Dance Technique Syllabus
Teachers: Ms. Alastanos, Ms. Mackie & Ms. Mercurio
Loiederman Middle School

Course Description:
The dance program at Loiederman Middle School consists of twelve units of instruction delivered over the course of three years. This course aligns with the National Dance Standards and MCPS Curriculum.

- MS Dance 1 – Modern I, Ballet I, Jazz I, and Latin/Ballroom
- MS Dance 2 – Modern II, Ballet II, Tap I, and Jazz II
- MS Dance 3 - Modern III, Ballet III, Jazz/Hip Hop III, Tap II
- Dance as a Fine Art – Modern IV, Ballet IV, Jazz/Hip Hop IV, and Tap III

Dance Program Goals
The student will demonstrate:

- the ability to perceive, perform, and respond to dance
- an understanding of dance as an essential aspect of history and human experience
- the ability to create and perform dance
- the ability to make aesthetic judgments in dance

Dance Department Contact Information
Ms. Alastanos Tiffany_A_Alastanos@mcpsmd.org
Ms. Mackie Julianna_D_Mackie@mcpsmd.org
Ms. Mercurio Jenna_M_Mercurio@mcpsmd.org
Dance Office Phone 301-929-2282 ext. 1087

Materials for class:

- Loiederman Dance Uniform: see dress code on next page
- Ballet shoes: pink for girls and black for boys (used 2nd quarter) *not required
- Jazz shoes: Black for both boys and girls (used 3rd quarter for MS Dance 1, MS Dance 3 and Dance as a Fine Art and 4th quarter for MS Dance 2)
- Tap shoes: black for both boys and girls (used 3rd quarter for MS Dance 2, provided by LMS)
- During modern dance units and anytime a student does not have shoes, students need to be barefoot, as socks slip while dancing.

Dress Code
Girl: Plain black form fitting shirt and plain black leggings
Boys: Plain black form fitting shirt and plain black shorts or football pants
Dress Code Expectation: All dancers are required to have their hair pulled back off of their face and neck with a hair tie, clip, or a black colored scarf. Shirts should be long enough to cover the stomach during movement.

Students may purchase supplies from the dance department directly by requesting an order form from their teacher or on their own from various stores in the area. Below is a list of recommended stores if you choose not to purchase from the dance department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payless Shoes</th>
<th>Repeat Performance</th>
<th>Les Gals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13653 Connecticut Avenue</td>
<td>5050 B Nicholson Lane</td>
<td>2337 Distribution Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspen Hill, MD 20906</td>
<td>Rockville, MD 20850</td>
<td>Silver Spring, MD 20910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspen Hill Shopping Center</td>
<td>301-881-0800</td>
<td>301-608-323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(301) 438-1346</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Discount Dance Supply       Amazon
www.discountdance.com        www.amazon.com

Dress Out
Students are required to change into their dance uniform (see above for more information) for each class period. Students should report to the locker room at the beginning of each class period. Students will be allowed 4 minutes to change at the beginning and the end of each class period; this is also the time students should use the restroom in preparation for class.

Participation in Class:
Students are expected to fully participate in every aspect of the dance program. Students earn a daily grade based on a 10 point scale that encompasses: technical proficiency, musicality, spatial awareness, sequencing ability, and dynamic range. (see rubric on next page). Please come prepared for dance class with your clothes and materials, just as you would by bringing your math book to math! Students are encouraged to dress and perform every day. It is very important to be prepared, so please see me in advance if dressing out becomes an issue. Being prepared shows your commitment to growing as a dancer at Loiederman Middle School.

Injury Policy: Any student that is sick or injured must have a parent/Doctor’s note in order to be excused from class. If a student is sick or injured he/she will have an alternate assignment to complete related to the class objectives. A parent may excuse a student only 3 times during the course of a semester. After these days are accumulated the student will need a doctor’s note to excuse them from class and must complete a make-up assignment. Students, parents, and doctors are encouraged to discuss the injury to minimize loss of valuable class time.

