

Willis High School Dance Department: SYLLABUS AND CLASSROOM POLICIES

Instructor: Katy Giroux, M.Ed

Welcome to the Willis High School Dance Department! We will be doing many fun activities this year and hope you will both enjoy and learn from them. It is my goal to provide all with a dance-enriched experience.

In Dance 1-4 we will study many styles of dance such as jazz, modern, ballet, lyrical, hip-hop, tap, folk, ballroom, partner, and other styles from countries around the world. Dance 1 is for beginning dancers. Skills progress in levels 2-4.

All of these courses will acquaint the dancers with dance class etiquette, vocabulary, history of their style and legends of the dance world, anatomy, proper health & nutrition, strength & conditioning, musical relationships, production elements in relation to dance, real-world applications of dance in their future, and elements of performance. In order to achieve the goals of these courses, the dancer-student MUST strive to conduct themselves in a respectful way at ALL times. Self-discipline, confidence, dedication and humbleness are extremely necessary for all participants.

For your information, I am providing a simple form of the Class Rules and Expectations. Please familiarize yourself with the packet provided to know all that is expected of your student in this class. Also note that both you and your parent will need to sign the attached form to indicate understanding of the provided information.

<p><u>Class Rules</u> Be Present Be Prompt Be Prepared Be Productive Be Polite</p>	<p><u>Expectations</u> Dress Out No Gum, Hair back Stay on Task Always Try Complete Assignments</p>
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I 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. I will do my best to stay in contact with you throughout the year, but if questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below. Looking forward to a great year!

Teacher Bio, homework, syllabus, important dates, teacher schedule, handouts, announcements, links, email, and FAQ are all available at the websites below. I will update Canvas assignments on a weekly basis depending on if there are new class materials. Students who are absent or misplace items are responsible for checking the website to access them. You may view all class procedures, rules, etc. on this website.

Katy Giroux

Kgiroux@willisid.org

936-856-1325

<https://www.willisid.org/Domain/2229>

Texas Future Dance Educators <https://sites.google.com/site/texasfuturedanceeducators/>

What are the objectives in this class?

- To learn self-discipline, self-confidence and dedication through dance using the body as an expressive instrument.
- To work on strong technical development as a dancer.
- To develop kinesthetic awareness.
- To develop an understanding of these historical techniques through movement, lectures, video, readings, and performing.
- To develop ballet, jazz, and modern/contemporary vocabulary with proper spelling.
- To understand proper conditioning and stretching principles.
- To understand proper health and nutrition and body awareness.
- To understand basic anatomy and gain the ability to apply such knowledge to class activities.
- To be able to find rhythm of music, understand basic time signatures and musical applications to dance.
- To improve artistic and expressive nature, memorization, and execution as a performer
- To get an introduction to production for dance.
- To look at future options in dance or it's application and impact in daily lives.

What are the rules in this class?

- Be Present
- Be Prompt
- Be Prepared
- Be Productive
- Be Polite

What are the student expectations in the class?

- Students are expected to dress out for class each day (top, bottom, and shoes).
- Students are expected to complete journal questions and vocabulary.
- Students are expected to have their phones on silent and put away during the entire class.
- Students are expected to stay on task.
- Students are expected to always try in class.
- Students are expected to ask for help when they need it.
- Students are expected to complete all tests, quizzes, and projects.
- Students are expected to perform in class.
- Students are expected to follow Student Handbook and practice Digital Citizenship.

What is the grading policy in this class?

Dresses Out	Participates	Grade
Yes	Yes	100
No	Yes	50
No	No	0
Grade varies for	hair, jewelry,gum and	clothing violations

If a student does not actively participate in class, the student is required to participate with an in-class assignment. Dance is not a study hall or a sleep lab. Any student found working on other subjects during class time will receive a "0" for the daily grade. Continuation of unapproved behavior will result in removal from the

course. Students with extended absences due to illness/injury will be given long term assignments but may have to be dropped from the course.

