

Department of Dance Contact Information

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*Just to dance --
Just to soar --
Just to whirl --
Just to pose --
Just to prance --
Just to yearn --*

*With body sculpted, statuesque, step in flawless
syncopation with the corps in tight formation, making
time with every heartbeat, every turn...to be poetry in
motion, with disciplined devotion.
JUST TO DANCE!*

*Excerpts from "Just to Dance"
Linda Staten*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 4

MISSION STATEMENT 5

VISION STATEMENT 5

ABOUT THE DANCE DEPARTMENT 5

DANCE FACULTY 7

AUDITION 9

STUDIO DRESS REQUIREMENTS 10

PROPER CLASSROOM & STUDIO DECORUM FOR DANCERS..... 11

SELECTION PROCESS FOR CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKS 12

NON-PARTICIPATION POLICY 12

PREGNANCY POLICY 14

ATTENDANCE..... 14

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PERFORMANCE AND STUDY POLICY..... 15

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS..... 16

PROGRESS REPORT 17

DANCE DEPARTMENT PARENT SUPPORT GROUP 18

ELLINGTON DANCE ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW? 19

HAND BOOK RECEIPT 20

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Dance Department at Duke Ellington School of the Arts. We have prepared this handbook to ease your transition into our department, and it contains Policies and Procedures you and your parent will use throughout your time as a Dance student. Please note, the curriculum is continually evolving, and this handbook may or may not reflect curricular changes the department and the school have recently implemented or are presently in the process of implementing. Hopefully, this handbook will answer many, if not all, of your questions.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Dance Department at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts is to train selected students in the historical, technical and artistic elements of modern dance and classical ballet along with other dance techniques and dance-related courses such as Ethnic Dance, Dance Orientation, Dance History, Dance Composition and Dance Improvisation.

Students are given a complete foundation in dance through our core curriculum. Through this process, they are being prepared for acceptance into a university, conservatory and/or a professional setting. Some students are accepted directly into professional companies as apprentices and/or full company members.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to meet the needs of talented students who are considering careers in dance by providing intensive dance instruction of the highest quality and a strong academic curriculum. All courses and departmental activities are designed to accomplish the following goals:

- To develop artistic and creative potential through a sequentially developed curriculum in both technical and theoretical dance courses.
- To provide performance opportunities at the appropriate level.
- To increase an appreciation of dance as an art form.
- To broaden an understanding of other art forms and their relationship to dance.
- To develop an understanding of physiologically sound movement principles.
- To maintain a high standard of discipline and excellence.
- To initiate community involvement through volunteer service and performances.
- To instill a sense of ethics and professionalism.

ABOUT THE DANCE DEPARTMENT

The Duke Ellington School of the Arts Dance Department in Washington, DC has been in existence since 1974. Now in our 37th year, Ellington's Dance Department has had the opportunity to perform in venues both nationally and internationally. We are honored to have performed and participated in The International Association of Blacks in Dance Conferences in Texas, Canada, DC, California, New York and Philadelphia; the National High School Dance Festivals in Philadelphia, PA, and Miami, Florida; and the 21st Annual International Association of Blacks in Dance (I.A.B.D) in Denver, Colorado, as visiting guest artists performing with the Denver School of the Arts.

The Dance Department also has traveled to Bermuda as guests for a two-month residency sponsored by a grant through DC Public Schools, "Learning Through Dance." The Ellington dancers also have extended their talents for community outreach programs and professional

organizations. Collaborative endeavors include Sallie B. Howard for Arts and Education; The Executive Leadership Conferences; “Ballet on Wheels” with the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Director Ted Bergeron; Ronald McDonald’s House for Children, North Carolina; Kinston Children’s Village Academy; St. Paul’s Church for their “Mission Ministry”; and the Washington National Cathedral Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, “Visions of the Future”; and the Thomas Jefferson High School, Arlington VA.; Celebrating M.L. King’s Birthday.

