

# Duke Ellington School of the Arts Dance Department Handbook

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## **ELLINGTON MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Duke Ellington School of the Arts is to nurture and inspire passion for arts and learning in talented students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to develop their artistic skills. We ensure that our students are prepared for post-secondary and/or careers in the arts by offering an intensive arts-based program. We prepare our students to become productive citizens in our global society through our strong focus on community service.

## **THE ELLINGTON CREED**

Ellington's goal is to be a community of artists, learners, and leaders. In order to reach this goal, we ascribe to the CREED:

**COMMITMENT** The habit of applying your talents to a task or project.

**RESPONSIBILITY** Acting in a way that acknowledges the connection and duty you have to yourself and others.

**EXCELLENCE** Striving to meet a standard that demonstrates mastery of an idea or technique.

**EMPATHY** Demonstrating intentional care and consideration of others' feelings, thoughts, and experiences.

**DIGNITY** Conducting yourself at all times, in a respectful manner that shows you recognize your connection to a present, past and future community.

## **DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

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.

## **DANCE DEPARTMENT 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 classical ballet and modern dance and other related dance courses such as Ethnic Dance, Dance Orientation,

Dance History, Dance Improvisation, Dance Composition and Senior Project.

Students entering in the ninth grade are required to complete all four years of the dance curriculum courses of study in order to obtain an arts certification upon graduation from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Students entering in the tenth grade are required to complete three years of the dance curriculum courses of study in order to obtain an arts certification upon graduation from The Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Students are given a complete foundation in the traditions of 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.

### **DANCE DEPARTMENT 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, by fostering a sense of responsibility to others, the faculty, and the art form.

### **ABOUT THE DANCE DEPARTMENT**

Duke Ellington School of the Arts Dance Department in Washington, D.C. has been in existence since 1974. Ellington's Dance Department has had the opportunity to perform in venues both nationally and internationally. We are honored to be members of the International Association of Blacks in Dance and have performed and participated in the International Association of Blacks in Dance Conferences in Dallas, Philadelphia, Denver, Canada, Washington, D.C., and California, the National High School Dance Festivals in Philadelphia, PA and Miami, Florida. The Dance Department has also traveled to Bermuda as guest artist with the United Dance productions of Bermuda, China as guest artist, and Russia for a two-month residency sponsored by a grant through D.C. Public Schools "Learning Through Dance." The Ellington dancers have also extended their talents for community outreach programs and professional organizations. Collaborative endeavors include The Executive Leadership Conferences, "Ballet on Wheels" with United Cerebral Palsy Foundation; Ronald McDonald's House for Children; North Carolina, Kinston Children's Village Academy, St Paul's Church for

their “Missions Ministry”; Martin Luther King’s “Visions of the Future” and the Washington National Cathedral. The dance department has welcomed the opportunities to experience seminars, master classes and/or residencies with renowned artist and choreographers, Finis Jhung, Maurice Hines, Word Dance Theater (Isadora Duncan Technique), Louis Johnson, Arthur Mitchell, Ronald K. Brown, Steve Rooks, Karen Brown, Rennie Harris, Suzanne Farrell, Pat Thomas and Christopher Huggins and the late Walter Nicks through an extended invitation by the late Dr. Sherrill Berryman Johnson and many dance professional alum. Professional Dance Company master classes include Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Step Afrika, Paul Taylor II, Joffrey Ballet II of Chicago, Lula Washington Dance Theater, The Kirov, and The American Ballet Theater. Duke Ellington’s Dance Department closes its season every year with a Gala/Spring Dance Concert. We have been blessed with guest artist performances for these events by the legendary Carmen de Lavallade, Renee Robinson, and The Philadelphia Dance Company. Our all-school musicals include, Black Nativity, Dream Girls and The Wiz. Ellington’s Legend Series includes dance performing collaborations with Earth, Wind & Fire, Smokey Robinson, Ledisi, Patti LaBelle, Sting and Bobby McFerrin.

### **DANCE DEPARTMENT DANCE FACULTY**

Charles Augins – Department Chair  
Whitney Brown  
Sandra Fortune Green  
Adrian V. James  
Treanna Reid-Alexander  
Katherine Smith  
Nikki Sutton Mackey  
Nina Wilner - Accompanist  
Lesina Martin

### **AUDITION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS**

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. First-year students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade who do not pass the audition are welcome to re-audition during the following school year. Students entering 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade as transfer students must be from an accredited arts high school.

