



Beginning Contemporary Dance

Instructor: Elisa Radcliffe
Email: eradcliffe@paparts.org
Prep: 3rd Period

Course Description:

This course, designed for beginning-level dancers, introduces basic techniques in contemporary dance, as well as improvisation and dance composition. Students will explore anatomy, alignment, the elements of dance, dance history, and both classroom and performance etiquette. Class activities will include warm-ups, across-the-floor and center exercises, choreography, and written assignments. The course requires a high level of effort and commitment while encouraging the enjoyment of creative expression.

Goals and Course Objectives:

The goals and objectives of this course are grounded in the National Core Arts Standards in Dance (adopted by NMPED in 2018) and are designed to develop students' dance literacy. The standards are organized around four artistic processes: *Performing, Creating, Responding, and Connecting*.

Students will:

- Demonstrate understanding and application of anatomically and kinesiology sound movement principles to support safe and efficient dance practice.
- Show growth in coordination, balance, stamina, and technical proficiency.
- Identify and accurately perform contemporary dance terminology and movement.
- Apply the elements of dance—time, space, and energy—in movement explorations and choreography.
- Use performance etiquette and performance practices during class, rehearsal, and performance.
- Use the elements of dance, imagery, and environmental stimuli as sources for improvisation and original choreography.
- Apply choreographic forms and structures to develop and refine dance compositions.
- Engage in the Critical Response Process (CRP) to reflect on and analyze works in progress and completed dance works.
- Offer and receive constructive feedback as an integral part of the creative and learning process.
- Explore the artistic contributions of contemporary dancers and choreographers, past and present.
- Analyze the historical, cultural, and social contexts of contemporary dance, including its place, time, and purpose.

Grading System:

Grading serves as the formal record of each student's overall learning and progress. Because dance is a performance-based art form, skill development and the rehearsal process are essential to evaluating student growth. As such, consistent attendance is the most critical factor in successfully completing the course. Additional components contributing to the final grade include creative projects, written assignments, performances, and assessments. Accommodations and modifications will be provided in accordance with students' IEPs and 504 Plans.

Term Grade Breakdown:

30% = Performances/Skill Assessments
30% = Rehearsal Process/Skill Development
20% = Assignments
20% = Written Assessments

Grading System:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 0-59%

Required Materials:

Each student is required to bring dance clothes to class every day. Clothes must be nonrestrictive, allowing the student to move freely. This may include t-shirts, tank tops, leotards, sweatpants, gym shorts, or leggings/yoga pants.

Required Performances:

All dance students are required to participate in the Spring Dance Concert. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances.

The Public Academy for Performing Arts Spring Dance Concert

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

Tech/Dress Rehearsals:

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

Performances:

- Thursday, March 11, 2027 - Call 5:30 pm | Show 7:00 pm
- Friday, March 12, 2027 - Call 5:30 pm | Show 7:00 pm
- Saturday, March 13, 2027 - Call 12:30 pm | Show 2:00 pm

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 who miss class, whether excused or unexcused, will have difficulty succeeding.

Medical Excuses:

If a student is unable to participate due to injury or illness, they must present a note to the instructor. An alternate assignment will be provided to the student. No points will be deducted for a medical excuse.

Wireless Communication and Cell Phone Policy:

In accordance with Senate Bill 11 (2025) and guidance from the New Mexico Public Education Department, wireless communication devices must be silenced and kept out of sight (such as in a backpack or locker) from arrival on campus until the dismissal bell. 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 during lunch/passing periods. Students will use school-issued Chromebooks for all learning activities. A wireless communication device is any portable electronic device capable of transmitting voice, text, or data, including but not limited to: cell phones and smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, laptop computers, gaming devices, and wireless headphones. Students using a wireless communication device without permission will be required to surrender the device to the front office, where it must be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Google Classroom Codes:

4th Period: shyhubh

6th Period: mnzdbree

8th Period: kf56n3vg