The Dance department has welcomed the opportunities to experience master classes and guest appearances with renowned performers, artists and choreographers, Louis Johnson, Arthur Mitchell, Carmen de Lavallade, Suzanne Farrell, Walter Nicks, Ronald K. Brown, Cleo Parker Robinson, Steve Rooks, Karen Brown, Pat Thomas and Ralph Glenmore along with Ellington guest alumni Elana Anderson, Ralph Glenmore, Sandra Holloway and Kevin Malone. We were especially honored to have the opportunity to participate in a workshop with Walter Nicks, as a result of an extended invitation through the late Dr. Sherrill Berryman Johnson, former Director of the Dance Program at Howard University. We are fortunate to have CalArts, Long Island University and Julliard host auditions for college acceptances. We also have been privileged to have residencies from professional dance companies: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Paul Taylor II, the Kirov, Lula Washington Dance Theater, American Ballet Theater and Urban Bush Women. For the past several years, we have been honored to have as our resident choreographer Christopher Huggins.

Duke Ellington’s Dance Department closes its season every year with a Gala/Spring Dance Concert. In 2007, the faculty of the dance department re-named the dance studios “The Mike Malone Studios.” This honors the legacy of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts co-founder, Mr. Alvan Duncan “Mike” Malone. In 2008, we continued this celebration by “Remembering Our Legacy”. 2009 saw us “Taking Our Best and Moving Forward”, with Guest Artist Carmen de Lavallade and JC Hayward as our Mistress of Ceremonies. We happily returned in 2010, with JC Hayward kicking off our “Dance, Dance, Dance, the Ellington Rhythm” Gala with Guest Artist Renee Robinson from The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In 2011, “Saluting the Dream Makers” honored Artistic Director, Joan Myers Brown with her company, PHILADANCO as our special guest artist.

DANCE FACULTY

Charles Augins – winner of the Olivier Award, the NAACP Award and the L.A. Theater Ovation Award for Best Choreographer for *Five Guys Named Moe*, is currently Chair of the Dance Department. He served as the school's first Director of Dance from 1974-1976, during which time he made cultural trips to the Bolshoi and Kirov Ballet Schools in Russia. Originally from Virginia, Charles studied with the Arlington Recreation Department and the Jones Haywood School of Ballet in Washington, DC and worked with every major black choreographer in the States. His work includes: the Broadway production of *Guys and Dolls* and *Let My People Come*; the London production for *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, *Kiss Me Kate* at the Old Vic in Bristol: *Snapshots* at the Edinburgh Festival Opera and *Porgy and Bess* at the Royal Opera House. His television work in the Emmy Award-winning children's show *Zoom* and numerous programs in England, most notably as Mr. A on the *Russell Harty Show* for the BBC. He was nominated for the Helen Hayes Award for his choreography on the U.S. production of *The Fix*, directed by Eric Schaffer at the Signature Theater. From 2003 – 2006, Mr. Augins also served as Dean of Arts at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. His work as a consultant/teacher includes Spelman College, Savannah College of Art and Design and the Tokyo Academy of Music. In 2008, Mr. Augins received the African American Heritage Dancers and Drummers Award for his contributions to the arts in the DC area and internationally.

Sandra Fortune-Green – is an experienced teacher of classical ballet using Vaganova based teaching techniques and methodology. An acclaimed performer Sandra was the only African American female to ever compete in the prestigious Second International Ballet Competition in Moscow, Russia, finishing 26 out of 126 participating dancers. She has also toured the world with engagements in the United States, Bulgaria, Canada, Santo Domingo and China. Mrs. Fortune-Green is the recipient of a Mayor's Arts Award for "Excellence in an Artistic Discipline" and most recently, was interviewed and honored by History Makers, an archival project of video oral history collections in New York's Schomburg Library and the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum. Sandra has served as a faculty member at Howard University in the Department of Theater Arts/Dance Majors Area of Concentration for fifteen years and has been on the dance faculty of Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Dance Department for 31 years. Sandra is the proud owner of the Jones –Haywood Dance School, Inc. (formerly known as Jones-Haywood School of Ballet), where she began her formal training now assuming leadership as Artistic Director.

Mrs. Fortune Green is a 2011 recipient, and accepted a leadership and Visionary, DC Mayors Arts Award in the Arts. This award recognizes the founders, the late Doris Jones and Claire Haywood for their tireless efforts in the arts since 1941.

