



Course: Beginning Jazz, 2nd and 5th periods

Location: South Portable

Course Instructor: Mr. Bennett

Prep Period: 3rd in South Portable

Email: pbennett@paparts.org

Google Classroom Code: 2nd period:
5th period:

Course Description:

This course explores the style of theatrical jazz dance technique at the beginning level, focusing on developing the students' kinesthetic awareness, proprioception, isolations, learning and implementing dance vocabulary, along with developing their rhythm and musicality. We will examine the history of jazz stretching back to the Harlem Renaissance, and even further to the shores of the West African coast to see how this uniquely Black American art form has changed and evolved from its vernacular/social form to the many different styles that are housed under the umbrella term "jazz", which includes: swing, Broadway, Latin, competition, modern and theatrical, amongst others. Through this context we learn what are the fundamentals of jazz dance: isolations, syncopation, polyrhythms, improvisation, call and response, and a grounded body. It is with this context that we can begin to find and put into motion the answer to the question, "What is jazz dance?"

Class will begin each session with a warm-up featuring an isolations series, plié combination, and stretch/strengthening routing, totaling about 15 minutes. After warmup, each day of the week will have a specific focus: Monday we work in the center floor working on balance, coordination, and features movement vocabulary such as passes, pirouettes, and the positions of the body. Tuesday's focus is on putting the elements we practiced on Monday in motion, "across the floor". Wednesday, we work on jumps and leaps, on Thursdays we condition our bodies to get ready for performance in the spring, we run laps, do push-ups, and Pilates amongst many more exercise (bring your sneakers on Thursdays!). Lastly on Friday, our focus is on choreography, where we learn a longer phrase of movement incorporating the vocabulary and concepts covered throughout the week.

Along with technique, the class will also learn, rehearse, and perform in a jazz piece about 3 minutes in length choreographed by Mr. Bennett at the National Hispanic Cultural Center for PAPA's annual Spring Dance Concert. Students' presence and participation are required as their performance serves as their 3rd quarter final assessment. More information on the Spring Dance Concert is below.

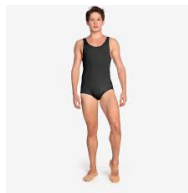
Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Perform a 3-minute piece of choreography in our annual Spring Dance Concert.
- Identify and execute the fundamentals of jazz dance.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of their kinesthetic awareness, coordination, and spatial awareness.
- Execute basic jazz vocabulary such as lindy steps, pas de bourrées, battements, pirouettes, and a myriad of jazz walks.
- Work with peers to choreograph and perform their own 1–2-minute dance.

Supplies/Dress Code:

1. PAPA Dance Uniform (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.)
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Dance Uniform: To move safely, avoid wardrobe malfunctions, and not wear sweaty and smelly clothes for the remainder of the students' day, the dance department requires students to dress out in a dance uniform (varies by dance form). Each student is required to bring dance clothes to class every day. Clothes must be non-restrictive, allowing the student to move freely. This may include leotards, form-fitting plain t-shirts (no distracting logos, pictures, quotes, etc.), and tank tops- with a high neck-line and please no bare midriffs. On the bottom half, students may wear-sweatpants (not baggy, as I need to see if the knee is in the proper placement and the student will not get injured), athletic shorts, or leggings/yoga pants. All students need a pair of black split sole jazz shoes (all items available at www.discountdance.com).

*Split-sole jazz shoe**Leotard**Sweatpants**Leggings**T-Shirt*

All students are required to dress out for class; failing to do so will result in a 20-point reduction in their rehearsal grade for the day. If the behavior is consistent, it is at the instructor's discretion to ask a student to sit out of class and receive a zero for their rehearsal grade if they are not in dance uniform. Please make sure all clothing fits properly, and all bodies are appropriately covered. If you have long hair, it should be up and off your face in a ponytail or bun. Please wear appropriate underwear, as we will be jumping. Lastly, we are in a small portable together, everyone, please wear deodorant and please come to school having bathed. The dance uniform is meant to keep our students feeling safe, respected, and looking our best!

