

2023-2024 CHAPIN DANCE COURSE SYLLABUS & CONTRACT

Mrs. Jessica Warner, Dance Director

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Course Objective:

This course is the study of dance with a focus on developing aesthetic, academic, and personal knowledge of dance. This dance class is designed to provide students the opportunity to study technique and composition with emphasis on factors related to level, direction, dynamics, contour, and dimension. These areas include axial movements, combination locomotor movements, designs in time and space, symmetry and asymmetry, and short studies related to all facets of dance. Dancers will learn and increase their fundamental skills in Hip Hop, Ballet, Salsa, Flamenco, Folklorico, Contemporary, Modern, Jazz, Social, Tap and stretching techniques. Dance history and appreciation will also be covered.

I. Required Dress/Materials-

A. Required dress –

- **Girls** will wear modestly cut black fitted tops (with a sports bra) or leotard, either black leggings, dance pants, or black spandex shorts WITH tights, and dance shoes (dance shoes such as jazz shoes, ballet slippers, or half-soles are preferred)
- **Boys** will wear sweatpants or jogging pants and a plain, short-sleeved, white or black T-shirt, and dance shoes (jazz shoes, etc.)
- Socks should be worn with school-issued shoes

B. Students must be properly dressed in the appropriate dance attire to earn participation grades. Only **partial** daily participation credit will be given when not in proper dance attire because movement is restricted and skills cannot be performed with correct technique.

C. Students must have their appropriate dance attire by the 3rd week of school. Before then, please bring clothes you can move in.

- Attire may be purchased at **Dance Designs** (929 Reynolds), or **Distractions** (1360 N. Lee Trevino). Attire may also be found at sporting goods stores like Target and Wal-Mart or online such as Discount Dance, etc.
- *If there is an issue with acquiring appropriate dance wear, please see Mrs. Warner.*

D. If a student misplaces, loses or has her/his clothes stolen, new clothes must be attained within **2** school days. The student should wear appropriately cut shorts or pants and plain T-shirt for the next two classes. For every class after that, when non-dance attire is worn, the dancer will receive partial credit until new dance attire is acquired.

➤ Results for not suiting out in the proper dance attire:

- Student will still be required to dance but a 50 will be given because skills cannot be performed with correct technique.

If a skills test is given on the day(s) a student does not suit out, s/he will not be allowed to make-up the skills test. S/he will receive a zero for the skills test.

E. Laptop- this will be used for class research and activities, music editing, journal entries, notes, written assignments, tests, etc.

F. **PLEASE BRING ONE (OR MORE) OF THE FOLLOWING: swiffer sweeper wet pad refills (not the ones for wood floors, please), Clorox wipes, paper towels, tissues, windex**

- **THE DANCE STUDIO AND DANCE FLOOR REQUIRES EXTRA CLEANING**



G. Suggested items for locker: lock, hair ties, deodorant, hygiene products, safety pins, lotion, dance clothing

II. Grading – Students must be dressed in proper dance attire as described above to participate in dance class and earn daily participation grades.

- A. Content Understanding (40%) This grade can include general class participation, journal entries, pop quizzes
- B. Content Mastery (40%) This grade can include tests (written or movement), projects, choreography/movement tests, understanding and applying choreographic elements
- C. Content Engagement (20%) This grade can include dance combinations, elements of show preparation, dress rehearsals, performances
- D. The semester final will count 10% of the semester grade

III. Tardies and Absences

A. **Tardies**

If the student is not **inside** the dressing room/locker room **before** the tardy bell rings, s/he is tardy. If a student is constantly tardy, further disciplinary action will be taken. Students are allowed **5 minutes after the tardy bell** to suit out and be on the dance floor and **5-10 minutes before the end of class to change**.

B. **Medical Excused Absences**

A student will be excused from participation when the dance teacher has received a note from the parents or legal guardian, which has been signed by the school nurse **BEFORE** school. Parents must specify the number of days to excuse their child. A student may be excused for up to a maximum of **2 class days** with a request from the parent. If the student must be excused for **more than 2 class days, a physician's note** must be given to the school nurse for him/her to sign. Student will do a written assignment for full credit.

C. **Other Excused Absences**

The student will be allowed to do make-up work for excused absences and medical excuses. Please see Mrs. Warner regarding make up work in which the student has one day per absence day to turn in the make-up work. Should student have missed notes or choreography, it is his/her responsibility to obtain notes or choreography from a peer or the teacher.

D. **Unexcused Absences**

A **zero** will be received for **any grades** given on days where the student has an unexcused absence- student is allowed to make-up missed assignments but **ONLY for a maximum grade of 70%**. It is the student's responsibility to check with the attendance office if an error has been made and bring the proper documentation indicating change.

IV. Dance Etiquette and Behavior (Daily Grade)

- A. **Respect** yourself and others. We strive to create a supportive atmosphere where students are free to experience the joys of dance. This is a judgment free zone. Put-downs will **NOT** be tolerated.
- B. **No gum, food, drinks, throat lozenges, during class.** Bottled water is allowed.
- C. **No street shoes are allowed in the Dance Studio! Dance shoes only.**
- D. ****MRS. JESS ALWAYS WEARS CLEAN SNEAKERS (NOT STREET SHOES) OR DANCE SHOES IN THE DANCE STUDIO****

- E. **Cell phones must be put away in bags/backpacks/etc. for the duration of class UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO USE FOR CLASS PURPOSES. NO CELL PHONES IN THE LOCKER/CHANGING AREA.**
Follow all School Rules regarding all matters.
- F. When not in the studio, please make sure you are following school dress code. Do not roam the halls in dance attire.
- G. **Hair: All hair must be tied back in a ponytail, bun or braid.** Short or stray hair must be pulled back with bobby pins or clips. This will allow students to move freely, concentrate on the proper performance of the skills and stay in the character of the dance. Performance hair is separate from dance studio hair.
- H. Jewelry: A minimal amount of jewelry is allowed because of performance standards and safety concerns. Students must **remove all necessary jewelry** in the locker room **before** entering class.
- I. Students should be involved and attentive during entire class.
- J. **LISTEN** and follow directions and instructions.
- K. Demonstrate self-discipline & effort to improve. Learn to accept dance evaluations/critiques with a positive attitude and do your very best to make corrections and improvements in a reasonable time.
- L. Have an open mind and Never criticize someone's choreography.
- M. No Stealing will be tolerated. Please leave all valuables locked in locker.
- N. Points will be taken off of daily grades when a student has to be told follow any of the above-mentioned rules. If this occurs excessively, a phone call will be made home. If it still occurs, the student will not be allowed to participate & will receive a zero for any grades given that day.

V. Performances

Dance students are scheduled to participate in one to two performances. **If a student consistently fails to suit out during preparation for performances or has repeated behavioral issues in dance class, then student will not perform in the upcoming performance.** Students may be required to purchase part of their performance outfit and/or fundraise. These costs will be coordinated with plenty of time and will be kept to the minimum amount necessary. All costumes that are checked out from the dance department must be returned cleaned. If a student fails to return a costume, he/she will be put on the CHS delinquent list with the business office and will pay the replacement cost of the costume.



Student: I have read and understand the 2023-2024 CHS Dance Course Syllabus & Contract. I will follow the rules and policies entailed.

Parent(s): I have read and understand the 2023-2024 CHS Dance Course Syllabus & Contract. I will encourage my child to follow the rules and policies.