Katherine J. Smith – a 1979 graduate of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts (University of the Arts), Ms. Smith earned her B.F.A. in modern dance from the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts. She has worked with some of the country's best-known choreographers, toured nationally and internationally and performed with Dayton Contemporary and Rod Rodgers Dance Companies. Her recent credits include George Faison's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* at Center Stage; Debbie Allen's *Souls Possessed* and Mike Malone's "Black Nativity" and the Helen Hayes Award-winning *Bessie's Blues*. Ms. Smith is former artistic co-director of Adrian Bolton and Katherine Smith Dance Center. She has served as artistic program manager for BodyMoves Contemporary Dance Company in Ft. Washington. She is also on the dance faculty at Howard University and an Executive board Member of the International Association of Blacks in Dance.

Treanna Alexander – a 1978 graduate of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Treanna attended The University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music and Dance. She was a member of the Capital Ballet Company, founder and director of Treanna's Inspirational Dance Troupe, and is currently on faculty with the University of the District of Columbia's National Youth Sports Program. Mrs. Alexander has initiated and directed numerous dance programs within the DC Public Schools. She is also consultant and company teacher for the dance ministry at Nativity Catholic Church.

Nikki Sutton-Mackey – a 1992 graduate of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Mrs. Mackey trained at the University of the Arts and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. A former member of the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble & Philadanco II, Mrs. Mackey has had extensive performance experience in both stage and television productions. She is the former Artistic Director of the Expressions Dance Theater in Clinton MD. There she trained both the youth and pre-teen dance companies (*Pizzazz & Precision*). Through her love of dance, she has explored the world of fitness as a personal trainer and aerobics instructor throughout the DC Metropolitan area.

Melvin Deal – Mr. Deal, founding Executive Artistic Director of the African Heritage Dancers Drummers, is a veteran artist of more than 40 years. Mr. Deal has worked tirelessly in researching African cultural manifestations to be used in the building of self esteem and addressing the presence of violence, delinquency and dysfunctional lifestyles and abuse in African-American communities. An accomplished, dancer, musician, choreographer, researcher and director, Melvin is a graduate of Howard university, with a BA in Fine Arts & Education. He has studied a Ghana University, University of Nigeria at Ibadan and at numerous cultural institutions nationally and abroad in the African Diaspora. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Washington's "Living Legends" award 1980; "Washingtonian of the year," 1981; "Mayor's Arts Award," 1981; Baltimore's "Great Blacks in wax Award," 1995; and Philadelphia "CODUND" Award, 1995.

Mr. Deal is an African dance instructor and choreographer here at Ellington and performs and teaches regularly in the African Heritage Dance Center and in other elementary & secondary school systems. He conducts master classes, seminars and lecture demonstrations for colleges and universities and provides special cultural input to motivational programs such as the Robins Research Institute, National Association of Social Workers, National Association of Blacks Psychologists, Boys & Girls Scouts of America and the Office of Criminal Justice.

AUDITION

Dance auditions are held in the preceding school year. Students are adjudicated from public, private, and parochial schools. Students who are currently in the 8th and 9th grades are considered for placement. Students in the 8th grade who do not pass the audition are welcome to re-audition during the following school year.

Students auditioning for the dance department must:

- Wear leotards and tights or shorts and a tee shirt
- Have hair pulled back, away from face in a tight bun, secured with a thin hairnet
- Remove all jewelry
- Remove all fingernail and toenail polish
- Physically and verbally express their passion for the art of dance
- Show a strong desire to work diligently on technique
- Display a willingness to accept discipline and/or positive correction
- Exhibit flexibility, a natural sense of movement, musicality, and an innate ability to follow directions.

In order to be scheduled to audition, you must provide;

- A copy of your transcript or latest report card
- Two (2) letters of recommendation: 1 arts, and 1 academic
- Documentation of a full physical exam. The exam must be signed by a physician, and be in effect for the current school year
- Two (2) 8x10” photographs: one (1) head shot (portrait) and one (1) full body shot. Photographs are non-returnable
- IEP information, if applicable.

Your dance audition is a two-day audition. Please be sure to arrive on time, prepared to dance, and with all required documentation already submitted. **Late arrivals or applicants without all documentation described above will not be allowed to audition.** Due to the high number of dance applicants, dance auditions cannot be rescheduled. After your audition you will be notified of the results of your audition. Dancers who advance beyond the first audition must attend call back and/or final call back auditions, as scheduled.

