

Blake High School Dance Department



Course Offerings in DANCE

No audition necessary	*Requires audition	*Requires audition
Dance 1 includes: Ballet 1 & Jazz 1	Ballet 2 Intermediate	
Tap 1 Beginner	Tap 2 Intermediate	
	Jazz 2 Intermediate	Jazz 3 (Jr. Company) Advanced
Hip Hop 1	HIP HOP 2	
	Junior Dance Company 9-12 graders by audition only	Dance Company 10th, 11th, and 12th graders only by audition

Students who take dance can earn a Fine Arts credit.

***Please submit video auditions by January 25, 2025 to be considered for Intermediate-Advanced, and Jr. Dance Company level classes.**

Send video to Danielle.D'[Anna@mcpssmd.net](mailto:D'Anna@mcpssmd.net)

***All videos must be a solo in the style you are auditioning to be placed into.**

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Dance Department Course Descriptions

BALLET I Ballet 1 is for the dancer who wishes to improve their technique, body alignment, control, strength, and flexibility. It is a performance oriented course. Students will explore dance as an art form through self-expression, choreography, improvisation, historical/culture experiences, aesthetic and criticism. No audition required.

BALLET II Ballet 2 is for the serious Ballet dancer who has 2-3 years of Ballet training. This course will improve dance technique, body alignment, control, strength, and flexibility. Students work on adagio, petit allegro, ballet barre, across the floor, and center floor combinations. Students will explore choreography and self-study to gain personal growth. Prerequisite Ballet 1A & 1B.

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.

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 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 1A/1B (BEGINNER) This is an introductory course in jazz, as well as a refresher for the dancer who had time off. Emphasis is on development of technique, self-expression, and creativity. Students will explore dance concepts through aesthetic, historical, cultural, performance, and criticism. Students will learn the basic elements of dance such as space, time, and energy.

JAZZ 2A/2B (INTERMEDIATE) Intermediate Jazz 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. This course will include advanced leaps, turns, and repertoire. Prerequisite Jazz 1A & 1B or audition.

JAZZ 3A/3B (ADVANCED) 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.

TAP 1A/1B (BEGINNER) This introductory course emphasizes the development of rhythm and technique. Tap vocabulary is stressed. Students will demonstrate artistic expression through dance ideas and concepts, therefore exploring aesthetic, historical, performance, and dance criticism. Students will also work on improvisation and work in small groups to learn new concepts.

TAP 2A/B and 3A/B (INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED) Students will continue to refine tap skills introduced in Beginner Tap A & B. The intermediate/advanced student must have mastered all of the beginning level skills and will progress to choreographic principles and more difficult rhythms and syncopation. The elements of dance will be studied in greater depth with applications directed at solving movement problems. Basic movement skills and techniques will be refined to achieve greater technical and artistic competency. This dance form will be studied closely to understand its stylistic, cultural, and historic significance. Prerequisite is Beginner Tap A & B or audition.

HIP HOP DANCE A/B Hip Hop 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. Prerequisite: 1 year of dance at Blake or audition.