**I.S. 234 Dance Program Syllabus**

Name: *\*Keep this packet !!!*

Dance Class:

**2024-2025 School Year: 8th Grade Dance Majors/Full Year**

***\*****8th grade dance rosters were determined by the arts survey.*

***Dance Educator:*** *Ms. D. Brown* ***Location:*** *406-4th Floor Dance Studio*

***Email:*** *Dbrown30@schools.nyc.gov* ***Website:*** *https://www.dbrodance234.com*

**8th Grade Dance Class Description: *Welcome to Dance!*** 8th Dance deepens the knowledge and skills developed in 6th & 7th grade with a further study of various Modern/Contemporary Dance Artists & “The Roots & Branches” of Jazz Dance including Latin Jazz and HipHop connections as well as exploring additional Methods for Improvisation and Composition of one’s own choreography. Dancers will continue their study of dance technique/skills from a variety of genres, deepen their understanding/use of the Elements of Dance (Laban Movement Analysis), and build upon inspiration from Genres and Choreographers studied to create student-based choreography projects/tasks. Additional focus will be placed on: *Dance Class Procedures & Etiquette, Anatomy & Healthy Conditioning Practices, Improvisation, Dance History & Culture, Dance Critique & Analysis, Making Connections (Self, Community, World), as well as Self Expression & Performance Etiquette.* Dancers are expected to perform in a collaborative and thematic piece of choreography at the end of each semester on stage and are expected to take on more responsibilities as Dance Artists and Leaders of the program.

**Our Class Objectives (Goals):**

1. To enhance our technique/physical skills (ex. attention to alignment/placement, strength, flexibility, coordination, rhythmic accuracy, spatial awareness, and precision).
2. To develop our own creative movement abilities with attention to choreographic tools and inspiration.
3. To strengthen the artistry of our dancing (ex. musicality, expressiveness & stage presence, movement fluidity, transitions, & phrasing)
4. To instill an appreciation for dance as an art form and make connections between dance, our self, the community, & the rest of the world.

**I. Dance Class Expectations:****In Order to Create a Strong and Supportive Dance Community, We Agree to . . . *\*Conduct Grades are based on attention to these expectations!***

1. **P**articipate with our Best Effort every class.
2. **A**ct Safely and Respectfully toward Our Self, Others, and the School at All Times.
3. **D**emonstrate Professionalism-Be Prepared (w/ Attire and Dance Knowledge), Be On Time, Use Hand Signals, Keep the Studio Clean, Use the Black Line for Entering, No Gum, Electronics Off & Away . . .

**II. Dance Class Procedures: Important ways we use the dance space!**

1. ***Entering the Space:*** *\*any notes from home or important info. should be shared with Ms. Brown at the start of class!*

* Greeting & Enter space calmly using entrance procedures. \*Late-Sign in!
* Personal technology off and placed in bags (not on body). Take off shoes/socks/belongings and put them in your assigned cubby.
* Check HWK on Board/Hand in HWK if necessary.
* Floor Spots for “Do-Now/Warm-Up”!

1. ***Practicing the Art:***

* Warm Up Intentions, Reminders, “Do-Now”- Opening of Warm up with breath/conditioning.
* “Technique” Warm-Up
* Exploration- Discussion & Modeling/Improvisation/X Floor Work
* Development-Choreography/Group Work
* Share/Feedback

1. ***Leaving the Space:***

* Cool Down/Check-In
* Call and Response Dismissal (w/ Assistants) & Applause
* Gather shoes/socks/belongings and line up.
* Goodbye’s” and exit calmly at the bell.

**III. Dance Class Policies & Grading:** *\*Grades are posted on Pupilpath for teachers, students, and parents!*

**Grading Policy:**

* **25%** **Class Work Habits (Participation)**
* **25% Choreography &/or Dance Research Projects**
* **25%** **Exams, Quiz’s, Semester Performance Assessments**
* **15% Class Attire Preparation (See Separate Rubric)**
* **10%** **Homework** \*Includes Online Assignments like Dance Journals