Students auditioning for the dance department must:

- Girls: Wear leotards and tights; Boys: Tank T-shirt and Black tights/Sweatpants
- 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 art, 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) headshot (portrait) and one (1) full body shot. Photographs are non-returnable
- IEP information, if applicable.

The dance audition is a minimum of two days. 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 a 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, prospective 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.

## **AUDITION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS**

### **FAMILY INTERVIEW**

The interview with prospective students and their parents/guardians will review the student's first-year program and receive information regarding the expectations of the student, the dance department, and 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.

**\*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 and uniformly 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). Dancers should wear clothing that is form-fitting for instructors to see alignment and allows movement without restriction. Attire should provide proper coverage, including through movement. Please note that the Dance Department accepts gender-neutral dress in our classes.

### **FEMALES**

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

### **FEMALE LEVELS 2**

- Black convertible tights (Modern)

### **FEMALES LEVEL 3 & 4**

Black convertible tights (Modern)  
White Socks (Modern)  
Black Ballet Skirts (ballet)

### **MALES**

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

## **STUDIO DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

### **HAIRSTYLE FOR SHORT HAIR**

Neatly close-cropped hair cuts

### **HAIR STYLE FOR ALL LENGTHS**

No mohawks, no sculpted hair cuts, no ponytail, hair color, dyes, hennas, headwraps, and/or scarves during dance departmental classes and/or performance(s).

### **HAIRSTYLE FOR LONGER LENGTHS**

Hair of any style should be smooth and pulled away from the face and in a tight secure medium-size “Ballet Bun” and covered with a thin hairnet. Because of the aesthetic quality, safety, discipline, and technical demands of dance, it is imperative for the longer hairstyle to be in the uniform “Ballet Bun” and of a size that accommodates partnering, balance, all turns, and jumps.

### **JEWELRY AND BODY ADORNMENTS**

- No rings, nose rings, body adornments, watches, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, etc. (Small stud earrings allowed ONLY for girls)

- No LONG fake or natural fingernails (fingernails must be no longer than fingertips)
- No nail or toe polish
- Visible tattoos must be covered with make-up daily.

**NO MAKE-UP AND/OR EMBELLISHMENTS OUT OF YOUR NATURAL STATE PERMITTED DURING CLASS**

- No Eyelashes (permitted only for performance at the request of instructor)
- No Overly Painted Eyebrows
- No Shadow, Glitter, Corner Specs of White, etc. on/at Eye Lids
- No Colored Lipstick

Failure to adhere to any of the above requirements will affect the percentage of a student's grade and/or result in the students' non-participation and earning a grade of "0" for the day.

**LOCKERS/LOCKS**

Dance students are required to have locks for the dance department dressing room lockers to ensure the safety of personal belongings.

**SCHOOL DRESS CODE**

**As specified in the Ellington Community Handbook.**

**CLASS PLACEMENT** is according to grade level. Students must complete ALL grade level dance prerequisites to graduate with an Arts Endorsement.

Should a student be placed in or progress to a higher level, the grade percentage may be elevated by 10 points to substantiate the grade received for the course/curriculum the student is enrolled in.

Should a student have to revisit a level to further develop an understanding of physiologically sound and movement principles, the grade percentage may be reduced by 10 points to substantiate the grade received for the course/curriculum if the student is not enrolled.

**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 possess a rich history and a set of established traditions. It is most important that students are aware of these traditions, and protocols since most instructors universally will automatically assume that students understand dance etiquette. 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 in the dance department study hall and complete any given written assignment.
- Do not enter or leave class without the instructor's permission. If you feel you are unable to finish class due to illness or any other reason, inform the instructor.
- Never sit down in class. Muscles relax and cool down too quickly, causing the body to be susceptible to injuries. Do not use ballet barres and /or pianos as a resting place for bodies, miscellaneous clothing, and jewelry.
- 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.

**Individual Teachers May Impose Additional Classroom and Decorum Protocols**

Any violation of the Proper Classroom and Studio Decorum will result in the following procedure:

1. Written report(s), parent/guardian notification by the student, and warning from faculty
2. Three written reports, parent/guardian notification by the faculty. .
3. Five or more written reports, faculty will request a parent meeting.

**After consistent violations and meetings with parents, notice will be sent to parents/guardians regarding the student's tenure at Ellington.**

**STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

The Dance Department holds an "open door" policy. Please allow us to help you with any problems that could hinder the student's 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 for a conference with any teacher.

