

VCMS Dance 1-3

Course Syllabus

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Room #323 VCMS-BR 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.

ASSESSMENT

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

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 10 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. 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)** - Weekly journals will be assigned on Wednesdays and due the following Monday. Journals will be completed during class time.
- **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 Performance Rubric (Mastery)** - The final performance rubric measures the student's mastery of both class and performance material.
- **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 (\$100 or less) will be determined and communicated at a later date 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:

- **2nd quarter: Winter Dance Concert (Students will dance in only one performance, TBD)**
 - Rehearsal Date: December 7-8
 - Rehearsal Time: 3:00 - 8:00 pm (students will be given a specific time block to attend)
 - Rehearsal Location: The Tracy (VHS Middleton Campus)
 - Performance Date: Thursday, December 10, 2026
 - Performance Time: 7:00 pm (dancers arrive no later than 6:00 pm)
 - Performance Location: The Tracy (VHS Middleton Campus)
- **3rd quarter: Student Choreography Project Presentations (Students will dance in only 1 performance, TBD)**
 - Rehearsal Date: March 1-2
 - Rehearsal Time: 3:00 - 8:00 pm (students will be given a specific time block to attend)
 - Rehearsal Location: The Tracy (VHS Middleton Campus)
 - Performance Date #1: Wednesday, March 3, 2027
 - Performance Date #2: Thursday, March 4, 2027
 - Performance Time: 7:00 pm (dancers arrive no later than 6:00 pm)
 - Performance Location: The Tracy (VHS Middleton Campus)
- **4th quarter: Spring Dance Concert (Students will dance in only 1 performance, TBD)**
 - 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 (VHS Middleton Campus)
 - Performance Date: Thursday - Sunday, May 13-16, 2027 (Students will dance in 1 performance)
 - Performance Time: TBA
 - Performance Location: The Tracy Performing Arts Center (VHS Middleton Campus)
- **DANCE 3 ONLY: Fine Arts Spring Concert - NEW THIS YEAR! Dance 3 students will perform in a spring concert in collaboration with VCMS-BR Band, Choir, Musical Theater, and Art**
 - Rehearsal Date: TBA
 - Rehearsal Time: TBA
 - Rehearsal Location: VCMS-BR Courtyard
 - Performance Date: Thursday April 22, 2026
 - Performance Time: TBA
 - Performance Location: VCMS-BR Courtyard

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. Louzon 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.

Costume Fee:

- \$80 costume fee covers \$5 Winter Concert costume rental, \$5 Choreography Concert costume rental, \$70 fee for SDC costume
- Any dance student that is added later in the school year or does not perform in a show is still responsible for this donation to the VCS Dance Program.
- Due dates: September 14th (pay in full) or half on September 14th and other half on November 9th.

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

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. 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 and Documents”, and “Middle School”:

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

PROCEDURES

VCMS Bell Schedule

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

2nd Period- 8:54-9:44

3rd Period - 9:48-10:38

4th Period - 10:42-11:32

5th Period - 11:36-1:02

6th Period - 1:06-1:56

7th Period - 2:00-2:50

Daily Required Materials:

- Wired earbuds (no Bluetooth capability)
- Chromebook
- Combination Lock- Students will be provided a lock and assigned a locker
- Dance Class Uniform
 - Female 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).
- Skin tone Pirouette dance shoes; students must have dance shoes for class.
- Hair secured out of face and off of neck
- Jewelry that interferes with movement cannot be worn.
- Performance Attire
 - Costume: Costumes will be provided for the winter and student choreography concerts. Spring Dance Concert costumes will be purchased.
 - Dance performances will require skin tone tights and skin tone Pirouettes.
 - **Some dance performances may utilize the class uniform as the base costume. Please select items that are plain black without additional color or printed words.**
- Male dress code:
 - Solid black t-shirt
 - Black dance or athletic pants
 - Skin tone ballet shoes
 - If applicable: hair secured out of face and off of neck
 - Jewelry that interferes with movement cannot be worn.
 - Performance Attire:
 - Costume: Costumes will be provided for the winter and student choreography concerts. Spring Dance Concert costumes will be purchased.
 - Skin tone ballet shoes

Some dance performances may utilize the class uniform as the base costume. Please select items that are plain black without additional color or printed words.
- Class Uniform Policy:
 - In the event that students forget their dance clothes, they will be given TWO free dress passes per quarter. These passes are assigned to the student and cannot be transferred to another student.
 - Students who fail to dress out for class and do not have a free dress pass will receive the following consequences:
 - 1st offense: Warning
 - 2nd offense: Call/email home
 - 3rd offense: Removal from class/enroll in PE

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 10th. 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 locker 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 locker rooms.
 - Water is both permissible and encouraged but should be in a spill-proof container.
- 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.](#)

Bell Ringer/Dismissal:

- The daily bell ringer for dance students is to prepare their body for activity as well as review and practice skills and choreography.
- Students must remain in the locker room until dismissed by the teacher.

Make-up Work:

Students who are absent are responsible for checking google classroom for any written assignments they may have missed. Students are responsible for learning any choreography they missed in class on their own (either from a friend or videos posted on google classroom). Students who are absent during an evaluation must schedule to make up the evaluation with Mrs. Louzon. Please see the school policy in the student handbook regarding absences/make-up work.

Late Work Policy:

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. Mastery assignments must be completed, however, a late penalty will be applied.

Hall Pass/Restroom:

- Female students will use the restrooms in the locker rooms outside the dance studio. Male students will use the restroom in the coaches area of the dance studio.
- Hall passes will be kept to a minimum during dance class time. Students who are permitted to travel to a different room on campus will be given a hall pass and will have a pass made in the smartpass system. If a student is dressed in dance attire at the time they are allowed to leave the dance studio, they must change into street shoes and wear a jacket over their leotard.

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.

The Nutcracker Ballet Field Trip

All dance students will be invited to attend a performance of *The Nutcracker* at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando at the end of November. The cost per student will be around \$25. Permission slips and further information will be provided at a later date.

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 Page

Please view the Electronic Signature Page posted in the student's Google Classroom using the student's assigned Chromebook.

***** PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE PAGE BY Friday, AUG. 14th, 2026*****