

Dear Georgetown Dance Department Parent,

We would like to welcome you and your child to the Georgetown High School Dance Department and the upper level dance classes! We will be doing many fun activities this year and hope that your student will both enjoy and learn from them. It is our goal to provide all with a dance-enriched experience and a further appreciation to the art form.

In these classes we will take a more in depth look (from a technique standpoint) at various styles of dance such as jazz, modern, ballet, and lyrical. In addition, each level of dance will have topics unique to it's level, as well as history, famous dancers and choreographers, costuming and design, how to critique and analyze dance performances, solo and group choreography, and in some instances learning to become dance teachers themselves. There will be two **mandatory** performances, in which your student will participate. These performances are a required part of the state curriculum for the class. In addition, each student will have to view dance performances outside of the school day.

For your information, we are providing a simple form of the "Class Rules," "Expectations," and "Grading Policy." Please read the entire packet so that you know all that is expected of your student in this class. Also note that both you and your student will need to sign the attached form to indicate understanding of the provided information.

Class Rules

Be Productive
Be Prepared
Be Present
Be Prompt
Be Polite

Expectations

Dress Out
Stay on Task
Always Try
Ask for Help
When In Need
Keep Areas Clean

Grading Policy

25% - Journals, Small Projects, Quizzes, and Evaluations
75% - Daily Grades, Major Projects, Skills and Written Tests

We will provide every effort to help your child achieve an outstanding grade, but the student must understand the importance of their role in obtaining that grade. Please see the Student Handbook for the school's policy regarding all make-up work when an absence occurs. We will do our best to stay in contact with you throughout the year, but if questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact us using the information below.

We are looking forward to a great year,

Rick Scruggs scruggsr@georgetownisd.org
943-5000 ext. 7384

Nikki Prosser youngn@georgetownisd.org
943-5000 ext. 7387

What are the objectives in this class?

The student will explore different dance styles and techniques through various exercises in movement and knowledge of factors that influence dance as well as gain greater self-discipline, and self-confidence.

What are the rules in this class?

The student will be productive, prepared, present, prompt, and polite.

IN ADDITION:

- "I Don't Know" as an answer is not allowed in class....PERIOD!!!
- "I Can't" as a response is not allowed in class....PERIOD!!!

What are the expectations in the class?

- Students are expected to dress out for class each day.
- Students are expected to stay on task and to always try.
- **Dance 2:** This class is designed to be a progression from Dance 1 with more of an intense focus on technique as well as adding elements such as modern, stepping, improvisation, critical thinking, performance qualities, and musical and rhythmical patterns.
- **Dance 3/4:** This class is designed for the student that is truly interested in pursuing a further education in the field of dance. The class will involve more group work and collaboration, solo and group choreography, performance qualities, dance history, analysis and critical thinking, conceptualization and design for the dance genre, as well as tools for becoming a dance teacher with opportunities for student/peer teaching and aide. Outside of school viewing of dance performances will be REQUIRED.

What are the consequences in this class?

- 1st offence: Verbal Warning
- 2nd offence: Phone call home
- 3rd offence: Detention
- 4th offence: Referral

What is the grading policy in this class?

- 25% Journals, Movement Evaluations, Critiques, or Small Projects
*Journals will be due approximately on the 7th week of each grading period.
- 75% Daily Grades and Tests: The daily grade is based on completely dressing out and participation fully in all class activities without being asked. A Daily Grade is recorded every time a student attends class. Our grading procedure is as follows:

Dresses Out	Participates	Grade
Yes	Yes	100
No	Yes	50
Yes	No	0
No	No	0

*Please understand that knowing and executing technique is crucial to receive a passing grade in the course and provide the ability to move on to the next level of dance

What do I wear to class?

- **Dance 2:** (50 points = all or nothing)
 - Students must wear the GHS dance department t-shirt
 - ALL Black dance / workout pants with no colored waistbands, stripes, or logos (no jeans, jeggings, stretch jeans, leggings, tights, etc.)
 - **Dance 3 and 4:** (50 points = all or nothing)
 - ALL Black -students may wear the GHS dance t-shirt or any **danceable shirt**.
 - ALL Black dance / workout pants with no colored waistbands, stripes, or logos (no jeans, jeggings, stretch jeans, leggings, tights, etc.)
- ** No baggy t-shirts, baggy pants, or regular school attire will be permitted ***
- If student does not have proper dress-out attire, then:
 - 1st Offense: Warning, grade of '50', dress-out in borrowed clothes
 - 2nd Offense: Note home to parents with returning signature from parent, grade of '50', dress-out in borrowed clothes
 - 3rd Offense: Immediately sent to office with referral for non-compliance, grade of '0' for that class period.
 - Students may wear dance shoes or be barefoot.
 - Students MUST NOT have rips or tears in their dance clothes or shoes.
 - Students MUST have all of their hair pulled back in a ponytail during class, with no hair in the face (bangs, whiskies, etc). (30 pts.)
 - Students may NOT wear jewelry that dangles or hangs below the earlobes (30 pts.)
 - The student is NOT considered dressed out/prepared for class if he/she has gum in his/her mouth and therefore will not receive dress out credit for class. (50 points = automatic deduction)
 - GHS and/or GISD cannot be responsible for anything that is lost or stolen.
 - Each student will be issued an official GHS Dance Lock / Locker. Students will be charged a fee of \$6 for locks that are not returned or damaged. Do NOT share lockers. Keep your belongings in your own locker at all times and labeled with a black permanent marker.