Final Call-Back

The call-back and/or final call back is an elimination process that narrows the field of auditionees down to a select few. Acceptance into the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Dance Department will be determined during this final call-back. All decisions are final.

Academic Placement

Based upon their audition performance, students will be invited to take the academic assessment test. Because we have applicants from so many different schools, this test allows us to better understand an applicant’s report card and other academic records. Should the student attend Ellington, the test results also assist in placement.

Family Interview

The interview with prospective students and their parents/caregivers will review the student’s first-year program (courses and required tutoring) and information about expectations of the school. Ellington’s course of study is rigorous and this interview ascertains the level of seriousness of the student. This will also ascertain the student’s level of commitment, as well as the parents’, to the Dance department, the Dance department organization, and all Dance department activities and functions, and the school as a whole.

All notification and correspondence will be handled through the Office of Admissions

STUDIO DRESS REQUIREMENTS

The dance department requires that all students be dressed properly for class, with appropriate clothes, shoes, and hairstyle. No outerwear will be allowed in class (i.e., T-shirts, leg warmers, sweat/pajama pants or shorts).

FEMALES

- Black Leotard (Tank)
- Flesh-tone convertible tights
- Flesh-tone (canvas) ballet shoes
- Pointe shoes (when required)

FEMALES LEVEL 3 & 4

- Black Ballet Skirt
- Black convertible tights – Modern

MALES

- White tank T-shirt
- Black Convertible tights
- White leather ballet shoes
- White crew cut socks
- Black dance belt (supporter)
- Leather belt (waist)

HAIRSTYLE FOR FEMALES

All hair must be pulled back, away from face in a secure bun, covered with a thin hairnet.

HAIRSTYLE FOR MALES

Neatly close-cropped hair

MALES AND FEMALES

No braids, twists, extensions, locs, Bantu knots, cornrows, Mohawks, no sculpted hair, no ponytail, hair color, dyes, hennas, headwraps and/or scarves.

JEWELRY AND BODY ADORNMENTS

- No rings, nose rings, body adornments, watches, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, etc. (small stud only for girls)
- No nail or toe polish (nails must be no longer than fingertips)
- Visible tattoos must be covered with make-up daily).

NO MAKE-UP PERMITTED

Failure to adhere to any of the above requirements will result in the students' non-participation and earning a grade of "0" for the day, which will constitute as an unexcused absence. To Start Changing Policies For The Sake Of The Individual Will Surely Begin To Erode Our Standards.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

As specified in the Community Handbook.

PROPER CLASSROOM & STUDIO DECORUM FOR DANCERS

In the study of dance, students are not merely learning a technique. They are learning an art form, which possesses a rich history and a set of established traditions. It is most important that students are aware of these traditions, or protocol, since most instructors will automatically assume that they have an understanding of them. Failure to comply with the established policies is unacceptable and will be reflected in the student's grade.

The dance faculty expects all students to maintain proper dress and behavior in all classes throughout the school day. The following rules and guidelines will help you to meet our expectations:

- Be dressed for class in the regulation uniform with a well groomed appearance.
- Be on time for class. Do not hang out in the dressing room.
- All students must stand, stop talking and acknowledge instructors' entrance into the studio.
- If you are late, you must ask permission to take class. If the teacher does not give permission, you must sit on the floor, observe, and take notes.
- Do not enter or leave class without the instructor's permission. If you know ahead of time that you need to leave early, tell the teacher before class begins. If you feel you are unable to finish class due to illness or any other reason, tell the instructor before you leave.
- Never sit down in class unless you are finished. Muscles relax and cool down too quickly, causing the body to be susceptible to injuries. Do not use ballet barres as a resting place or a place miscellaneous clothing or jewelry. for
- Students must develop the discipline and understanding of how to use your mental capabilities to work out individual problems. One of the most important facets of technique class is concentration. Pay attention to the total movement, focusing on sequence and quality.
- Corrections are essential to improvement in all dance classes. Acknowledge the correction with a positive response. Even if you are not the one receiving the correction, apply the information given. Often the situation will call for you to repeat the movement attempting to put the correction into effect. If you do not understand the correction, ask for further clarification.
- The student is in class to learn discipline as well as technique.
- It is an expected courtesy in the arts that students applaud the teacher and accompanist at the end of the class to show reverence and appreciation.
- No food, gum, candy, juice, or soda will be allowed in the studio.
- Do not wear street shoes in the dance studio.

