

Blake Dance Department Course Descriptions

Dance 1 A/B: Dance 1 is for the beginner dancer or as a refresher for the dancer who had time off, who wishes to improve their technique, body alignment, control, strength, and flexibility. Emphasis is on development of technique, self-expression, and creativity. Students will explore dance as an art form through choreography, improvisation, historical/culture experiences, aesthetic and criticism. It is a performance oriented course. **No audition required.** (Genres will include but are not limited to Jazz, Modern, Ballet, Improvisation, Contemporary, and Lyrical.)

Dance 2 A/B: Dance 2 is for the serious intermediate dancer who has 2-3 years of Ballet and Jazz training. This course will improve dance technique, body alignment, control, strength, and flexibility as well as integrate their bodies with more difficult dance techniques and concepts. Students work on ballet barre, across the floor, and center floor combinations. Students will explore choreography and self-study to gain personal growth. This course prepares the student for the difficult dance skills of the advanced level by exploring direction, tempo, rhythms and level changes and will be introduced to basic choreographic principles. This course will include advanced leaps, turns, and repertoire. **Prerequisite Dance 1A & 1B or audition.**

CHOREOGRAPHY A/B This elite level class is for students who have at least 2 years of training at Blake HS, including the Advanced Jazz or Dance Company class. This class is for technically proficient dancers who have experience with choreography. Students who wish to be a part of this class must be ready to create new organic and purposeful movements that demonstrate a story, theme, or piece of artwork. The class will study improvisation, explore stimuli, and learn choreographer's techniques, vocabulary and themes to show how to create movement in dance. In addition to creating choreography, students will complete written assignments and work on technical production, portfolio, and self-reflection. Students will have the opportunity to showcase their choreographic works. **Audition only or a member of Jr. & Sr. Dance Company.**

DANCE COMPANY (Senior Dance Company) A/B Participation in this course class is by **audition only.** Upperclassmen who are technically proficient and have experience with choreography for a minimum of 3-6 years. Students ready to move onto the next step in becoming a professional dancer/choreographer will learn a selected dance repertory. Students will be required to perform at several selected venues at Blake and elsewhere. Students will study in depth choreographic principles, improvisation, history, culture, performance, technique, dance for fitness, and job opportunities. In addition to performing, members of the Blake Dance Company will complete a full professional portfolio including choreography, written assignments, resume, and self-reflection. Dance Company students will have the opportunity to showcase their choreographic works.

JAZZ 3A/3B (ADVANCED-JUNIOR DANCE COMPANY) This course is for the serious and competitive dancer who has a minimum of 3-5 years of training. The students will continue to refine skills and understanding introduced in the prerequisite courses. The advanced student must have mastered all beginning and intermediate level skills. This class will learn technically complex combinations, concepts, and technique. The students will create choreography and review choreographic principles to produce organic movement. Students will learn how to express an idea through movement utilizing improvisation and creative movement. The students will also fine tune their understandings of dance history, culture, aesthetics, criticism, performance, and dance for fitness. Prerequisites Jazz 1A & 1B and Intermediate Jazz 2A & 2B or **audition.**

HIP HOP 1 A/B Hip Hop 1 is designed to help the dancer loosen up, gain rhythm, and have fun in an aerobic workout. Moves from videos on TV with popular artists will be taught as well as the history of Hip Hop. This is a great way to get a good workout, have fun and gain confidence. This is an extra class that should be taken along with regular technique classes.

HIP HOP 2 A/B Hip Hop 2 students will learn to integrate their bodies with more difficult dance techniques and concepts. Students will pay attention to detail in order to gain a greater understanding of the mechanics within the body and how it can be used for self-expression. Basic choreographic principles are introduced along with improvisation and creation of organic movement. This course prepares the student for the difficult dance skills of the advanced level by exploring direction, tempo, rhythms and level changes. **Prerequisite Hip Hop 1A & 1B or audition.**

HIP HOP 3 A/B Hip Hop 3 is designed to go alongside our Senior Dance Company as a Hip Hop Company. Participation in this course class is by **AUDITION only.** Students in this class **MUST** be proficient with learning choreography quickly, creating movement that self-expresses a story or theme, and be able to learn new styles of dance. Students **MUST** have trained for multiple years and have taken dance at Blake or a studio. Students ready to move onto the next step in becoming a professional dancer/choreographer will learn a selected dance repertory. Students will be required to perform at several selected venues at Blake and elsewhere. Students will study in depth choreographic principles, improvisation, history, culture, performance, technique, dance for fitness, and job opportunities. In addition to performing, members of the Blake Hip Hop Dance Company will complete a full professional portfolio including choreography, written assignments, resume, and self-reflection. Dance Company students will have the opportunity to showcase their choreographic works.