



Course- Dance for Musical Theatre  
Monday-Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Period  
Location- Cafe  
Course Instructor- Mr. Bennett  
Email- [pbennett@paparts.org](mailto:pbennett@paparts.org)

### **Course Description-**

Dance for Musical Theatre will focus on the dance techniques and styles used throughout the history of Musical Theatre. During this course, we will examine the great choreographers of Broadway history: Agnes DeMille, Jerome Robbins, and Bob Fosse. Along with studying the works of these choreographers we will explore the different techniques these choreographers used: ballet, jazz, social dance (aka vernacular dance), and even a little tap dance.

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

### **Course Objectives-**

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

- Identify major choreographers and works in Broadway history.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of their kinesthetic awareness, coordination, and spatial awareness.
- Execute basic jazz, ballet and tap vocabulary.
- Gain height and stretch in their leaps and battements.
- Create and perform in a group of 3-4 students a two-minute jazz piece.

### **Supplies/Dress Code-**

1. Proper Dress attire (see below)
2. Hair ties/bobby pins/clips to keep hair off and out of your face
3. Jazz shoes must be worn in the dance studio
4. Deodorant
5. Water bottle
6. 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%**

A “daily class grade” will be given randomly each week. Some weeks it may be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; other weeks it may be Tuesday and Thursday, for example. The point of the randomness is that students are prepared all of the time. A total of 100 points per day will be given on the days grades are assigned. The daily grade breakdown is as follows:

- Participation (20 points)
- Attitude (20 points)
- Focus (20 points)
- Dressing up in proper dance uniform with hair back (20 points)
- 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%**

Students are required to keep a dance journal, where they will keep track of the corrections they receive in class. Dancers will be given a writing prompt on Fridays via Google Classroom and their responses will be due on Monday.

**Group Projects- 15%**

Each 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 the end of every quarter (except for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, your performance in the Spring Dance Concert will serve as the practical assessment for that 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 be 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 written Finals at the end of each semester.

### **Cell Phone Policy-**

No cell phones in class whatsoever. 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>** at the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) from 6-9 pm on March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, and from 1-3pm on March 7<sup>th</sup>; it is a part of your grade and you must be there for both

performances. The tech/dress rehearsals are currently scheduled on **March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 2018 and are available at the NHCC Box Office.  
Ticket prices are TBA.

**Beginning, Intermediate, Advance Jazz Dance Courses and Dance for Musical Theatre**  
**Peter Bennett, MFA**  
**2017-2018**

**I have read and understand the Course Syllabus for the above course. I understand that my child is required for a grade to participate in the Student Dance Concert performances on March 1 & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at the NHCC and will be present for the technical rehearsals on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Due: September 1, 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 Dance Department Addendum and sign a liability waiver - FOR EACH TEACHER.**

**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.**