Grading Policy
10% Homework: Daily Journals, Reflections, Questions of the Day
90% All Tasks (Formative and Summative):
- Class work
- Projects
- Tests/ Quizzes
- Dance Performances (dress rehearsal & concerts)
Students earn a daily grade based on a 10 point scale that encompasses: technical proficiency, musicality, spatial awareness, sequencing ability, and dynamic range.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The student demonstrates <strong>exemplary</strong> dance technique and performance/effort qualities. The student is respectful, cooperative and supportive throughout the class.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The student demonstrates <strong>accomplished</strong> dance technique and performance/effort qualities. The student is respectful throughout class, is able to effectively work with others, and does not require prompts during the class period.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The student demonstrates <strong>proficient</strong> dance technique and performance/effort qualities. The student respects others, is willing to perform tasks, accepts challenges, and needs few prompts in the class period.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The student demonstrates <strong>developing</strong> dance technique and performance/effort qualities. The student performs task with little energy, is reluctant to try new activities and needs some prompts throughout the class.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The student demonstrates <strong>beginning</strong> dance technique and performance/effort qualities. The student is often off task, is unable to control behavior and/or avoid interfering with others, and needs frequent prompts.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The student demonstrates <strong>minimal</strong> dance technique and performance/effort qualities. The student was unable to control behavior and is argumentative.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The student <strong>did not attempt</strong> to participate in class.</td>
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**Dance Concerts**

Each year the dance department hosts two dance concerts in which dance students perform. Please add these dates to your calendars now as to avoid any conflicts in January and April.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Students Report</th>
<th>Show Start</th>
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<td>January 14, 15</td>
<td>During School</td>
<td>During School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dress Rehearsal</td>
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<td>January 15, 16, 17</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Concert</td>
<td>April 8, 9</td>
<td>During School</td>
<td>During School</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rehearsal</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>April 9, 10, 11</td>
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<td>7:00pm</td>
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**Additional Course Information**

**Course Expenses**
- Tickets to the dance concerts are $5. Parents who volunteer to help backstage one night receive 2 free tickets to the night of their choice. Children 5 and under are free.
- Students can buy their dance uniforms through the dance department or they can purchase them on their own for class (see order form).
- Jazz shoes (Dance 1 and Dance as a Fine Art classes only) can be purchased through the dance department or they can be bought on their own (see order form- $20).
- If a student is involved in the after school dance companies we will be participating in the 2019 MCPS Dance Showcase. There will be fee for the bus, master class, food and tickets into the showcase. More information will be available in January and the showcase is tentatively in February 2019.
- Throughout the year there may be a nominal fee for any dance field trips. Students will receive information about these trips in their classes.

**Tactile Teaching**
It is sometimes necessary for the instructor to use physical contact in order to show a correction or adjust alignment. If the student is uncomfortable with this please email the instructor ASAP so that accommodations may be made.

**Lockers**
Students will be assigned a locker for the year through their PE class. Students may use these lockers during PE and dance period, but may not use them as their regular lockers throughout the day. Loiederman Middle School is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please lock away all personal items and for the safety of your items do not share your locker or your combination with anyone.

**Attendance Policy**
Attendance is completed at the beginning of the class period and will play the most important part in a student achieving success. After three unexcused absences a teacher student conference will take place and a phone call home to the parent will occur. The student will then be on a contract basis, to the teacher discretion, if they will be allowed to perform in the dance concert versus completing a research project to receive credit for the class.

**Tardy Policy:**
**Students who are late to class must provide a pass in order to enter class as excused. All students entering class without a pass after 5 minutes will be considered skipping class.**

**Video/Photography Policy**
It is the practice of the dance department at Loiederman Middle School to use video and photography for education purposes. This creates learning opportunity for students by allowing students to see themselves dancing and to analyze their movement. This practice also allows for the dance department to archive performances and promote the dance department in the greater Montgomery County community. Attached is a waiver allowing your student to be photographed for educational and archival purposes.
Dance Related Film Release
Throughout the year the dance department will be showing clips from some films in order to relate the students’ movement to that of professionals or contemporary and historical artists. Please inform your child’s teacher if you do not give permission to view these films.