Assessment:

- **Rehearsal Grades:** 100 points each. Rehearsal grades will be given out randomly 1-5 times each 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 every day and not just on 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, does not give up on a difficult technique or step, and 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-growth mindset 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, or 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 a phone in class, eating in class, talking out of turn, disrupting class, etc.
 - **Arriving on time** (20 points): Students will have 3 minutes after the late bell to complete dressing out; if they are not ready by that point, they will be marked tardy and will be docked points.
 - **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.
- **In-Class Small Group Projects/Quizzes:** 10 points each. Sporadically, students are assigned a group project and will work together to choreograph a short piece. 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 practical quizzes where they are quizzed on techniques like pirouettes, battements, and/or combinations we are working on in class.
 - **Tests/Performances/Large Projects:** 200 Points. Students will be given both written and practical exams and quizzes. The practical exams will be given at least once a semester. Students will be assessed on their dancing (musicality, technical execution of dance steps, etc.). A rubric will be given out prior to each exam so students will know what they will be tested on, as well as how they will be graded. The practical exams will be videoed, for the students to be able to see their movement and assess themselves. Students will also have a written final exam at the end of the spring semester. This exam is given across the dance department to beginning level students: every student taking a beginning dance course is required to take this exam.
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Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class prepared and ready to learn each day. Success in this course is directly related to daily attendance. A large portion of the class is based on classroom activities and students that miss class, excused or unexcused, will have a difficult time being successful.

Medical Excuses:

If a student is unable to participate due to injury or illness, a note must be presented to the instructor. An alternate assignment will be provided to the student, and no points will be deducted for a medical excuse. A parent email will suffice for a short-term illness or injury.

Cell Phone Policy:

In accordance with Senate Bill 11 (2025) and guidance from the New Mexico Public Education Department, student cell phones must remain out of sight—either stored in backpacks or in designated classroom pouches. If you need to contact your student during school hours, please call the front office at 505-830-3128 or email info@paparts.org. Students may contact families from the front office or during lunch/passing periods. Students will use school-issued Chromebooks or their personal computers for all learning activities. It is essential that devices are charged nightly.

Dance Department Rules:

- Be prompt
 - Be polite
 - Be prepared
 - Be productive
 - Be positive
 - No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the dance studio.
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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 the instructor and fellow classmates.
2. Please come to class prepared to dance, be on time, wear the proper attire, and have a positive attitude.
3. Please have hair pulled back in a ponytail or bun, and no jewelry.
4. No food, drink, or gum in the studio; water is permitted.
5. No cell phones.

Consequences: If you cannot follow these guidelines, these are the consequences:

1. **Warning:** The student will be warned and will be redirected back to 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 receive a 50% rehearsal grade.

3. If the negative behavior is still a problem, they will be sent to the office, the parent/guardian will be contacted, and they will receive a 0% for their rehearsal grade.
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Annual Dance Concert: All students taking a dance class are required to participate in PAPA's annual **Spring Dance Concert**.

Location: National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th Street SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

● **Tech/Dress Rehearsals:**

- Tuesday, March 9, 2027 - 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Wednesday, March 10, 2027 - 8:00am - 4:00pm

● **Performances:**

- Thursday, March 11, 2027 - Call 6:00pm/Show 7:00pm
- Friday, March 12, 2027 - Call 6:00pm/Show 7:00pm
- Saturday, March 13, 2027 - Call 1:00pm/Show 2:00pm/Strike 4:00pm

Students will report to the NHCC for the technical rehearsals and not to PAPA. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the technical rehearsals and performances. Student participation is **REQUIRED**. This is a major grade for the third quarter. Students are performing as part of a group, and if one person is missing, it has a direct impact on the entire group performing. Missing the performance will result in a zero for the grade, unless a medical excuse is provided. Missing for another dance competition, cheer, sports, music recitals, etc., are not excused; this is a school activity and comes first. We are giving the dates out at this time so you can make arrangements with any outside programs you are involved with.



DANCE DEPARTMENT

I have read and understand the rules and obligations for the Course Syllabus in the DANCE class(es) in which my student is enrolled at PAPA (Ballet, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, Flamenco, and/or Musical Theater). I acknowledge that I've already signed and agree to the health liability and publicity waiver.

Syllabus signature page due: August 14, 2026

Dance class: _____

Only turn in ONE signature page per student per class.

Don't forget to let your instructor know if there are any physical or medical conditions. Note that the instructor might ask for a doctor's release before he/she allows the student to participate.

Please note that in addition to the course syllabus, you must complete the FIELD TRIP/HEALTH FORM for the SPRING DANCE SHOW this should have been filled out during student registration. If you have not filled out these forms, please inform your dance teacher, so you can receive one and turn it in.

Student Name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____