**Any studio or classroom problems should be approached in the following manner:**

- 1) Conference with your Instructor and Faculty Designee
- 2) Conference with your Instructor and Dance Chair
- 3) If necessary, a conference with the Dance Chair, Director of Student Affairs, Director of Artistic Affairs/Head of School

**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 classes, rehearsals and/or 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 (two weeks or more)
- 8) Negative attitude and work ethics

**PHYSICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A DANCE STUDENT**

The physical demands of a dancer and the dance department requires students to take care of their instrument (the body), It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for all class and choreographic work:

- Eat healthy and properly (foods to nourish the body)
- Drink plenty of water (avoid sugary drinks)
- Stretch, tone, and strengthen their body
- Build stamina
- Practice ALL class work/choreography given to improve skill sets and movement continuity.
- Avoid outside extracurricular activities that may pose injury (skateboarding, flipping, aggressive sports, etc.)
- 

### **ILLNESS/INJURY POLICY**

A student's grade is solely based on the work physically exhibited in the studio. Once an injury has been verified by a physician with documentation and the student is unable to physically participate for a minimum of two weeks, the student is required to attend, and observe each class. Unless specifically directed by a doctor, students may not physically participate and/or choose one dance type of class at expense of another. Should an injury extend beyond two weeks or more, a support plan, and an assignment with detailed specifications of the expectations for each student's engagement with the content of study may be given. A grade of OM will be given for the physical activity as long as there is supporting medical documentation. Additionally, additional assignments may be created, for the injured student, to ensure cognitive comprehension is maintained. The only way to receive a letter grade of M is through prior approval from DCPS Central Office. Prolonged injuries that extend beyond an advisory will be referred to administration and the student is subject to receive a letter grade of (M) for Medical. A doctor's note must be submitted to the Dance Department and administration referencing:

- Explanation of injury/illness
- Treatment
- Extent of class participation
- Approximate date of return to full participation

Should a student receive a letter grade of "M" for Medical in more than one advisory, a conference will be scheduled with student, parents, administration, and the dance department to review student's viability.

### **PREGNANCY POLICY**

If a student becomes pregnant or is suspected of being pregnant, the student's medical condition will be referred to the administration to await verification by a physician followed by verification of a physician. For the safety of the student, and to alleviate any liability of the faculty, school, or school system, the student will **NOT** be permitted to participate in the rigorous daily dance classes.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Ellington's classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:55 p.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 Dance Department and 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 note)
- 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

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But we also know that when students miss too much school—excused or unexcused—they can fall behind.

**Students who are absent for any reason, including performances, field trips, and extracurricular activities, it is the student's responsibility to secure and complete all assignments, quizzes, and tests according to guidelines established by the respective teacher.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is No-Make-Up for Dance in the Daily Physical Class Work/Participation. Physical Evaluation Make-up in Dance is at the discretion of the individual instructor and may not be *granted*.

**TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC EXCUSES** will be handled case by case by the Attendance Officer/Dean of Students. A student who arrives late to school must report directly to the Attendance Officer or his/her designee before going to class. Entering class after it has begun is disruptive to the teacher and to those students who arrive on time. A late pass must be issued before students are admitted into class. Participation is at the discretion of the teacher.

## **DISMISSAL POLICIES**

### **EARLY DISMISSAL**

Because class participation factors into class grades, early dismissal should only occur in cases of extreme emergency or highly exceptional circumstances as absence will impact the

class participation component of the grade.

### **AFTER SCHOOL DISMISSAL**

Students must exit Ellington's property promptly after school if not participating in any after-school activity including, but not limited to, tutoring or rehearsals with an instructor who is supervising the activity and is present. The school day is lengthy, and students need rest in order to maintain their optimum learning and performance levels. Parents/caregivers are responsible for picking up their children on time following dismissal or rehearsals. Students will be required to wait for their rides outside and will not have continued access to the building following dismissal. Students are not permitted to wait for their parents and/or rides inside the building.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR PERFORMANCE AND STUDY POLICY**

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 maintains a standard of excellence and allegiance within the department. This can only be achieved by:

- Regular attendance to class, all rehearsals and performances when required.
- Completion of the full school day within the dance department
- 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.
- Excessive absences and early dismissals will be reflected in the student's grade.

***PLEASE NOTE:*** Any injuries and/or incorrect working habits resulting from outside studies and/or performances during the school year could affect the percentage of letter grade for class, performance level, and tenure at Ellington.

During the ***Summer***, students are encouraged to participate in dance intensives at Duke Ellington School of the Arts and/or outside programs.

