

Leander High School

Principles of Dance I, II, III, IV

Syllabus & Classroom Policies



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Course Description:

Dance I-IV is a performance-based Fine Arts course aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Dance. Students will develop body and kinesthetic awareness while improving flexibility, strength, stamina, coordination, movement quality, and technical dance skills. Students will also explore a variety of dance genres, historical and cultural influences, choreography, performance, and dance as a form of artistic expression and communication.

Successful completion of the course provides:

- 1 Fine Arts credit
- 1 Physical Education credit

Dance III and IV students will also create, evaluate, and present work for a culminating dance portfolio.

Course Requirements

1. Required Dancewear

- a. Students are expected to dress out and participate each class period.
- b. Required attire includes:
 - All-black dancewear with appropriate coverage
 - Black leotard, fitted tank top, fitted T-shirt, leggings, bike shorts, or athletic shorts
 - Tan jazz shoes, athletic tennis shoes, or bare feet
 - Hair secured completely out of the face and eyes
 - Jewelry removed before class; small stud earrings are permitted
- c. School clothes, denim, casual shoes, Converse, socks in place of dance shoes, and clothing that restricts movement are not considered appropriate dancewear.

Required dancewear must be available by August 17.

2. Supplies

- a. All students should bring:
 - A fully charged Leander ISD Lenovo laptop or approved personal laptop
 - Paper and a pen when requested
 - An optional combination lock for a dance locker
- b. Classroom Supplies:
 - 3rd Period: One package of hair-colored hair ties
 - 6th Period: One package of bobby pins
 - 7th Period: One box of tissues

Participation Expectations

Dance is a performance-based course requiring active daily participation. Students are expected to:

- Arrive on time and prepared for class.
- Dress out each day.
- Participate fully and give their best effort.
- Listen while instructors or classmates are speaking.
- Remain focused and keep conversations related to class.
- Treat classmates, instructors, facilities, and equipment with respect.
- Work safely and cooperatively with others.

- Ask for assistance when needed.

Students may not use phones, smartwatches, earbuds, tablets, or other personal communication devices during class unless approved for an instructional accommodation, medical need, or safety purpose. Devices must remain turned off and stored away.

Illness or Injury

Students who are ill or injured are expected to dress out unless medically unable to do so. Students who cannot physically participate must observe class and complete notes or an alternate assignment for daily credit. A parent or doctor's note should be emailed to the instructors. A medical note is required for longer than 2 days.

Grading Policy

Daily Grades – 70%

Daily grades may include:

- Dressing out
- Participation and effort
- Technique and skill development
- Daily assignments
- Professionalism and class expectations

Major Grades – 30%

Major grades may include:

- Performances
- Dress rehearsals
- Performance assessments
- Skills tests
- Choreography projects
- Written assignments and assessments

This course follows the **Leander ISD Grading Guidelines** and the **LHS Honor Code**.

Late, Missing, and Redone Work

- Students have up to five school days from the original due date to submit eligible late or missing work.
- Eligible assignments, quizzes, and tests may be redone for up to 100%.
- Performances and dress rehearsals cannot be redone.
- Choosing not to dress out or participate cannot be redone.
- Gradebook codes:
 - **M:** The assignment is missing but may still be submitted.
 - **0:** The assignment demonstrates no evidence of mastery.
 - **X:** The assignment is exempt and does not affect the student's grade.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

Students are responsible for obtaining missed assignments, assessments, and choreography following an absence.

Students will receive one school day of make-up time for each day absent. Work that was due on the day of an absence is due on the student's first day back unless otherwise communicated.

Students missing class for extracurricular activities must obtain assignments before the absence in accordance with the LISD Student Handbook.

Students needing additional assistance should contact an instructor to arrange a tutorial time. Pre-planned extended absences require the appropriate form from the attendance office.

Required Performances

Performance is an essential component of the Dance TEKS and the course curriculum. Every Leander High School dance student is required to participate in a minimum of two performances during the academic year - one each semester.

Students are responsible for:

- Attending required dress rehearsals and performances
- Arranging transportation to and from school
- Communicating known scheduling conflicts at least four weeks in advance

Performances and dress rehearsals are graded course requirements and cannot be made up.

Performance Dates

Holiday Show: December 12, 2026

Spring Show: April 29 or 30, 2027

Additional rehearsal and performance information will be communicated during the school year.

Daily Class Format

A typical class period includes attendance, warm-up, cardio, flexibility and strength training, technical instruction, choreography or creative exploration, cool down, reflection, and time to change before the end of class.

Optional Dance Clinics

Students have the opportunity to participate in optional Dance Department clinics hosted by the Blue Belles, including:

- Back-to-School Dance Clinic - August 22
- Holiday Show Dance Clinic - December 5

Unplanned Absences

- When the student returns to school, it is their responsibility to ask the teachers what assignments were missed.
- For each day of absence, the student will have one day of make-up time. For example, if an assignment was due on Monday and the student was absent only one day, they should turn it in on Wednesday, the next time their class meets.
- If tutorials are needed to complete the assignment, the student should reach out to the teacher to schedule a time.
- If there is an assignment due on the day of the absence, the assignment is due the first day back.

Planned or Extended Absences

- Extracurriculars: Any student absence from class due to extracurricular activities will be responsible for obtaining assignments prior to the absence, per the LISD Student Handbook. Students who miss class due to extracurricular activities are required to submit missed assignments and take any missed quizzes or exams.
- If there is an assignment due on the day of the absence, the assignment is due the first day back.
- Performances: Performances cannot be made up. If there is a conflict with the student's schedule, such as a performance at the same time as a sports practice, the performance should take priority. The performance acts as a major assessment for the course.
- Pre-Planned Extended Absences - Complete the required form from the attendance office.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens if I am not able to dance during class?

If a student is not able to dance in class due to illness or injury:

- the student must dress out for class as well as
- present a parent/doctor's note in order to get full credit for the day.
- Complete a written assignment for complete credit of class.

If injured, a parent note will excuse a student from participating for **up to two days**. A doctor's note is **required** for any circumstances that the student needs to sit out of class for more than two days.

A student request to not participate **does not qualify as an excuse for alternate assignment.*

Where can I buy dancewear?

- Students can buy dancewear in many different ways:
 - At any dancewear store such as: Dancers Closet, Capezio, etc.
 - Target, Walmart, Academy have black pants and often jazz shoes as well
 - The link on our LHS Dance Department Website

What happens if my dance clothes get lost or stolen?

Leander High School and/or LISD cannot be responsible for anything that is lost or stolen. Keep an eye at all times of your belongings. Make sure your dance clothes get labeled with a black permanent marker.

Can I chew gum in dance class?

No, absolutely not. Chewing gum while dancing is a choking hazard.

Can I bring food, drinks or cell phones to class?

No. Water only! Cell phones are only allowed during activities specified by your teacher.

How am I graded daily?

Dress Out - Total 10 pts		
Top	3 points	All black, appropriate & appropriate undergarments
Bottoms	3 points	All black, appropriate & appropriate undergarments
Jewelry Off	2 points	No jewelry of any kind - except stud earrings (no bracelets, necklaces, watches, hoop earrings, facial piercings)
Footwear/Hair Tied	2 points	Athletic tennis shoes, tan jazz shoes, or bare feet (no socks)
Participation - Total 10 points		
Participation	10 points	Common infractions: not having required materials, refusal to participate, lack of effort, unsafe choices, failure to follow directions or classroom expectations, refusal to collaborate with others, etc.