Any violation of Studio and/or School Dress Code will result in the following procedure:

1. Written report by the student and warning from faculty
2. Written report by the student and notification to the parents
3. Written report by the student resulting in a warning letter and meeting with parent

Three written reports will result in a letter of warning to parents regarding the student's tenure at Ellington.

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ALL cell phones and iPods should be secured in lockers before classes begin. Cell phones and iPods in the dance studio will be confiscated by dance faculty if they are visible.

First Offense: Returned at the end of the day.

Second Offense And Beyond: To be held until parent/guardian personally retrieves them.

STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

The Dance Department holds an “open door” policy. Please allow us to help you with any problems that could hinder your progress as a dance major. Parents are welcome to observe classes, but please make prior arrangements to do so; we ask that you check in at the Main Office. Please schedule appointments if you wish a conference with any teacher.

Any studio or classroom problems should be dealt with in the following manner:

- 1) Conference with your Instructor
- 2) Conference with the Dance Chair
- 3) If necessary, a conference with Dance Chair, and Dean of Students/Principal

Individual teachers may impose additional classroom rules or rules of decorum

SELECTION PROCESS FOR CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKS

The selection process is decided upon by the choreographer or rehearsal director. The process for selection depends upon the complexity of the work, technical skill of the student, ability to perform as an ensemble member, attendance, participation and grades. Because a choreographer or rehearsal director has no control over illness, injury or other obstacles that prevent students from dancing in a performance, we strongly encourage students placed as understudies or in a secondary role are required to attend every rehearsal and to work diligently because understudies have been called upon to perform on numerous occasions. We encourage all students to learn any and all choreography within the Dance Department. This will add to their general dance knowledge and dance vocabulary.

NON-PARTICIPATION POLICY

All students will be responsible for any choreographic and/or studio (technical) work missed.

Should a student NOT be able to fulfill his/her commitment to performing in a choreographic work due to any of the reasons listed (including but not limited to the reasons listed below), he/she will be replaced. Some of those reasons are:

- 1) Consistent Tardiness
- 2) Excessive Absences
- 3) Disruption of class, rehearsal and performance resulting in dismissal
- 4) Disciplinary action for any infraction of DCPS Policies
- 5) Failure to learn assigned roles
- 6) Failure to be productive with faculty, students, guest, choreographers and administration
- 7) Physical injuries
- 8) Negative attitude and work ethics

INJURY POLICY

Once an injury has been verified by a physician and the student is deemed unable to participate for a minimum of two weeks and not more than one advisory, he/she will receive a letter grade of C or below. If the injury is longer than one advisory, the students' tenure at Ellington must be revisited by the parent, principal, student, and dance faculty.

Once an injury has been verified by a physician and the student is deemed unable to participate within an advisory for a period of four weeks, but not more than one advisory, he/she will be administered a letter grade of "M".

Although alternative work may be given, it does not constitute and will not equate for the physical requirements of the Dance department.

The medical excuses guidelines in the Community Handbook relate to academic classes only, not physically intensive arts classes such as Dance.

PREGNANCY POLICY

If a student becomes pregnant, she will not be allowed to continue training with our program. Our curriculum is not designed to accommodate pregnant students, and our staff is not trained to teach them.

For the safety of the student, and to alleviate any liability of the faculty, school, or school system, pregnant students will **NOT** be permitted to participate in the rigorous daily dance classes. Pregnant students are asked to seek admittance into another department/school. This is necessary because during the time out of class, the student will not be able to gain the accurate number of course hours needed to pass the course and accumulate credit towards the high school diploma from Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

ATTENDANCE

Ellington's class day begins at 8:30 a.m. Students are expected to be in their classes on time. When school is in session, students are expected to attend all daily classes, as attendance is taken each period.

All Ellington teachers are responsible for recording and reporting student attendance in all daily classes. Students and parents/guardians are held accountable for reporting all absences within 48 hours of the student's return. All letters must be submitted to the Dean of Students or his designee for verification and approval.