***Our concern is that students have the time and commitment to complete their academic and artistic requirements obligations asked of them at the highest standard and that our students are well prepared to continue training past their Ellington years.***

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

**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.

Students receiving a letter grade of "**C-**" or below in any dance course will receive a DCPS/Ellington student support plan to be completed with a member of the dance faculty and returned with student and parent/guardian signature as verification of receipt.

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 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/guardians 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.

## ***GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS***

<b><i>BALLET TECHNIQUE</i></b>
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### **Classical Ballet Technique I**

**Grade: 9**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Recommended Reading: *Classical Ballet Technique By Gretchen Ward Warren Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet by Gail Grant***

Ballet I is an introduction to the foundations of Classical Ballet Technique. Class format will include barre, center, petit, and grand allegro, and the application of terminology specific to ballet technique ballet using French as the international language of ballet.

Technique class is focused on efficient body placement, alignment, turn-out, balance, transfer of weight, flexibility, rhythm, musicality, and artistic expression. Effort will be made to acquaint students with the history of ballet.

### **Classical Ballet Technique II**

**Grade: 10**

**Prerequisite: Classical Ballet Technique I**

**Recommended Reading: *Classical Ballet Technique By Gretchen Ward Warren Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet by Gail Grant***

Ballet II is a continuation of the foundation introduced in Ballet I Classical Ballet Technique. Classes will focus on the process of mastering the physical, technical, musical aspects of Ballet. Classes will consist of Barre, Center Adagio, Petit and Grand Allegro.

Technique class is focused on efficient body placement, turn-out, balance, flexibility, rhythm, and artistic expression.

### **Classical Ballet Technique III**

**Grade: 11**

**Prerequisite: Classical Ballet Technique I and II**

Classical Ballet Technique Level III is an expansion of an in-depth study, analysis, technical application, and interconnected ballet terminology. A scaffolding teaching method or differentiated instruction strategies will be implemented when needed to support students in need of an increased level of understanding and technical execution. An introduction to the pointe technique will be incorporated into the ballet technique class two days per week for the first semester and increase at the beginning of the second semester.

### **Classical Ballet Technique IV**

**Grade: 12**

**Prerequisite: Classical Ballet Technique I, II, and III**

Senior year, continued emphasis on study, analysis, technical application, and interconnected classical ballet terminology inclusive of grand adagio, steps of battu, multiple pirouettes, the importance of memory, establishing stability / aplomb and musicality. Students will be introduced to movement excerpts from traditional classical variations. Students are expected to be competitive for auditions to dance degree programs at colleges and universities and expected to adhere to the demands of the coursework. The study and practice of pointe work will continue.

## **MODERN TECHNIQUE**

### **Modern Technique I**

**Grade: 9**

**Prerequisite: None**

This course is an introduction to the foundation of the Horton Technique in preparation for Modern Technique II. The course focuses on the fundamentals of the Lester Horton Technique of modern dance. Students will learn, through the use of the Lester Horton Technique, the proper approach to building strength, agility, and flexibility. The course will include the recognition and use of terminology and the ability to perform studies of the Horton Technique. This class also exposes movement from other Modern dance techniques.

### **Modern Technique II**

**Grade: 10**

**Prerequisite: Modern Technique I**

This course is the intermediate level of modern dance based on the Horton Technique devised to fortify, stretch, and strengthen the body. This class focuses on the continuation and progressions of the Lester Horton technique as well as physical technical skills and the developmental process of the fundamental technical applications of Horton I. Daily participation in all class work is required including; reading and writing assignments/examinations; physical assignments, projects, and examinations; some choreographic/principles/process; attendance of selected performances and master classes/workshops; and open discussions of self-expressed observations and opinions,

ideas and concepts on dance as an art form. Through this approach, students will begin to actively apply a conscious knowledge of dance as it relates to humanity, tradition, social philosophical, and emotional perspectives.

### **Modern Technique III**

**Grade: 11**

**Prerequisite: Modern I and II**

This course is the intermediate/ advanced level of modern dance based on the Lester Horton Technique devised to fortify, stretch, and strengthen the body. Continuing information received in Modern II, this class is an intensive approach toward specific movement skills and studies designed by Lester Horton to reshape and refine the body while enhancing application and an understanding of movement theory, competency of technique skills, and concentration of style and dynamics. Daily participation in all class work is required including reading and writing assignments/examinations; physical assessments/assignments, projects, and examinations; some choreographic/principles/process; attendance of selected performances and master classes/workshops; and open discussions of observations and opinions, ideas, and concepts on dance as an art form. Through this approach, students are continuously learning how to actively apply a conscious knowledge of dance as it relates to humanity, tradition, social philosophical, and emotional perspectives.