What are the supplies I will need for dance class?

- \$5 fee for General Dance Supplies
- GHS Dance Shirt (\$10 -- Dance 2) or Appropriate Dance top (Dance 3 & 4).
 - ** Dance 3 & 4 – Regular Street Clothes are NOT ALLOWED!!! ***
- Black dance pants (see description above, as well as examples will be given in class)
- 20 mechanical pencils that will be left in the studio
- Community Supplies by class period:
 - 3rd Period – Dance 3 & 4: 1 Package of Wide Rule Notebook Paper and 2 Full Sheets of White Poster Board
 - 7th Period – Dance 2: 1 Ream of Computer Paper and 1 Long Box of Tissue

**** All supplies are due by September 11th/12th ****

Where can I buy dancewear?

- Dance Department t-shirts will be bought through your dance teacher. The cost is \$10. Bring exact change or a check made out to GHS Dance Department with the students name and period on the memo line. Payment is due by September 11th/12th. If any student has a problem getting dance wear, talk to your teacher by September 5th.
- Students can buy dancewear or athletic wear at stores such as: Dorothy's Dance Shop, Target, Wal-Mart, and Academy as well as online at sites such as www.discountdance.com.

What happens if I am not able to dance during class?

If a student is not able to dance in class due any medical reason, the student must nevertheless dress out for class as well as present a parent note in order to get full credit for the day. The student will be given a written assignment related to dance, and will be expected to turn it in by the end of period to receive credit. If the student will be sitting out for an extended period of time, a note from a physician will be need by the third class day in order to sit out and receive credit for the day. In addition, an assignment will be given that will need to be completed.

If I miss a class, how do I catch up on what I missed?

It is the student's responsibility to catch up any movement that was missed on his or her own time. Because students receive a daily grade, must complete a Make-up assignment. In order to make this grade up, they must find an article on-line about the topic of dance we are currently studying. This might be something about the style of dance itself, its history and origins, a famous piece/dance, or they may choose to focus on a particular choreographer (no Wikipedia articles). Write a full page summary (in their own words) about the article. The student must either type or legibly handwrite this assignment. The student must include a full copy of the article and staple it to the summary. One assignment due for each day missed. These can be turned completed and turned in throughout the 9 weeks. For all other grades (including homework, tests, projects, quizzes, movement tests/quizzes, etc.), it is the student's responsibility make them up according to the make-up policy time frame listed in their student handbooks (three calendar days per day missed).

Will I have to participate in the school-wide fitness gram testing?

YES!!! The State of Texas mandates that each student participate in a Fitness Testing program. Every student in dance class will participate in this testing, whether or not they have done it in another activity. This will be a test grade for their grading period. If you have any health concerns or questions regarding the fitness testing, please contact Chad Hennessey in the GHS Athletic Training office at (512) 943 – 5000 ext. 7200.

BYOD Expectations

We will participate in Bring Your Own Device in Dance 2, 3, and 4 during the 2014-2015 school year. Certain expectations will be met during these specific class periods. Students will **NOT** be allowed to use devices OTHER than specified times. When not allowed to be used, all BYOD **MUST** remain in the student's personal bags in the cubbies or locked in the student's locker in the locker room. They **MAY NOT** be visible. The dance teacher will explain the BYOD expectations further in class, as well as remind prior to and the day of the lesson.

What are the special performances for dance department students?

Please note that this is a co-curricular performance required by the state and all students will receive individual grades based on their participation in this event.

- Every GISD Dance student will perform in "Impressions" held at the Georgetown High School Performing Arts Center. The show will be Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 PM. **Clear your schedules now** and invite family and friends.
- Every GISD Dance student will perform in "Collections" held at the Georgetown High School Little Theatre. This year the show will be on Tuesday, April 14th at 7:00 PM. Clear your schedules now and invite family and friends.

Any student who is unable to attend either of the performances will need to bring a note that includes the student's name, the student's period, and the reason for the conflict. This is the student's responsibility and not anyone else's. This note is due by **Friday, October 31st** for "Impressions" and **Thursday, March 24th** for "Collections". The student will also be required to complete an alternate assignment to make up each of the grades missed. It is at the Dance Teacher's discretion to approve an excused absence. Unexcused absences for any concert dates will result in a grade of "0" and an inability to complete the alternate assignments. The student is still responsible for the 'in class' assignments and/or choreography learned in class if they are going to be absent.

(continue on to Signature Page) →

****Due September 3rd/4th ****

Please complete this page (front and back) and turn it in to your teacher. Keep the rest of this packet for your information.

I understand the Objectives, Goals, Expectations, Procedures, Grading Policy, Dressing Out/Participation expectations, as well as the Special Performance information. I will do my best to follow/help my child follow these guidelines in Dance class.

Date : _____ Period: _____

Teacher's Name Mr. Scruggs

(Please circle one) Dance: 2 3 4

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Please check the box if you would like to volunteer at "Impressions" and/or "Collections."

- "Impressions" – November 20th, 2014
- "Collections" – April 14th, 2015

**** PARENTS ONLY PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION ****

* **Student Name:** _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email Address: _____

* **Mother/Guardian Name:** _____

Work Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email Address: _____

* **Father/Guardian Name:** _____

Work Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email Address: _____