Please note:

- Students who received a failing grade (69 and below) on a test, quiz, or project in their dance class will be allowed to retake/resubmit his/her assessment for a maximum grade of 100 within the specified window.
- **WISD Parent Portal** is an excellent way to manage and be informed about your grades. Please review your grades on a weekly basis and take care of matters as soon as they arise.
- Do contact your teacher to discuss **extenuating circumstances** such as serious illness, family emergencies or urgent matters.
- Projects that are NOT turned in on time will be marked "M" for missing which averages as a zero in the gradebook until the student's work is submitted.

What are the classroom procedures?

1. Drop off your backpack/personal belongings along with your shoes on the storage compartment right outside the dance studio. **SHOES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE STUDIO.**
2. Come straight to the locker room to change in **CORRECT ATTIRE**, hair back, no gum, jewelry off.
3. Bring any medical/parent notes, late assignments to teacher
4. Be in the studio sitting in your assigned space no later than 7 minutes after the bell for attendance..
5. Students should bring a water bottle to class due to no access to water fountains.
6. If a student needs to leave the studio for any reason (nurse/office) a coverup and shoes must be worn.
7. Students will have 8 minutes to change and clean up after class.

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

If a student is not able to dance in class due to illness or injury, the student must nevertheless dress out for class as well as present a parent/doctor's note in order to get full credit for the day. (Only 2 allowed per 9 weeks) Students who are unable to dance must also complete a written assignment for complete credit of class. Student request to not participate does not qualify as excused reason for alternate assignment.

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

Students who miss class must either catch up during tutorials, flex time, or learn movement from other students. Check your teacher's Canvas for assignments missed.

School related absences

Students who will miss class due to a school related activity (game, field trips, etc.) must pick up their assignments and make arrangements for any test missed **BEFORE THE ABSENCE** and are expected to keep up with the class.

What do I wear to class?

Dance 1-4

- Students must wear a black top with any black dance pants/leggings. (Wearing your school clothes does not qualify as dressing out).

- Students must also wear jazz shoes, black socks, or barefeet. No street shoes.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

- NO BARE MIDRIFTS, do not tie dance shirt to make a crop top.
- Students must have their hair pulled back in a ponytail during class.
- Students may not wear jewelry that dangles.
- NO GUM or JEWELRY! NO EXCEPTIONS! Points will be taken off daily grade if not complied.
- Students must wear a cover up when walking around the school.
- Students must label all of their dancewear with a black permanent marker.
- We suggest keeping an extra set of dance clothes at school
- ALL students need a cover up and shoes for walking to and from classes around school.
- OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS: water bottle, towel, bring asthma medications to class

Where can I buy dancewear?

- Students can buy dancewear in many different ways:
 - At any dancewear store such as: Jazz Rags
 - Target, Walmart, Academy have black pants and often shoes as well.
 - Online dancewear stores such as: www.discountdance.com
 - If you need to place an order, you will wear basic clothing to move in such as shorts or sweatpants and a T-Shirt until it arrives. Send a parent note to school to explain.
 - Dance Department T-shirt will be ordered through your teacher for \$10.

What happens if my dance clothes get lost or stolen?

Willis High School and/or WISD cannot be responsible for anything that is lost or stolen. Keep an eye at all times on your belongings. Also, make sure your dance clothes get labeled with a black permanent marker. Use your locker! You will have to repurchase any lost materials.

Can I bring food, drinks or cell phones to class?

No. According to district policy visible cell phones must be taken up by teachers if they do not comply with the policy. Cell phones are only allowed in the hallways unless directed otherwise. If you have a cell phone out during class, it will be confiscated and given to the office. No food or drinks are allowed in the studio. Water only!

IMPORTANT:

Remember dance is a physical activity with physical risks and teacher may often use physical contact for corrections. Physical contact may also take place between students. If you misplace something, forgot dates, miss class, you are responsible for checking Canvas and/or Teacher Websites.