### **Modern Technique IV**

**Grade: 12**

**Prerequisite: Modern I, II, and III**

This course is the advanced level of modern dance based on the Lester Horton Technique devised to fortify, stretch, and strengthen the body. This class is an intensive and a more challenging approach toward the movement skills and studies designed by Lester Horton to define the body while enhancing application with an understanding of movement theory, competency of technique skills, and concentration of style and dynamics. In addition, fundamentals of the Graham Technique will be introduced and implemented to assist growth and development of an accomplished dancer. Daily participation in all class work is required including reading and writing assignments/examinations; physical assignments, projects, and examinations; choreographic/principles/process; attendance of selected performances and master classes/workshops; and open discussions of observations and opinions, ideas, and concepts on dance as an art form. Through this approach, students will know how to actively apply a conscious knowledge of dance and the Horton Technique's history as it relates to humanity, tradition, and social, philosophical, and emotional perspectives.

Please Visit [www.ellingtonschool.org](http://www.ellingtonschool.org) to View Dance Descriptions and Syllabi for Other Related Dance Courses Within the Dance Department Curriculum

**GRADE 9: Dance Orientation, Dance Potpourri and Ethnic Dance**

**GRADE 10: Dance History and Dance Tech**



**GRADE 11: Dance Improvisation and Dance Composition**  
**GRADE 12: Senior Project**

**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**.

***It is imperative in the memo portion of the check to include:***  
***Dance Department & Student's First & Last Name.***

These fees help to cover the cost of costumes, guest choreographers, dance publications, teaching aids, music, and dance-related videos.

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL**

The Dance Department annually travels to attend IABD Conference and Festival in different states/cities. It is an opportunity for Ellington dancers to experience for a week the world of dance globally through Master teachers/classes, performances, panel discussions, auditions for summer programs, major companies and more as well as networking and connecting with other young dancers, professional dance artists, choreographers, and directors.

Detailed information regarding expenses for IABD Conference and Festival are presented (when applicable) during **Ellington's Dance Department Parent Meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of every month.**

**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”**

## THE DANCE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

This contract serves as an agreement between the student, parents/guardians, director(s), and faculty of the Dance Department. 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 the school. Failure to meet all dance department obligations and responsibilities the student has to himself/herself will affect the dance department, fellow students, the faculty and will affect his/her grade. Failure to comply with the following requirements could result in removal from classes, rehearsals and choreographic works.

### **I have read this contract and understand that it is my responsibility as a dancer/performer to:**

- ◆ Conduct myself in a mature manner and show respect for all persons
- ◆ Cooperate with director(s), guest artist(s), faculty, and fellow students
- ◆ Maintain the dance wear uniform that conforms to the policy/requirements of DESA Dance Department
- ◆ Maintain the required hairstyle/natural hair color and all other grooming etiquettes including finger and toe (nails) but not limited to, that conforms to the policy /requirements of DESA Dance Department
- ◆ Perform/rehearse throughout the school year (including holidays, evenings, weekends and during the summer when necessary)
- ◆ Attend all classes/rehearsals/performances, be on time, and remain throughout the scheduled class/rehearsal/performance hours.
- ◆ Learn and perfect repertory that is taught during class/rehearsal and work independently as well as with the ensemble during the entire class/rehearsal.
- ◆ Accept roles that I have been assigned to perform, learn, or understudy
- ◆ Learn roles even if they are not assigned to me
- ◆ Teach my roles to other students
- ◆ Prepare the studio for class/rehearsal (help with the sound equipment, attendance and on occasions warm up, costumes)
- ◆ Assist with other related duties (workshops, costume maintenance, rehearsals, auditions etc.)
- ◆ Understand that scheduled classes, rehearsals/performances are subject to change and that I will be notified of these changes as soon as possible.
- ◆ Bring a notebook to all scheduled classes, rehearsals/performances for critical notes
- ◆ Prepare for and maintain a grade of “B” in all dance and academic classes to ensure that I will be eligible to perform
- ◆ ***Limit absences (excused and unexcused) to no more than 2 absences***
- ◆ Inform the director(s) if I must be absent for any reason, accompanied by a note in a timely manner from parent/guardian and/or doctor.
- ◆ Have my **parent/guardian** contact the dance office, in a timely manner, **prior** to the class/rehearsal that I will miss.
- ◆ ***I am EXPECTED to attend/participate in all my scheduled classes, rehearsals, and performances. Failure to do so will affect my class and performance grade***
- ◆ MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AT ALL TIMES AND KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN BETWEEN STUDENTS, PARENTS, DIRECTORS, AND FACULTY.

