

PARENT INFORMATION LETTER

♪ Esteemed Parents and Guardians,♪:

We write to inform you that your school has chosen to participate in the *Dancing Classrooms* program. As seen in the films *Mad Hot Ballroom* and *Take the Lead*, the *Dancing Classrooms* program was started in one school by Mr. Pierre Dulaine, a world champion ballroom dancer. Inspired by his own achievements and the impact dancing had on him as a child, Pierre felt that the most important work he could do was to teach Ballroom dance to NYC Public School children. The program has expanded beyond New York and is now in 30 cities in the United States and internationally.

The mission of Dancing Classrooms is to cultivate essential life skills in children through the practice of social dance. Your child will be taught a syllabus of traditional ballroom dances in a learning environment which fosters respect, teamwork, confidence, and politeness. They will emerge as “ladies and gentlemen” with a renewed sense of joy, accomplishment and elegance.

The ballroom dance classes are part of the school day and provided as a way to enrich the academic learning experience. Classes are conducted with individual classroom groups, twice a week, for ten weeks, and led by a Dancing Classrooms teaching artist in collaboration with your child’s classroom teacher. With their classmates, the journey of ballroom dance will take students through the history and cultures of the Merengue, Foxtrot, Rumba, Tango, Swing, and Waltz.

We believe all students can learn and we expect all children to participate. At the end of the twenty lessons, there will be a ballroom dance presentation assembly at the school where students will be encouraged to dress elegantly. You will be invited to watch the children perform the dances and hear them speak about their ballroom dance journey. If you are familiar with any of these dances we invite you to engage your children’s learning by dancing with them at home. Dancing is a wonderful skill for children to learn at a young age. It teaches them how to develop respect, collaboration, manners, self-esteem, how to trust themselves and of course, how to dance.

Please note that periodically throughout the residency we may take photos of our program within the schools for our organizational, fundraising and/or marketing purposes.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s participation in this program, please speak with your Principal.

Warm wishes,



DANCING CLASSROOMS

SKILLS RUBRIC

Teacher's guide to assessing progress in the residency.

SKILL DESCRIPTION

	ALMOST ALWAYS	REGULARLY	STILL DEVELOPING
RHYTHM ○ Keeps to the beat of the music ○ Understands counts and steps for all dances			
DANCE FRAME ○ Remains in dance frame with partner ○ Chicken wings are crispy! ○ Chopsticks! ○ Stands upright in good posture			

STYLING ○ Latin dances demonstrates Cuban Hip motion ○ Smooth dances demonstrates smooth passing feet no, hip motion ○ Uses proper start off foot			
TEAMWORK/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ○ Uses appropriate body language, eye contact ○ Uses appropriate polite words to greet a partner and conclude a dance ○ Executes Escort position with ease and elegance ○ Demonstrates understanding of team work ○ Works well as part of ballroom community either in dancing or other special jobs like d.j. or class helper			
NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS:			