices (cell phones, mp3 players, video game systems, cameras) must not be seen or heard in school at anytime. All electronic devices must be stored with your personal belonging.**

Wesley Chapel High School Dance Department

Student Handbook Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the Dance Department Guidelines and will abide by those rules and regulations.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian email address _____

Parent/Guardian phone number _____

If you plan on paying the student dance fee of \$50 in one payment (**due on or before August 26th**), there is no need to complete the bottom of this page. **If you will be using the payment plan or fair share payment plan, please complete below.**

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Payment Plan

I acknowledge by signing below that my student will be completing the 2022/2023 dance fee of \$50 in three (2) installments of \$25 to be paid on the dates below.

August 23rd Payment 1 due (\$25.00)

September 13th Payment 2 due (\$25.00)

Payment Plan Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

--OR THE FOLLOWING PAYMENT OPTION--

Fair Share Fee Payment Schedule (created by family)

If changes to the dates above need to be made, please use the Fair Share Fee Payment plan and list the dates and payment amounts below with a signature acknowledgement.

Fair Share Fee Plan Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

