**Dance Fine Arts I-IV Syllabus**

**Instructor Information:**

Sara Kercho

sara.kercho@fwisd.org

817-814-7000

Conference: 4th Period

1st Period Drill Team (Small Gym)

2nd Period Dance (Small Gym)

3rd Period Dance (Small Gym)

6th Period Dance (Small Gym)

7th Period Dance (Small Gym, Large Auditorium on Fridays)

8th Period Dance (Small Gym, Large Auditorium on Fridays)

**Website**: www.scorpionsdance.weebly.com

You will use the Scorpions Dance website to access assignments, projects & to study throughout the year.

**Remind101:** Text @scorpdance to 81010

This is important when we have to change class locations for the day or for a specific class period.

**Course Description:** This course is intended to provide an understanding of dance and creative movement. In this class, we will cover everything from basic knowledge of dance terminology and skill in ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop, contemporary, improvisation, and social dance to an understanding and mastery of choreography techniques, spatial awareness, rhythmic structure, stage production, and dance history.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To learn self-discipline, self-confidence, and dedication through dance using the body as an expressive instrument.
2. To explore different dance styles and techniques through various exercises in movement.
3. To develop knowledge of factors that influence dance, including history and culture.
4. To develop a dance vocabulary, various choreographic skills, and a kinesthetic awareness.
5. To develop an appreciation of music and the arts.

*A large part of your success in this class will depend on your ability to work in groups, complete tasks, perform in front of the class, and put forth an effort to learn.* **PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS!**

**Course Supplies:** You need a notebook/paper to take notes and complete assignments, a folder/binder to keep handouts, jazz shoes (need for fall & spring shows), chromebook/smartphone for days we have an online component to your assignment.

**Attire**: You will be required to purchase a dance department t-shirt (or more than one) to wear to class and use for finale performance. You will need to have shorts, leggings (not jeggings) or pants that you can dance in.

Students will need to wear clothing that is appropriate to dance in (no jeans, dresses or other school/street clothes). Students will be required to **dress out** in dance class. Each student must remain in dress code. Student’s hair should be secure out of their face. No loose jewelry should be worn. Dressing out is part of the student’s grade. **20 points will be deducted from the student’s dress out grade each day when he or she does not dress out.** You must still participate even if you don’t dress out.

**Please use the restrooms and the locker room to change and dress out. You should NEVER be changing where someone can walk in and see you.**

**Acceptable Footwear**: Jazz shoes, ballet shoes, any other appropriate dance shoes, non-marking tennis shoes. No boots, flip flops, or dress shoes in class. You will be required to purchase jazz shoes for class and our dance departments shoes unless you are already own a pair.

**Ballet Barres & Mirrors:** Please do not hang on or sit on the ballet barres. Classroom mirrors are equipment to enhance your dancing. Do not touch the mirrors, lean on the mirrors, or do your hair and makeup or take pictures using the mirrors during class time.

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Be respectful.
2. Be prepared for class.
3. Listen and follow instructions.
4. T-R-Y. Try your best!
5. Keep an open mind.
6. Use appropriate, polite, respectful language.
7. No cell phones out during class except when approved for assignment.
8. Only water is allowed in class. No food, gum, other drinks!
9. Help pick up every day before we leave.

**Class Procedures:**

1. Students have **5 minutes** after the tardy bell to be dressed out and in their designated roll call spot. **If you are in the small gym/auditorium, but not in your spot, you will receive 5 points off your daily grade.** **Additionally, if you are late without a pass, you will receive 5 points off your daily grade**. Sign the tardy log or speak to Ms. Kercho if class has already started when you arrive, to ensure that you are marked present.
2. Be sure your cell phone and other electronic devices are turned off and put away during class. You may only use your phone at designated times as determined by your teacher.
3. Cell phones will be taken up if uses continues after reminder to put phones away.
4. You must fill out the bathroom log to leave the class. You may be asked to leave your phone in order to receive the hall pass. If you consistently start leaving class every day or for long periods of time, your bathroom privileges will be revoked. Please do your best to use the restroom during passing periods.
5. Behave in a respectful manner to each other and anyone who enters the classroom.
6. Students will be required to work cooperatively in groups and as a class on a daily basis.
7. Students will have 3-5 minutes at the end of the period to change back into school clothes.

