

Dance Club Members and Parents/Guardians-

Hello! I am pleased to welcome you to our Advanced Dance Club at Smith Junior High! I am looking forward to working with our 2007-2008 dance club members as I have already seen what an enthusiastic and talented group we have. I am equally excited to have the wonderful administrative staff at Smith that supports our dance club. I'm anxious to share my love of dance and education with my students and I know that choosing to be an active Smith Dance Club member will have a positive lifelong effect.

The dance club's purpose is to promote and enhance the Smith Junior High Dance Program through active student involvement. Club members are the leaders of the dance program. Members are expected to actively participate in club meetings, manage the dance club budget, participate in fund raising events, sponsor the Fall and Spring dance concerts, perform at school sponsored programs/ assemblies and serve as ambassadors of the SJH Dance Program.

As a dance club member, students will not only learn responsibility, team work and dedication but they will reap all of the physical benefits of being a dancer as well. Students will have the opportunity to develop their technique in various dance disciplines over the course of the school year including but not limited to: Modern, Ballet, Jazz, Improvisation and Choreography. In addition, they will study vocabulary, dance history and some basic human anatomy.



STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND DANCE CLUB RULES

As a Smith Dance Club Member, you are expected to maintain high standards of living: truth, trust, respect, active involvement and personal best. Club members are expected to serve as SJH representatives and follow district and school policies. Being a club member is not a right but a privilege that may be revoked at any time for unfitting behavior.

In addition to district and school policies, the following classroom rules are to be followed:

1. Be in the locker room before the tardy bell rings.
2. Dress out and be sitting in squad order before roll call begins.
3. Listen to and follow directions.
4. Respect peers, teachers and staff.
5. Display positive behavior, attitude and effort on all dance activities.
6. Be present and on time to extra rehearsals and club sponsored activities.
7. Be accurate and on time with project deadlines.
8. Actively participate in class, in dance club meetings and at all dance club functions.

DANCE ATTIRE

Students are **required** to dress out daily in order to participate in class. The basic dance class attire will consist of a **black fitted top and black stretchy pants**. These items are available at most retail stores in the valley at a nominal price. Mesa Public Schools' standards for appropriate and modest dress are to be followed at all times in the dance program. **Specifically, shoulder straps must be at least 1 ½ inches wide and no undergarments or midriffs are to be exposed. Additionally, leggings must extend below the knee.** In addition, though dance shoes (i.e., jazz and ballet shoes) are not required, they are recommended. Most dancewear items worn during our normal class times will be used at the end of the semester in our dance concerts. **Please be sure to label the inside of all clothing and shoes before bringing them to school.**

EXCUSES, ABSENCES AND MAKEUP WORK

To be excused from Dance, a student must have a note from a parent/guardian or doctor on the day to be excused. The note should be dated, signed by the parent/guardian or doctor and state the reason for requesting an excuse from Dance activities. If a student needs to be excused from Dance activities for more than 5 consecutive days, a doctor's note is required. In this situation, upon returning to physical activity a medical release from the doctor will be needed.

Students earn 15 points daily for participation. Excused students must dress out for Dance in order to make up these points. In addition, they will be expected to complete a written assignment during the class period. Make-up work for excused absences is also available and must be received one week from the date of return to class. Extra-credit assignments are available to students who wish to improve their grade. Note: Extra-credit is not a substitute for completing class assignments and requirements.

STUDENT DANCE CONCERTS

An important element of dance is performance. Each Smith Jr. High dance student will have the opportunity to perform in our Student Dance Concerts that are sponsored by the club. Dance club members are required to work at and perform in both shows for the fall and spring semesters. Dancers' involvement in the shows will reflect **15-20% of their grades. Participation is mandatory** for all dance students. It is a priceless opportunity for students to set this goal and then follow through with it. In addition, family and friends love to see what the students have learned.

STUDENT DANCE SHOW DATES:

**Blue Show Dress Rehearsal:
Blue Dance Show:**

**Gold Show Dress Rehearsal:
Gold Dance Show:**

GRADING

A large percentage of the student's grade comes from participation points; please note the other grading criteria:

Percentage Breakdown	
Class Participation/Dressing out/Planner Checks	60%
Performance Exams	
Classroom Assignments/Exams	
Concert Critique/Research Paper	40%
Student Dance Show Committee Work	
Student Dance Show Dress Rehearsal and Performance	

Computer generated grades will be posted by student ID number on Fridays. Students are required to record their grades in their student planners.

Locks and Locker Room Rules

Each student will be assigned a lock and locker (only school issued locks are permitted). Please review the following rules:

- ❖ Combinations should be kept secret – no locker sharing.
- ❖ For lost locks, replacements are available for \$5.00 in the bookstore.
- ❖ Only quiet talking is permitted in the locker room.

Please feel free to contact me at 472-9995 or shpeters@mpsaz.org if you have any questions or concerns. The best time to reach me is from 8:00 to 9:00 AM and 2:45 to 4:00 PM. If I am unavailable when you call, please leave a message and I will return your phone call as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Peterson

(Please cut at the line and return the bottom portion only, keep the top portion for your records.)

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE SMITH JUNIOR HIGH DANCE CLUB RULES AND PROCEDURES.

Dismissal from the Club may result from violation of the Smith Dance Club Rules and Procedures, conduct unbecoming of a representative of Smith Jr. High or violation of Mesa Public School's or Smith Jr. High's discipline policies.

Your signatures indicate you have read and understand all the guidelines, rules and procedures and will abide by them.

Student Name (Print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____