- Cirque du Soleil (PG): Modern Dance and Arco-based movement
- Dance with Me (PG): Latin dance
- Newsies (PG): Jazz dance
- This is It (PG): Dance creation and jazz technique
- Mad Hot Ballroom (PG): Latin Dance and choreography documentary
- Singing in the Rain (G): Dance and music, dance on film
- Hairspray (PG): Dance and music, dance on film
- Happy Feet (PG): Tap technique and animation from real movement
- Happy Feet Two (PG): Tap technique and animation from real movement
- First Position (PG) - Ballet Technique
- Mao’s Last Dancer (PG) - Ballet Technique
- Strictly Ballroom (PG) - Ballroom Technique
- Swing Time, Top Hat - Tap
- The Ballet Shoes (PG) - Ballet Technique
- Jig (PG): Irish Step Dance – Cultural Dance
- Breakin’ 2 (PG): Hip Hop and Breakdance
- Fame (2010 PG): Modern and Jazz dance
- The Wiz (G): Rhythmic
- Ballet 422 (PG): Ballet Company
- Dance on Film: Alvin Ailey, Martha Graham, Grupo Corpo, Dance Afrika, Stomp
- First Position: Ballet documentary about students preparing for Ballet competition
- A Ballerina’s Tale: Documentary about Misty Copeland’s rise to principal ballerina
- The Greatest Showman (PG) - Choreography

Bathroom Policy
Students are given time at the beginning and the end of the class period to change in the locker rooms. Students should plan on using this time to use the restroom because students will not be permitted to leave the dance room during class. If there is a medical need in which the student will frequently need to use the restroom during class, this should be documented with the school nurse.

Classroom Expectations
1. Students are expected to be dressed and ready for class on time. “Ready” means that the student has proper attire on and their hair is pulled back out of their face and up off of their neck.
2. Talking in class is not permitted unless otherwise specified by the teacher. Please use appropriate language at all times.
3. The teacher will dismiss the students. Do not leave class without permission for any reason including to get a drink of water.
4. Copied or shared work of any sort will not be accepted for a grade.
5. Students who need to borrow shoes must fill out a form in the Women’s PE Office. The shoes must be returned each day and if lost/stolen/damaged the student will have to replace the item borrowed.
6. Need Help? Don’t wait to ask! Make an appointment!!

Things Not Permitted in the Dance Studio
* Revealing clothing * Hats * Cell phones/iPods/MP3 players * Socks
* Jewelry * Food * Drinks other than water * Street shoes

* Cell phones must be kept locked in a student’s PE or hallway locker. No electronic devices will be permitted for use during dance class. In the event of special projects where students may use their own device for music purposes, students will be informed in advance. Use of cell phones without permission from instructor will result in phones being taken by security and kept in the main office until the end of the day.
I have read the dance department syllabus and understand the information presented about this course. My signature documents an agreement to adhere to these policies.

____________________  ______________________  ______
Student Signature    Parent Signature    Date

I understand that I must participate in both concerts and all necessary rehearsals in order to receive credit for this course.

____________________  ______________________  ______
Student Signature    Parent Signature    Date

I give permission for my daughter/son to be photographed or video recorded for educational and archival purposes.

____________________  ______________________  ______
Student Signature    Parent Signature    Date

**Dance Concert Dates**

****Don't forget to add these to your calendar****

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Student Information

Student Name: _____________________________________________

Teacher: (Circle One)  Alastanos  Mackie  Mercurio

Period: __________________________  Grade: ________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: ________________________________

Language Spoken at Home: _________________________________________

Home Phone: ______________________________________________

Work Phone: ______________________________________________

Parent Cell Phone: __________________________________________

Parent E-Mail: _____________________________________________

What is the best way to contact a parent/guardian during the school day: __________________

Health concerns/issues about your child:
____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

PLEASE HELP!!!

Each dance class needs at least one parent volunteer for each dance performance. **Two free dance concert tickets** will be offered to parents who volunteer. Check below if you can help with any performances. We cannot hold dance concerts without your help. Thank you in advance for your help!

_____ Yes, I can help, please contact me closer to the date!

_________________________________  ______________________  _________________

Parent Name  Phone Number  Email