**Course Expectations:**

Participation, commitment, and a positive attitude are essential for success in dance class. I expect students to come prepared for class, act appropriately, and be respectful. I ask that you give your best every day and simply TRY.

**Grading Procedures:**

40% Daily Participation, Daily Dress Out, Daily Assignments, Weekly Responses, Quizzes, Etc.

60% Tests, Performances, Projects, Reflections

**Make-up Work Policy:**

As per district policy, students have 24 hours for each absence to complete and turn in make-up work. Please be responsible and ask for make-up work if you are absent! **It is YOUR responsibility to get anything you missed.** If there wasn’t a written assignment, there is a generic makeup assignment for you to earn your credit for that day.

**Injuries:**

If you become injured and need to sit out, you will need to provide a doctor’s note with limitations and duration and an alternative assignment will be provided.

Short Term injuries requiring a dance to sit out must produce a parent or doctor’s note (in writing or email) specifying the illness/injury before class begins. If the condition lasts more than three days, it is considered long term and doctor’s note must be presented.

Long Term is considered 3 or more days and a doctor’s note to excuse the dancer from participating is required. Once the student is released to dance, another doctor note is needed in order to return to activity.

**Late Work Policy:**

10 points off for **each day** assigned work is late. A maximum of 50 points off for late work. If the student fails to turn in the assigned work, the student will receive a 0.

**Dress Out Grade:**

You start each week with a 100 for your daily dress out grade. Failure to dress out at all will result in a 0 for your daily dress out grade for the week.

**Participation Grade:**

You start each week with a 100 for a daily participation grade. You have to be here in order to participate. Your timely presence in class is necessary to receive a 100 in this grade category.

*Points may be deducted for:*

Being tardy to roll call, being on your phone, talking at inappropriate times, chewing gum/eating/drinking other than water, being off task, not stretching, non-participation in activities, etc.

**Rehearsing:**

I understand that dance is a physical activity and that in order to give movement and alignment corrections, physical contact from the faculty members to the student is sometimes necessary. Students may be asked to partner with another student for a particular exercise or to do peer corrections during a class that is concentrating on body fundamentals and body care.

**Performance Information:**

Students enrolled in any level of dance are **required** to participate in recitals and dance productions for the school year as part of their formal assessments.

***MANDATORY* SHOW DATES: FALL: DECEMBER 13, 2019**

**(Back-up Date December 14)**

**SPRING: MAY 1, 2020**

*The dance ensemble and upper level dancers may be asked to participate and perform in the district showcase typically in February.*

**FUNDRAISING EXPECTATIONS:**

You will be expected to fundraise or pay for items required for class - dance department t-shirt, jazz shoes, tights.

You may also fundraiser or purchase optional items as well - additional dance shirts and attire (long sleeve, hoodie, dance bottoms)

Our fundraiser will begin on August 30. All items will be purchased through the dance department. If you do not fundraise, you will need to bring cash for your items to be ordered.

Items to sign and get signed or return:

* Syllabus Agreement
* Media Release

**Student/Parent Dance Syllabus Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*student name*), have read and agree to follow all of the rules, policies, and procedures in dance class. I will try my best and come to class with a positive attitude every day. I understand I am required to perform multiple styles of dance in class and in front of audiences. I understand I am required to perform in hair, makeup, and costume in fall and spring shows and the show is open to the public. I understand I will not be exempt from any required dance performances as it is an assessment. I also understand that jazz shoes, department t-shirt and tights are necessary items for dance class and can fundraise in order to cover the cost.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As the parent/guardian of the student, I understand all policies and procedures for the dance program at South Hills High School and agree to help develop and support my child in dance class. I understand my child is required to perform multiple styles of dance in class and in front of public audiences. I understand that my child is required to perform in hair, makeup, and costume in the fall and spring shows and the show is open to the public. My child will not be exempt from any required dance performances as it is a necessary assessment for a dance class. I understand that certain items are needed for dance class, but my student can fundraise to cover the cost. I understand that a large portion of my student’s grade involves participation and dressing out. I will encourage my student to demonstrate appropriate behavior in class.

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_