**Grading Scale:** **Exceeds GLevel Standards: 100-93%, Meets GLS: 92-80%, Approaching GLS: 79-64%, Below GLS: 63-55%**

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| **DANCE CRITERIA** | **4 (Advanced)**  **100%-95%** | **3 (Proficient)**  **90%-85%** | **2 (Approaching)**  **80%-70%** | **1 (Not Yet)**  **65%-55%** |
| **RULES/**  **EXPECTATI0NS & PROCEDURES** | * **Always demonstrates** commitment to the class expectations & procedures. * **Frequent** demonstration of leadership qualities! | * **Most of the time**  **demonstrates** commitment to the class expectations & procedures. * **Some** demonstration of leadership qualities! | * **Sometimes**   **demonstrates** commitment to the class expectations & procedures. * Needs Development with leadership! | * **Rarely/Never demonstrates** commitment to the class expectations & procedures. * **Rarely/Never** works respectfully to support the class. |
| **EFFORT-INDIVIDUAL**  **(Technique/Composition/Discussion & Analysis, Sharing, etc.)** | * **Always** demonstrates best work & **Frequently** applies self-reflection/feedback. * **Always** dances with energetic commitment, strength, and emotion. * **Frequently adds constructively** to discussion/lesson! * **Frequently** demonstrates knowledge and understanding of dance vocabulary. | * **Most of the time** demonstrates best work & applies self-reflection/feedback. * **Most of the time** dances with energetic commitment, strength, and emotion. * **Often adds constructively** to discussion/lesson! * **Often** demonstrates knowledge and understanding of dance vocabulary. | * **Sometimes** demonstrates best work & applies self-reflection/feedback. * **Sometimes** dances with energetic commitment, strength, and/or emotion. * **Sometimes adds constructively** to discussion/lesson! * **Sometimes** demonstrates knowledge and/or understanding of dance vocabulary. | * **Rarely/Never** demonstrates best work with little to no attention to self-reflection/feedback. * **Rarely/Never** dances with energetic commitment, strength, and/or emotion. * **Distracted or Refusal** to contribute to discussion/lesson. * **Rarely/Never** demonstrates knowledge of dance vocabulary. |
| **EFFORT-GROUP COLLABORATION** | * **Always** participates positively in group/community class work with dedication & drive. | * **Most of the time** participates with positively in group/community class work with dedication. May need a few reminders. | * **Sometimes** participates positively in group/community work. Needs frequent reminders. | * **Rarely/Never** participates in group/community work even with multiple reminders. |

**Work Habits/Participation Rubric:** Each dancer should work with the intention to reach their goals and make achievements as a student and life-long learner of dance.

* **Doctor’s Notes:** Students who have a Doctor’s Note may need to observe class. An alternative observation assignment will be given to these students, and this will count toward participation for that day (grade depending on work completed). All directions on the assignment must be followed. \**Students without notes, will be expected to modify movement whenever possible. \*****Always*** *see Ms. Brown before class regarding medical concerns.*

***\*Parents/Guardians will be notified if students have difficulty meeting dance class expectations. Conferences/Class Visits may be arranged as well as communication with the Guidance Counselor, Parent Coordinator, and Administration.***

**Attendance/Lateness/Studio Pass Policies:**

* **Students are considered ON TIME** for class if they have entered the studio before the bell to begin class. There will be approx. 10 seconds to floor spots after this bell has rung and Attendance and the Do-Now/Warm-up will begin. ***Daily Work begins when you enter the studio!***
* **Lateness:** Students who enter after the bell and during Do-Now/Warm-Up, should have a pass from their previous location to be given directly to Ms. Brown and must sign the Late Log. **Excessive unexcused *lateness will be addressed with student/family and affect participation & conduct grades.*** *\*Students coming from lower floors should bring passes. Ms. Brown will take this into consideration when necessary!*
* **Absences:** If students are absent due to illness, a doctor’s note should be given to Ms. Brown. Students may use their Google Classroom and/or ask Ms. Brown and or a classmate what they missed in class. Missed work should be completed by a due date discussed with Ms. Brown.
* **Dance Bathroom Pass:** *1 Pass=1 Person!* The school encourages that 1ST/8TH PERIOD Bathroom use be on an emergency basis!

\*Bathroom-One student may use the restroom at a time. Permission is required. Bathroom should be used after warm-up when possible and students must sign out and in the Bathroom Log. Use the Bathroom Hand Signal vs. calling out in class!!!

\*Water-Bring your own water bottle!!

* **Dance Hall Pass: *1 Pass=1 Person!*** Permission required!  Used for certain emergencies (office, dean, guidance) or if requested in another room.  Students must sign out/in when leaving the studio. Phone calls must be made before sending a student.