Examples of Excused Absences

- 1) Illness of the student (a doctor's certificate is required for a student absent for more than five days)
- 2) Death in the student's immediate family
- 3) Medical reasons such as a documented doctor's appointment (with doctor's certificate)
- 4) Necessity for a student to attend a judicial proceeding as a plaintiff, defender, witness or juror
- 5) Observance of religious holiday
- 6) Official school activities

Examples of Unexcused Absences and Tardiness

- 1) Babysitting
- 2) Shopping
- 3) Running Errands
- 4) Oversleeping
- 5) Cutting Classes
- 6) Job-hunting

Transportation/traffic excuses will be handled case by case by the Dean of Students. A student who arrives late to school must report directly to the Dean of Students or his designee before going to class. Entering class after it has begun is disruptive to the teacher and to

those students who arrive on time. Students who arrive late are required to sign and date a letter of agreement regarding attendance. Parents will receive copies to these notices signed by the chronic late arriving students at the end of the advisory periods. A late pass will be issued for students to be admitted into class.

Late arrivals may have limited access to their lockers upon arrival.

Chronic absences, truancy or tardiness are serious problems and undermine a student's ability to meet Ellington's expectations and standards. Students with chronic unexcused attendance problems should expect that the school will take disciplinary action, which may include awarding a letter grade of "F."

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PERFORMANCE AND STUDY POLICY

The curriculum of the Dance Department at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts is accredited by the District of Columbia Public School System. Students gain official Carnegie units and letter grades toward their high school diploma when they are enrolled with us. The courses are comprehensive and progressive. Private dance schools have no official affiliation with this program, and Carnegie units and letter grades cannot be earned from outside study. We strongly encourage 1st year students in the Dance Department to continue training only with our faculty at Duke Ellington. Because of differences of technical demands and teaching styles, approval for any outside study and performances for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year students must be received from the dance faculty an/or Chairperson. Any injuries and/or incorrect working habits resulting from outside studies and/or performances could affect letter grades, performance level, and tenure at Ellington

While outside achievements are important to every student's life, it is equally important that a student in the Duke Ellington School of the Arts' Dance Department maintain a standard of excellence and allegiance within the department. This can only be achieved by the following:

- 1) Regular attendance to class and all rehearsals when required
- 2) Completion of the full school day within the dance department
- 3) Early dismissal and/or absences must be communicated and approved ahead of time through the main office and Dance department (Chairperson) as it relates to course content, exams, rehearsals and field trips.
- 4) Excessive absences and early dismissals will be reflected in the student's grade.

Students are encouraged to take an intensive summer dance course at Duke Ellington School of the Arts and/or an outside venue with prior approval of the Dance Faculty/Chairperson.

We know that if students can successfully master their academic and artistic obligations with us, then there is not time for extra-curricular performances or training. Our concern is that students have the time and commitment to complete all of the requirements asked of them at the highest standard and that our students are well prepared to continue training past their Ellington years.

NOTE:

The Dance faculty would like to impress the necessity of allegiance and serious dedication

upon both the student and parents to make you aware of the responsibilities the student has to himself/herself, the director(s), fellow students, faculty and school.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ARTS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The head of school shall, on the advice of the Dance Department Chair, certify for graduation those students who have earned the required credits to satisfy graduation requirements.

Four-Year Course of Study Earns 13 Credits

Three-Year Course of Study Earns 9 Credits

First Year

Ballet Technique	1 Credit	Course Code P56
Modern Technique	1 Credit	Course Code P61
Dance Orientation	.5 Credit	Course Code P54
Potpourri	.5 Credit	Course Code P55/P55b
Ethnic I	.5 Credit	Course Code P66
Ethnic II	.5 Credit	Course Code P67

Total Credits /4

Second Year

Ballet Technique (Introduction to Pointe Technique)	1 Credit	Course Code P57
Modern Technique	1 Credit	Course Code P62
Dance History	.5 Credit	Course Code P59
Dance Technique	.5 Credit	Course Code P55

Total Credits / 3

Third Year

Ballet Technique / Pointe	1 Credit	Course Code P54
Modern Technique	1 Credit	Course Code P63
Dance Improvisation	.5 Credit	Course Code P97/P97a
Dance Composition	.5 Credit	Course Code P96/P96a

Total Credits / 3

Fourth Year

Ballet Technique / Pointe	1 Credit	Course Code P93
Modern Technique	1 Credit	Course Code P64
Senior Project	1 Credit	Course Code P94/P94a

Total Credits / 3

All Dance Department Syllabi should be viewed online at www.ellingtonschool.org.

