RUNNING BRUSHY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Dance Class Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Running Brushy family (a.k.a. The Brush) and the dance department! This will be a fantastic year of growing and learning. My name is Jessica Harris (Coach Harris), and I am the dance teacher and director of the dance teams here at RBMS. This will be my 14th year teaching at RBMS. Prior to arriving at RBMS, I taught high school dance I - IV and directed the Varsity and JV dance teams at Copperas Cove High School for 7 years. I live in Cedar Park with my family, my husband, Reese, and our two beautiful and sassy daughters Mya, 16 & Ivy, 12.

On the dance class website you will find detailed information about dance class by reading the syllabus along with the supplies needed for class. Your student will also be using an online google classroom associated with our dance class which will be a huge resource for them.
https://sites.google.com/leanderisd.org/rbmsdancedepartment/home

Should you ever need to contact me during the school year the best way to reach me is via email. My email address is jessica.harris@leanderisd.org.

Here on our RBMS campus our students are expected to learn and exhibit the four student expectations. Be prepared, productive, respectful, and responsible. While in dance class I will expect students to be "prepared" with their required supplies each day. I expect students to be "productive" by paying attention and actively participating in all movement activities and class/partner/group discussions taking place. I expect students to be "respectful" by being positive and encouraging of others in class, not disrupting the learning environment, and being open minded while learning new skills. I expect students to be "responsible" by practicing when needed outside of class, asking for help when needed, focusing on their bodies during class, and taking ownership of their learning journey.

Our goals in class this year will be for students to:

1. **Develop a greater understanding of themselves and others through using and exploring movement and to develop self-discipline and healthy bodies.**
2. **Develop movement principles, technical skills, and explore choreographic and performance qualities.**
3. **Develop self-expression.**
4. **Recognize dance as a vehicle for understanding historical and cultural relevance and enable them to participate in a diverse society.**
5. **Strengthen decision-making skills, develop critical and creative thinking, and develop artistic creative processes through evaluating and analyzing dance.**

I'm looking forward to learning about each of my students and sharing my passion for the art of dance with each of them. Feel free to contact me if you ever need anything.

Sincerely,

Coach Harris