**Dance Attire Policy:** **Come to school prepared on the days you have dance (we do not have a changing room)!** *\*Please make sure these items fit well. Baggy clothing makes it difficult to see the body, how it moves, and make physical corrections.* ***Review the Dance Attire Rubric on the Dance website and inside the studio!***

**I.S. 234 Dance Program Attire: 8th Grade Dance Majors**

Suggestions: [www.hanes.com](http://www.hanes.com), [www.discountdance.com](http://www.discountdance.com) (Use Teacher Code-69256), or <https://www.amazon.com> (search t-shirts).

**Dance Top:**

* 234 Black Dance Shirts (Students will receive one from the school and may purchase additional) or your own Dark Tops, Tanks &/or Leotards. (See Ms. Brown for assistance with websites or places to purchase).

**Dance Bottom:**

* Black, Grey, Navy Leggings or Sweatpants (Athletic shorts may be worn if length is approved)

**Additional Attire Info:**

* **Dancers will remove shoes and socks and dance barefoot. This is for safety of all dancers in the studio and to encourage proprioception** (awareness of body positioning*).**If a student owns or is interested in purchasing dance footwear (ex. a half sole dance shoe), please speak with Ms. Brown asap.*  IF absolutely necessary, “non slip/grip socks” may be worn with teacher approval.
* **Jewelry** should be removed before class; **hair** should be pulled away from the face and all students should be aware of self-cleanliness.
* **Unprepared:** **Being unprepared for dance will affect the student’s grade. \*Additional rubric will be shared with students and is posted on the dance website.**
* ***Performance Costumes:***A costume plan for each class/dance will be addressed at least a month before performances so you have time to gather your costume items. Be *mindful that for performance you will most likely need black leggings or bottoms and possible tops, so it is best if you purchase these ahead of time.  Please do not purchase items with logos (writing) for performance.  Solid Black works best for the stage!  Specific items will also be loaned to students by the dance program/school.*

**Phone/Electronic Device Policy:** Cell phones/devices should be **shut off and stored away** with one’s belongings. Personal electronics will not be used in class unless requested by the teacher. Ms. Brown may use a device for the purpose of dance education during class (ex. video of choreography project), and this will be stated.

**Homework Policy:** Homework is assigned and may be in the form of an online written/media assignment, a worksheet, and/or a rehearsal. We will use “Google Classroom”!

* **Homework Reminders:** You are responsible for picking up any handouts in class from the assistants or Ms. B however most assignments are on Google Classroom. Current HWK Due will be posted in the studio and on Google Classroom.
* **On Time Work:** Each assignment will be given a **due date** and stated on your GOOGLE CLASSROOM. Any handwritten work should be placed in your class mailbox. **Late Work:** Please communicate if you must submit late work before the end of the MP approaches. Please see the Homework Grading Rubric. **Graded Work:** Once your HWK is graded/posted, it will be put into your Dance Portfolio or Online “Google” Portfolio where it will remain for your time in Dance.
* **Homework Grading Rubric:** See Dance Website and In-Class Posted Rubric!

**Materials (including online resources)!!!:**

* ***Daily Dance Attire-*** See Above. \*This includes hair ties.
* ***Google Classroom-*** Please accept your *Google Classroom* invite/join class page. *See me if there are any difficulties with online work!*
* ***(Optional) Personal Dance Folder/Notebook***-For student organization of class materials, choreography notes and communication. Additional choreography/portfolio folders will be kept in the studio with Ms. Brown.
* ***Pencil & Sharpener/Pen*** on hand-Always have something to write with.

**Semester Performances:** Each semester there will be a final performance including collaborative class developed choreography. Choreography genres and style vary according to themes and music. Dancers may also create and perform their own choreography for our Emerging Choreographers Showcase (see proposal form and meet with Ms. Brown during Lunch Club periods to be approved) and audition for after school dance programs with Ms. D. Brown.

**What happens if I’m pulled from the performance (not including medical/religious observance excuse, emergency family conflicts)?**

If you are pulled from the performance, an alternate project will be assigned to you in place of performance. While the rest of the class rehearses and prepares, you would work on completing this task. The grade you earn on this work would take the place of the grade you would have earned on the performance. **However, the maximum grade you would earn would be at most a 70% for the class.** This restriction has been put in place because the project can’t make up for actual dancing/performance you would miss during class.