PROGRESS REPORT

Students in the Dance Department will be evaluated twice in each advisory, mid-point and at the end. In addition, to retain their place in the Dance Department at Duke Ellington, all first, second, and third year students must re-audition midway in the third advisory period to determine;

- Their level of proficiency in the assimilation of their technical skill sets in Ballet and Modern.
- Their retention of movement and theory concepts.
- Their approach to discipline and dance etiquette.
- Their eligibility to return to the Dance Department at Duke Ellington

While a student is required to maintain a “C” average academically to remain at Ellington a letter grade of “B” must be maintained in **ALL** dance courses. Failure to maintain an average grade of “B” in the dance courses may result in **NOT** being invited to return to Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Should the student receive a letter grade of “F” in any dance course, that class cannot be made up because the course is not offered in the DCPS Summer School Curriculum. A letter grade of an “F” could result in the student not being invited back to the Ellington Dance department.

Report Cards are issued following the close of each advisory. Report cards are issued in one of the three ways:

- 1) Copies are made available to parents/guardians at the parent-teacher Conference meetings following the closing of Advisories I, II, and III.
- 2) For those students whose parents/guardian do not attend the parent-teacher conference, copies of the report card will be delivered via student or mail.
- 3) Final report cards are mailed to the parent/guardian during the month of July.

ART FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES

Duke Ellington students are required to pay a yearly activity fee of \$200, which directly benefits the arts department in which they are enrolled. This fee should be paid at the time of registration, but can be paid in installments. Money orders and checks should be made payable to DESAP (in the memo portion of the check: Dance Department). These fees help to cover the cost of costumes, guest choreographers, dance publications, teaching aids, music and dance-related videos.

DANCE DEPARTMENT PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Parents, family and friends of the dance department is a support group made up of caring and concerned members of the Ellington community. This group's main goal is to support the dance department program through fundraising. **WE NEED PARENTS** to help with publicity, programs, tickets/concessions at productions, chaperones to events/trips, and fundraising as well as being an audience member for these amazing talented performers all year long. Parent leaders and faculty will organize and lead the meetings and assist in delegating responsibilities. It is expected that parents (you) attend meetings once a month to ensure that your child has a profitable Ellington experience, artistically and academically. It is imperative that all parents demonstrate commitment, patience, cooperation and faith.

“Remember These Are Your Children”

ELLINGTON DANCE ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND CONSERVATORIES

Adelphi University	Marymount University
CAL Arts	Morehouse University
Clark Atlanta University	New World School of the Arts
The College of William and Mary	North Carolina Central
Columbia University/Chicago	North Carolina School of the Arts
Fashion Institute of Technology	Ohio State University
Fordham University	Point Park Conservatory of Performing Arts
Goucher College	SUNY Purchase
Hampton University	Temple University
Hartford University	Towson University
Harvard University	University of Cincinnati
Howard University	University of North Carolina (Greensboro)
Johnson C. Smith University	University of Michigan
Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts/UK	University of the Arts/Philadelphia
Long Island University	Virginia Commonwealth University
Maryland University	

PROFESSIONAL WORK

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre	Joffrey Ballet
Bejart Ballet Company	Jubilation Dance company
Cinveox Dance (Switzerland)	Alonzo King
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company	Lula Washington Dance Company
Dallas Black Dance Theatre	Martha Graham Dance Company
Dance Theatre of Harlem	Philadanco Dance Company
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company	Prism Dance Theater
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater	Rod Rodgers Dance Company
Eisenhower Dance Ensemble	Washington Ballet
Forces of Nature	
Garth Fagan	
Gus Giordano Jazz Dance	

Graduates have also pursued careers on Broadway, national and international tours, film and video credits.

HAND BOOK RECEIPT

I have received the DANCE HANDBOOK and understand that I am responsible for understanding the policies and procedures set forth in the handbook. I further understand that to ensure that _____ (child's name) is gaining the expected requirements and accomplishments from the course of study in the Dance Department, he/she is accepted on a CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE for entry into our Program.

Signature of Dance Student

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Please print and Return to the Dance Department.