



Advanced Jazz Dance

Period: 4th

Location: South Portable

Course Instructor: Mr. Bennett

Email: pbennett@paparts.org

Prep Period: 3rd Period

Course Description:

This course is designed for the upper-intermediate to advanced jazz dancer. It is expected that the dance student be in excellent physical condition and take class regularly outside of PAPA. We will continue to focus on and deepen our understanding of kinesthetic and spatial awareness, learn and implement new dance vocabulary, work with challenging rhythm and musicality (including syncopated rhythms and time signatures other than 4/4 or 3/4), and develop stronger more and flexibly bodies through conditioning. As a class, we will watch, evaluate, and critique masterworks of jazz choreography, such as Bob Fosse's "Sing, Sing, Sing" and Danny Buraczeski's "Take Five." Students will also investigate the choreographic process and will choreograph a solo work.

We will also 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 aka social form to the many different styles that are housed under the umbrella term "jazz" including: 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 begins each session with a warm-up focusing on isolations, stretching, and strength-building exercises. After the warm-up, the class will perform exercises (small combinations) across the floor. These exercises will consist of battements, turns, and leaps. The class will culminate with a long combination that implements the steps and ideas developed in the warm-up and across-the-floor sections of the class. We will also have lecture days where we will explore the history of jazz dance, as well as the components of choreography (movement, space, and time), dance criticism, and kinesiology. Students will have advance knowledge of lecture days and will not be required to dress out for those classes.

Course Goals/Objectives:

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

- Evaluate and critique pieces of choreography using the skills they developed in dance criticism.
- Demonstrate a mastery of their kinesthetic awareness, coordination, and spatial awareness.
- Perform and execute advanced jazz vocabulary such as multiple pirouettes (three or more), switch leaps, and turns in second and/or fouetté turns.
- Gain height and stretch in their leaps and battements.
- Create and perform a 2-3 minute jazz piece.

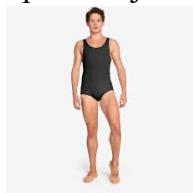
Supplies/Dress Code

- PAPA Dance Uniform (see below)
 - Hair ties/bobby pins/clips to keep hair off and out of your face
 - Jazz shoes must be worn in the dance studio
 - Deodorant
 - Water bottle
 - Personal first aid needs (Band-Aids, etc.)
-

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 (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, along with sweatpants (not baggy, as I need to see if the knee is in the proper placement and the student will not get injured), gym 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. Lastly, please wear underwear, as we will be jumping. 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 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 grades are given. 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 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, 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 their 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 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, which 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 a technique like pirouette or a combination we are working on in class.

Tests/Performances: 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 to allow the students to see their movement and assess themselves.

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.

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.

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
-

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.

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

Consequences:

If you are not able to follow these guidelines, these are the consequences:

- 1) **Warning:** The student will be warned and 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 for the remainder of class and will receive a 50% rehearsal grade for the week.
 - 3) If the negative behavior is still a problem, they will be sent to the office, and the parent/guardian will be contacted. They will receive a 0% for their rehearsal grade.
-

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 15, 2025

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: _____