

San Mateo Dance



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Welcome to SMHS Dance! I am so excited to have you as a student! I offer these guidelines to provide the best learning experience for all students. After reading the following pages, please sign and return the last page to Ms. Reidy by Friday, August 20th to show your understanding and acceptance of these policies.

Class Description: Students will study a range of dance techniques, including jazz, tap, contemporary, hip hop and house. Class will include a warm-up routine, isolations, stretches, across-the-floor progressions, and choreography combinations. As students progress, technique and choreography will become increasingly complex and challenging. During the 2nd semester, ALL students will prepare for and perform in the end of year dance show, Mateo Motion, on April 28th and 29th.

My Goal: To create well-rounded, open-minded, and confident dancers. Each of you will be learning/practicing a variety of dance styles each class and will be able to demonstrate your technique through rehearsals and performances. This class is not only about being able to learn dance steps/technique, but also being able to tell a story through your movement.

Course Objectives (Based on the State of California Dance Content Standards)

A passing student will be able to:

- Develop an appreciation and be able to perform in multiple dance genres (Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Lyrical Contemporary, Hip Hop, House and Musical Theater) with technical skill and clear intent.
- Assess and analyze dance works.
- Increase muscular endurance, flexibility, balance, coordination, and agility during class practice and rehearsal.
- Execute movements accurately within a pattern of time or established rhythm.
- Participate fully, while demonstrating physical coordination and control.
- Use, define, and demonstrate given terminology.
- Critique live performances.
- Present and perform choreography to the class.
- Perform at all shows in the spring dance concert, Mateo Motion XVII
- Develop or build upon social skills like cooperating with your peers and giving/taking constructive criticism.
- (Int/Adv) Create and develop solo/group choreography.

(Adv) Perform at all school and community functions such as Fall Dance Intensive, 8th grade preview night, and the Little Big Game.

Evaluation/Grading:

Regular attendance is critical to succeeding in this class. Students must be on-time, dressed in dance attire, and committed to participating fully. Tardies and absences will affect your final grade so please be aware and responsible for showing up to class ready to work.

Your grade will consist of **3** main components:

1. Performance
2. Participation
3. Written Work

Performance: Performance will be measured through skills tests, tests on dance combinations, written work, and written tests. Students will be graded on memory, execution, characterization, rhythm/timing and technique.

Participation: Students can earn up to 15 points a week for participation. 6 points per block day and 3 points per regular day. Students will earn full participation credit by showing up to class on-time, coming prepared dressed in dance clothes and shoes, and engaging in dance activities throughout class.

Written Work: Students will be expected to write one dance performance critique a semester. They will also complete various other assignments such as self-reflections and dance history summaries.

Absence Policy: It is extremely difficult to learn dance technique, routines, formations, and curriculum if you are not in class. There are no textbooks or worksheets that you can “catch up” with. For this reason, it is so important that you are in class! With that being said, if you are sick or have COVID symptoms, please stay home and watch the practice videos from class.

Make-up work: A student can be given a chance to make up excessive absences, medical absences and unexcused absences. It is the student’s responsibility to contact Ms. Reidy about completing make-up work. Usually, make-up work involves coming into the studio during tutorial to practice or get tested on material that was missed or turning in a written assignment. Occasionally, make-up work may involve completing an extra dance project. *All written make-up work must be complete before the last week of the semester.*

Medical Excuses (for injuries): Students may be excused for one class per parental request with a maximum of two requests per semester. Students that require modified participation longer than two days must have a doctor’s note outlining the requirements for modifications. Appropriate make-up work will be required as well as proper notes taken for the days sitting out. The notes will be reviewed by Ms. Reidy at the end of each class.

The grading scheme is as follows:

A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 %	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0 %	to 61.0%
F	< 61.0 %	to 0.0%

Dance Attire:

Please wear form-fitting clothing that you feel comfortable dancing in. These should not be the same clothes that you wore to school. This can include leotards, fitted dance/sports tops, fitted t-shirts and leggings, form-fitting sweats, dance pants, tights, basketball shorts AND proper shoes (either jazz or tap). If you wear baggy shorts, please wear compression pants/tights underneath. For safety, please make sure that your attire covers your knees.

Shoes:

- **Beginning & Intermediate Dance:** Jazz shoes (black) and Tap Shoes (black flats)
- **Advanced Dance:** Jazz shoes (black) and tap shoes (black flats). You can wear half-sole shoes to class but will need jazz shoes for the show. You may also be using tan heeled tap shoes and Tan Character Shoes during the year but you do not need to buy them now.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to keep costs down, I order shoes through a dancewear supplier. I will send a letter home with specific details at a later date. The approximate costs are as follows: Jazz shoes: \$26.00, and Taps Shoes: \$54.00-75.00. Financial aid is available for purchasing tap shoes through the SMHS Dance Department. If you want to purchase shoes on your own, feel free to do so but be sure they meet the requirements for the class.

Dance Concert/Fundraising

Dance Concert:

All students in dance will participate in the Spring Dance Concert, Mateo Motion XVII. **The dates are Friday and Saturday, April 28th and 29th.** There will be three mandatory rehearsals after school on Monday-Thursday (April 24th-27th) from 6:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. **YOU CANNOT RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER IF YOU DO NOT PERFORM IN BOTH NIGHTS OF THE DANCE CONCERT.** This is the culmination of all your hard work, you deserve this!

Fundraisers:

The dance department receives very little money from the school to implement the program and this program can be VERY expensive to run. Here are a few ways dance money is spent:

- For Class: master classes, music, buses for field trips, portable sound systems, financial aid for students in need.
- For Dance Show: costumes, music, sound, equipment, lighting designers/technicians, stage crew, programs, posters, flyers

All money to run the program is generated through fundraisers, donations, and ticket sales for our dance concert. **All students are expected to participate in the fundraisers.** So far, we have two fundraisers planned for this year. I will let you know of others as they come along.

- Cookie Dough (September)
- Mixed Bags (September)