

VCMS Dance 1-3

Course Syllabus

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Room #3-128 VCMS Dance Studio

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goals of this course are:

- To provide opportunities to study a variety of dance genres.
- To provide each student with the opportunity to develop dance technique and skills within different dance genres and to prepare pieces for performance settings.
- To provide each student with opportunities to perform.
- To challenge students to develop critical and creative thinking through dance composition.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

- Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
- Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
- Ask for what you need. (Positive)
- Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
- Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under "Administration", "Forms & Documents", then accessing the "Middle School" drop down:

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 26-27 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

ASSESSMENT

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

Practice	--	30%
Performance (Mastery)	--	70%

Practice Grades consist of homework assignments, bellringers, lesson activities, daily work, etc.

Performance/Mastery Grades consist of any assignment or assessment that measures student mastery of content standards. Some examples include chapter and unit tests, quizzes, projects, performances, etc.

Grading Scale: A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

Practice-- 30%

- **Daily Participation, Bell Ringers, and Exit Tickets (Practice)**

Daily participation is a MUST. Students are expected to show growth in technique and in the quality of their movement. Participation will be graded on effort, active involvement in class, and commitment to the learning process. A maximum of 20 points will be awarded each day for dressing out and participating. Failure to dress out will result in a zero for the day as students will not be allowed to participate if not wearing appropriate clothing. **A student who is not dressed out will**

receive a level-one infraction for dress code. Participation grades will be updated weekly under “Adherence to Dance Components” in the gradebook.

- **Weekly Technique, Vocabulary & Choreography (Practice)**

Aligned to the dance standards, this class will equip your child with comprehensive lessons, skills and resources to progress through the dance program at VCS. Students are expected to show growth in their quality of movement and their understanding of choreography structure and choreography creation.

Mastery-- 70%

- **Dance Journal (Mastery)** - A journal will be kept and organized sequentially by date. Journals will include:
 - Bell Ringers: Assigned at the beginning of class daily.
 - Class Notes & Handouts: Provided throughout each dance unit.
 - Critique of works, inspirational items, journal assignments, etc.
- **Tests/Quizzes (Mastery)** - A mix of quizzes and written tests will be given for each dance unit. They will draw from terminology and history of the dance genre being studied.
- **Final Exam (Mastery)** - The final exam is cumulative and will include multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions.
- **Projects (Mastery)** - Individual and/or group projects will be assigned each grading period. Projects will be based on specific criteria and will be presented in class.
- **Performance Exams (Mastery)** - To complete each unit, a performance exam will be assigned based on the technique and movement studied, and be performed for the instructor in class or in front of an audience, either live or virtually.
 - Performance Exams that take place in class will be scheduled based on student success. Dates will be shared as we begin each unit so students know what date they are working toward to achieve mastery.
 - In addition to skills and knowledge evaluations, students will have a formal performance evaluation each grading period. These evaluations are outside of the normal school day and included as a grade in the “mastery” category. Please note that parents will be responsible for purchasing a dance costume for their child’s performance in the Spring Dance Concert. The cost for the costume will be \$70.00 and will be due at the beginning of the second semester.

Scheduled Performances for the 2026-2027 school year are listed below. All performances are mandatory! Please add these dates to your calendars:

- **1st quarter: In-class skills evaluation recording**
 - Dates: Monday - Thursday, October 15 - 16, 2026
 - Location: VCMS, during dance class
- **2nd quarter: Winter Dance Concert**
 - Rehearsal Date: December 7th
 - Rehearsal Time: 3:00 - 8:00 pm (students will be given a specific time block to attend)
 - Rehearsal Location: The Tracy
 - Performance Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2026
 - Performance Time: 7:00 pm (dancers arrive no later than 6:30 pm)
 - Performance Location: The Tracy
- **3rd quarter: Student Choreography Project Presentations**
 - Rehearsal Date: March 2nd
 - Rehearsal Time: 3:00 - 8:00 pm (students will be given a specific time block to attend)
 - Rehearsal Location: The Tracy
 - Performance Date: Thursday, March 4, 2027

- Performance Time: 7:00 pm (dancers arrive no later than 6:00 pm)
- Performance Location: The Tracy
- **4th quarter: Spring Dance Concert**
 - Rehearsal Date: May 8, 10-12, 2027
 - Rehearsal Time: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm (students will be given a specific time block to attend)
 - Rehearsal Location: The Tracy Performing Arts Center
 - Performance Date: Thursday - Sunday, May 13-16, 2027 (Students will dance in 1 performance)
 - Performance Time: TBA
 - Performance Location: The Tracy Performing Arts Center

Performance Procedures:

- Dancers are to report to the event on time and be prepared to begin warm-up for performance.
- Dancers are expected to remain for the ENTIRE event (student check-in to sign-out process)
- Dancers who arrive late or leave early from a dress rehearsal will receive a deduction in the procedure portion of their performance grade. Dancers are not allowed to leave early from the Performance Event.
- Dancers will remain in their assigned area with chaperones until they are signed out by an authorized parent or guardian. Dancers will not be dismissed to anyone other than their parent or legal guardian unless proper written authorization has been provided to Mrs. Ponsford prior to the event.
- Parents and students are responsible for referring to the dates above and to all parent communication sent home via email and posted in Google classroom. All mandatory rehearsals and performances are included as a grade in the “mastery” category. Please note that all concert performances are TICKETED events.
- No cell phones are allowed backstage at any dance event.

