



Course- Beginning Jazz
Location- North Portable
Course Instructor- Mr. Bennett
Prep Period- 5th Location- Office off of the Teacher Lounge
Email- pbennett@paparts.org

Course Description-

This course explores Jazz dance technique at the beginning level, focusing on developing basic body awareness, isolations, learning and implementing dance vocabulary, as well as rhythm and musicality. As a class, we will examine the great historic figures of Jazz such as Jack Cole, Eugene Louis "**Luigi**" Faccuito, Matt Maddox, Gus Giordano and Bob Fosse through brief readings, watching videos of their works and by exploring their movement vocabularies as well.

Class will begin each session with a warm up focusing on isolations, stretching, and strength building. After the warm up, the class will perform exercises (small combinations) across the floor. These exercises will consist of battements, turns, and leaps. Most classes will culminate with a long combination implementing the steps and the ideas developed in the warm up and across the floor sections of the class.

Course Objectives-

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify major choreographers and works in jazz history.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of their kinesthetic awareness, coordination, and spatial awareness.
- Execute basic jazz vocabulary such as lindy steps, pas de bouree, battements, pirouette and Charleston.
- Gain height and stretch in their leaps and battements.
- Create and perform in a group of 3-4 students a one-minute jazz piece.

Supplies/Dress Code-

1. Composition- aka Marble Note Book
2. Proper Dress attire (see below)
3. Hair ties/bobby pins/clips to keep hair off and out of your face
4. Jazz shoes must be worn in the dance studio
5. Deodorant
6. Water bottle
7. Personal first aid needs (Band-Aids, etc.)

NOTE THAT LARGE JEWELRY ITEMS MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE CLASS - FOR YOUR SAFETY.

Boys

- Form-fitting white or black t-shirt
- Fitted black jazz pants/shorts
- Dance belt (worn under clothes)

Girls

- Black leotard
- Pink tights
- Split Sole Jazz Shoes
- Fitted black jazz pants/shorts

Corrections-

Dance is physical in nature and therefore corrections are physical in nature. If a dancer is uncomfortable with being touched, please see the instructor prior to class.

Assessment-**Participation- 40%**

Participation grades will be given out randomly each week (at least twice a week). Some weeks it may be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; other weeks it may be Tuesday and Thursday, for example. The grades are given randomly so the students will dress out everyday and not just the days that are given a grade. A total of 100 points per day will be given on the days that grades are assigned. The daily grade breakdown is as follows:

- **Participation** (20 points)- the student is actively participating in all aspects of class, works through and does not give up on a difficult technique or step, is engaged in class activity. Students will be docked for talking out of turn, disrupting class, not trying, etc.
- **Attitude** (20 points)- Students come to class with a positive attitude and are kind and generous to their fellow students and instructor. Students will be docked if they are disrespectful to their teacher or fellow students, use inappropriate language, do not keep hands to themselves, etc.
- **Focus** (20 points)- Students are concentrating and working on the task at hand. Students will be docked for: using phone in class, eating in class, talking out of turn, disrupting class, etc.
- **Dressing Out** (20 points)- Students will come to class in proper dance uniform with hair back. Students will be docked if they are not wearing all aspects of their dance attire.
- **Arriving on time** (20 points)

If you must sit out for a medical reason (and have a doctor's note), you will be required to observe and script class to receive some credit (using the proper form). Excessive absences/tardiness will negatively affect the student's grade, as it is a "participation class."

Papers/Dance Journals- 15%

Sporadically, writing assignments will be assigned in class. Each assignment will include: MLA formatting, written in Times New Roman 12-point font, 1 inch margins, a thesis statement, and topic sentences. Writing assignments will consist of writing responses to class readings, journal entries, and critiques of live performances or videos they have seen. Rubrics will be given out, so students will know how they will be assessed.

Students are required to keep a daily dance journal, where they will keep track of the corrections they receive in class. Students are expected to bring their journal to class every day. The instructor will grade the journals several times throughout each quarter, and students will not be given advance notice to the students as to when they will be collected, in order to ensure that students are making daily entries.

Group Projects- 15%

Every semester, students are assigned a group project, and will work together to choreograph a short piece.

Tests/Quizzes- 30%

Students will be given both written and practical exams and quizzes. The practical exams will be given at least once a quarter. Students will be assessed on their dancing (musicality, technical execution of dance step, etc). A rubric will be given out prior to each exam so student will know what they will tested on, as well as how they will be graded. The practical exams will be videoed, in order for the students to be able to see their movement and assess themselves.

Throughout the year, students will be given written quizzes. The quizzes will focus on vocabulary and dance history. The quizzes will feature multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions.

Students will also have a written final exam at the end of each semester. These exams are given across the dance department: every student taking a dance course is required to take these exams.

Cell Phone Policy-

No cell phones in class what so ever. If a cell phone is seen out during class, the phone will be taken away for the remainder of the period. The second time I see a phone from the same student, the phone will stay with me for the remainder of the day. The third time a student is caught with their phone out, the phone will be given to school administration.

Dance Department Rules

* Be prompt* Be polite * Be prepared * Be productive * Be positive * No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the dance studio.

Classroom Expectations-

Learning any new skill set can be scary, however, with time and practice, one can master the new skill they are learning. The same is true in the dance studio. While learning new steps or choreography, you may feel or look silly at the start. This happens to everyone, so please do not be too hard on yourself. Also, if you notice a classmate struggling with the material we are learning, please be kind to your fellow students. At one point or another, we will all struggle (it is part of the learning experience). **It is essential that we have a space that is safe and fosters a positive learning environment.**

1. Be respectful to instructor and fellow classmates.

2. Please come to class prepared to dance: be on time, wear the proper attire, have a positive attitude, and be ready to move.
3. Please have hair pulled back in ponytail or bun, and no loose jewelry.
4. No food, drink, or gum in the studio, water is permitted.
5. No cell phones.

Consequences- If you are not able to follow these guidelines, these are the consequence:

1. Warning- The student will be warned and will be redirected back to the work at hand.
2. If the student continues breaking the expectations of the classroom, they will be asked to sit out of the remainder of class and will not receive and points for participation.
3. If the negative behavior is still a problem, they will be sent to the office and the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Performance Schedule:

All dance students are **required** to be in the Spring Dance Concert on **March 7 & 8, 2019** at the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) from 6-9 pm; it is a part of your grade and you must be there for both performances. The tech/dress rehearsals are currently scheduled on **March 5th and 6th, 2019** and will occur during the school day – 8:00am-3:30pm.

Check the PAPA Handbook for policy on absences prior to performance.

Ticket sales will begin in January 2019 and are available at the NHCC Box Office.
Ticket prices are TBA.



I have read and understand the Course Syllabus for the DANCE class(es) in which my student is enrolled at PAPA
(Ballet, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, and/or Musical Theater)

Due: August 31, 2018

Student Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Email _____

Phone _____

Date _____

Please note that in addition to the course syllabus, you must complete the FIELD TRIP/HEALTH FORM for the SPRING DANCE SHOW, Dance Department Addendum, and sign a liability waiver.

Please list any physical or medical conditions that your teacher might need to know about. Note that the teacher may ask for a doctor's release before the student is allowed to participate.

All information remains confidential, as per HIPAA and FERPA regulations.