**I Understand That I Could Be Removed From Classes, Rehearsals,  
Choreography and/or Performance(s) for:**

- ◆ Consistent tardiness
- ◆ Excessive unexcused & excused absences: failure to attend class/rehearsal/performance without prior notification
- ◆ Cutting classes/rehearsals
- ◆ Failure to learn assigned roles
- ◆ Excessive absences in other dance curriculum classes
- ◆ Failure to pass a dance curriculum class (s)
- ◆ Excessive non-participation or long-term injuries
- ◆ Insubordination; disruption of the class/rehearsal/performance
- ◆ **Tardiness and/or Failure to report for warm up before a performance resulting in non-participation in that performance.**
- ◆ **Missing a performance(s) that will affect my performance grade.**
- ◆ Excessive absences in academic classes
- ◆ Failure to pass academic class/classes
- ◆ Failure to be productive with students, faculty, guest choreographers, or administration
- ◆ Disciplinary action for any infraction of DESA or District of Columbia Public Schools

**Signature of Student and Parent/Guardian are Required on this Contract.  
It must be Signed, Printed and Returned to the Dance Department at the Beginning of  
the School Year.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Dance Student**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Parent/Guardian**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**ELLINGTON DANCE ALUMNI  
WHERE ARE THEY GOING? WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN?  
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

**UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND CONSERVATORIES**

Adelphi University  
Alabama A&M  
AMDA  
Anderson University  
Arizona State University  
Bethune Cookman College  
Boston Conservatory  
Bowie State University  
Butler University  
CAL Arts  
Chapman University  
Clark Atlanta University  
Drew University  
EP Study Abroad Internship Program  
The College of William and Mary  
Columbia University/Chicago  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Fordham University  
George Mason University  
Georgia State University  
Grinnell College  
Goucher College  
Hampton University  
Hartford University  
Harvard University  
Howard University  
Johnson C. Smith University  
Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts/UK  
Long Island University  
Mary Baldwin College  
Marshall University  
Maryland University  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Marymount University  
Montclair State University  
Morehouse University  
Morgan State University  
Morgan State University  
Mount St. Mary's University  
North Carolina A&T  
North Carolina Central University  
North Carolina School of the Arts (Greensboro)  
New World School of the Arts  
Ohio State University

Pace University  
Pennsylvania State University (Penn State)  
Point Park Conservatory of Performing Arts  
Rutgers University  
Salisbury University  
Slippery Rock University  
Southern Methodist University  
Spellman College  
SUNY Purchase  
Temple University  
The Art Institute of York Pennsylvania  
Towson University  
University of the Arts (UARTS)/Philadelphia  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Michigan  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)  
University of North Carolina (Greensboro)  
University of Pittsburgh  
Virginia Commonwealth University

### **PROFESSIONAL WORK**

Alonzo King Lines Ballet  
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater  
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet  
BallEthnic Dance Company  
BeBe Miller Dance Company  
Bejart Ballet Company  
Cinveox Dance (Switzerland)  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company  
Dallas Black Dance Theatre  
Dance Theatre of Harlem  
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company  
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater  
Eisenhower Dance Ensemble  
Eleone Dance Theater  
Forces of Nature  
Garth Fagan Dance  
Gus Giordano Jazz Dance  
Joffrey Ballet  
Jubilation Dance Company  
Lula Washington Dance Company  
Martha Graham Dance Company  
Spectrum Dance Theater

Paul Taylor Dance Company  
Philadanco Dance Company  
Pilobolus Dance Company  
Polaris Dance Theater  
Prism Dance Theater  
Ronald K. Brown "Evidence"  
Rod Rodgers Dance Company  
Spectrum Dance Theater  
Washington Ballet

**Graduates have also pursued careers on Broadway, National and International Tours, Film and Video credits.**

# HANDBOOK RECEIPT

I have read and received Duke Ellington School of the Arts DANCE DEPARTMENT 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 (Print Student Name) \_\_\_\_\_ is gaining the expected requirements and accomplishments from the course of study/curriculum within the Dance Department, he/she is accepted on a *CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE* for entry/re-entry into our Program.

*Signature of Student and Parent/Guardian are Required on this Handbook Receipt. It Must be Signed, Printed and Returned to the Dance Department at the Beginning of the School Year.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Dance Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