VCMS Bell Schedule

Homeroom/1st Period - 7:50-8:55

2nd Period- 8:59-9:49

3rd Period - 9:53-10:43

4th Period - 10:47-11:37

5th Period - 11:41-1:02

6th Period - 1:06-1:56

7th Period - 2:00-2:50

PROCEDURES

Daily Required Materials: Dance Costume Fees for Recitals

- Chromebook
- Combination Lock- Students must provide their own lock this year. Please consider a traditional style lock similar to this one: [Sample combination lock for Dance Class](#)
- Dance Class Uniform
 - Ladies dress code:
 - Solid black tank style leotard or biketard with high back to cover undergarments.
 - Solid black capris, leggings or dance pants to cover thighs(no shorts).
 - Dance shoes (required for class and performances) [Capezio Hanami Pirouette Dance shoe](#)
 - Hair secured out of face and off of neck

Some dance performances will utilize the class uniform as the base costume. Please select items that are plain black without additional color or printed words.

Dance Costume Fees for Recitals:

In Skyward you will be charged an \$80 costume fee which includes costuming for all 3 shows.

(Includes \$5 Rental for December, \$5 Rental for March, and \$70 fee for Spring Dance Concert)

There are two payment options: September 14th (pay in full) or

Pay 1st half on September 14th and the other half on November 9th.

Daily Class procedures:

- Students will report directly to the locker room to change clothes for class.
- Students will store their belongings in the lockers provided.
- Students are expected to be inside the locker room before the tardy bell rings.
 - Each student will be assigned their own locker..
 - Dancers must be responsible and lock their locker to secure their items.
 - School clothes must be inside their assigned locker during class.
 - Dancers must not share their locker combination with anyone.
- Students are expected to dress out and participate with **full effort** every day. If a student has been placed on medical restriction by their physician, an alternate assignment will be provided for that dancer.
 - This daily preparation and participation is included as a grade in the “practice” category.
 - Our first day to dress out will be Monday, August 11th. Students may wear exercise clothing and socks until they have their dance class uniform and dance shoes.
 - **All students are expected to have their class uniform items by Friday, August 21st.** Students who are waiting on an order may continue to wear the substitute items until they arrive.
- At the end of class, dancers will return to the locker room to change.
 - Students must be in complete school uniform and shoes before leaving the dressing room. This includes having a school shirt tucked into bottoms and wearing a belt and lanyard.
 - Students will be dismissed from the locker room.
- **No cell phones or cameras** are allowed in the locker room or Dance Studio.
- Food and drinks other than water are not permitted in the dance studio or dressing rooms.
 - Water is both permissible and encouraged but should be in a spill-proof container.
 - 3rd period is identified as the time for students to have a healthy snack.
 - Time is scheduled for dance students to eat a snack at the beginning of class after changing clothes.
- Demonstrate positive character traits (kindness, trustworthiness, honesty).
- Demonstrate productive character traits (patience, thoroughness, hard work).
- Demonstrate a level of concern for others. Allow all students to try without any negativity. We are all here to work and improve as dancers.

Google Classroom:

- Students will utilize Google Classroom to access class assignments and evaluations.
- Our performance calendar will be posted on our Google Classroom and my Teacher Connection page. [Click here to open this link to my Teacher Connection Page.](#)

CLASS CODES FOR GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Students will use the following codes to join the Google Classroom for their dance class. Click on the class period to open the link for your Google Classroom or enter the code to join.

- [Period 1](#) or **7dvn3c6d**
- [Period 2](#) or **fibvrhsi**
- [Period 3](#) or **y5pbfkdy**
- [Period 5](#) or **5h4n26uj**
- [Period 6](#) or **moaszfcg**

Late Work:

Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner. Our belief is that high expectations produce high results; therefore, assignments turned in late will be accepted for a maximum of 60%. Assignments must be submitted within the unit or chapter of study to be accepted for late credit.

Injuries:

Any student unable to participate in class due to an injury or illness must have a note from a parent/guardian stating the problem. A doctor's note is required for extended injuries or illnesses that prevent participation for an extended amount of time. These dancers will be given alternative assignments to complete during class. Students should report any injury that occurs during class to their teacher to ensure the student is evaluated and receives appropriate first aid as needed.

Additional Assistance and Communication

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE VIA PARENTSQUARE

Please electronically view and sign for this syllabus through ParentSquare by Friday, August 14th. Reach out to me at Jayla.Ponsford@tvcs.org if you have trouble completing the electronic signature process.

***** PLEASE SIGN ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH PARENTSQUARE BY Friday, AUG. 14, 2026*****