

DANCE

DANCE CBC PHILOSOPHY

Dance in the elementary school provides kinesthetic experiences which contribute to the child's physical, intellectual, social, and emotional growth. Specifically, creative dance helps develop problem-solving ability, promotes greater self-awareness, increases concentration and focus, fosters respect of others, and enhances cognitive development. The fundamental locomotor movements, which are the foundation of all human movement, are basic to dance, especially as they are used in simple folk dances and movement games. Gradually, the child learns to use these basics in the core processes of creating, perceiving, knowing, understanding, performing, and equating. When dance is carefully taught in a developmentally appropriate manner, the skills can be carried over into all aspects of the elementary curriculum (i.e., sequencing, memorization, and right/left discrimination). In our culturally diverse community, dance can also help bridge the communication gap by preparing all children to develop socialization skills and an interest in people around the world.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE PHILOSOPHY

Dance in the middle school continues the learning process through exploration. It also develops self-image, social contact, and peer relationships. Dance provides an important understanding of the structure and function of the body during this period of emotional and physical change, and uncertainty. Therefore, awareness of how the body and mind are integrated can determine the development and expansion of movement vocabulary and repertory. Creating and performing dances in the folk, social, ballet, modern, jazz, and tap idioms offer new challenges and opportunities for the physically and socially developing middle school student.

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DANCE PHILOSOPHY

Dance in the senior high school provides an opportunity for the student to become more aware of individual capabilities and talents. During this critical stage of development, the student will experience both traditional and alternative modes of learning. Dance can provide unique opportunities for analysis, interpretation, and synthesis of knowledge. As students study more advanced technique, improvisation, and choreography, they can develop powers of observation, analysis and evaluation. Learning the history of movement and dance, understanding the historical precedents for formal exercise and professional performance in lectures, video tapes, and/or films, and providing experiences in composition all contribute to a diversity of career possibilities.