



# DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program  
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### The B&M Dancer Advice Column

Dear B&M,

The other day at ODC I was wearing my really cute new t-shirt in ballet and then one of my teachers yelled at me to take it off. I do not understand what was wrong with it. Sometimes other kids are yelled at too for the dress code, especially their hair! What can I do to still look cute and follow the dress code?

-Not Dressed for Success

Dear Not Dressed for Success,

Have you ever heard the saying every rule has a reason? Well in this case that applies. The teachers want to be able to see your body when you are in a technique class. They want to be able to see your body, so that they know how to correct it. At most dance stores they have really cute rap-around dance sweaters. Also pick your favorite tight fitting sweater to add some style to your outfit. That way you are following dress code and you have on something cute! For the hair, every one wants to leave their bangs down or have their hair in a ponytail. However, this can be dangerous and annoying. In creative you do not want to be fixing your hair every time you move because it has fallen into your face. Also if hair blocks your vision you could end up falling over and getting hurt.

Give the teacher's a break when it comes to dress code, remember they only want to help you!

Kisses,

-Britni and Macy



## Mrs. Wright - Coaxing Out the Inner Dancing Artist

"I love choreographing for these students. It is so much fun." Mrs. Wright positively beamed as she talked about her choreographic process for this year's concert.

"In the beginning of my creative process, I have an image or idea that intrigues me. This year I was inspired by our science/movement unit which led me to think about different shapes and unusual ways of relating these shapes to each other. I then looked for music that worked with the various images that I chose for each day. This process helps me to flesh out my ideas. When I walk into the studio for that first rehearsal with the dancers, I have imagined basic arrangement of bodies in space and maybe movement qualities I would like to explore. I create the rest in the studio with the dancers - I like to work in the moment! If students make "mistakes" in the beginning, I look carefully to see if the mistakes work better than what I had originally intended. I might ask the dancers to improvise on an idea, and choose movements from what they invent. Another part of my creative process is that I often don't work in sequential order. Sometimes I create the ending before I know how the piece will begin.

This year it seems that outer space themes are swirling in my creative soul. My Monday dance is for the Energy/Effort team and this dance explores different qualities of light in space such as light particles, speed of light, falling stars, light waves and northern lights. I even plotted out "Orion," my favorite constellation, as one of my spatial patterns. The idea of Parallel Universes and Mirrors are the images I am working with for the Tuesday Space/Shape team. It's been fun to play with small and large scale patterns of reflection, and the students have been great at helping me find the right hand or foot to create a mirror image.

I tend to choreograph in a modern dance style, so choreographing a jazz-like piece for the Wednesday Time team is really "going outside the box" for me. In "Digital Beat," I expanded classroom work done in Fundamentals class. Working with small mechanical shapes and actions, like gears and pistons, was my inspiration for the Thursday Shape team. There was a lot of experimenting with this team in order to get the right movement that both challenged the dancers and fulfilled my creative/artistic vision. "Kaleidoscope Mandela" is the title of my Friday dance for the Energy team. This dance is full of changing spatial patterns and shifting shapes.

My favorite part of this whole creative process is after the choreography has been invented, taught and the students know what they are supposed to do. I can then coax the young artists forth, working with what the dancers are truly trying to express. I can let some small details go by in favor of guiding these young dancers to find their inner expressive voice."

# PARENT INFORMATION

## Tour Information

- Tour starts Friday—April 4th and ends on Thursday April 17th (see the tour schedule below)
- Please make sure field trip permission forms are signed and returned ASAP
- Students are to come to ODC in dress code (leotard and pink tights.)
- Girls must come to ODC with “Performance Hair/Buns (bobby pins, hair nets and lots of gel).
- Students who are performing a creative dance should bring a big T-shirt for changing costumes.

**Note** - Students **Do Not** wear performance make up on tour.

## Tour Schedule

### Monday Dance Students

April 7th - Alanton ES - 10:00 and College Park ES - 12:10

April 14th - Landstown ES - 10:00

### Tuesday Dance Students

April 8th - North Landing ES - 10:00 and Linkhorn Park ES - 12:00

April 15th - Thalia ES - 10:00

### Wednesday Dance Students

April 9th - Creeds ES - 10:00 and Ocean Lake ES - 12:00

April 16th - Rosemont ES - 10:00

### Thursday Dance Students

April 10th - Pembroke Meadows ES -10:00 and Strawbridge ES - 12:00

April 17th - Princess Anne ES - 10:00

### Friday Dance Students

April 4th - Three Oaks ES - 2 performances - 10:00 and 12:00

### Reminder:

*To all 5th grade dance students and their parents*



There will be a meeting at ODC to discuss how to juggle the work load at two schools, ODC and middle school . Sometimes thinking about going to middle school can be scary enough as it is but add also attending ODC can seem almost impossible. NOT! There are strategies and ways to succeed in both schools. Come on April 16th at 6:30 and find out.

### Please Note:



Third quarter report cards will be coming home the week of May 12th. This is later than the home school report cards because of the dance audition schedule.

## Parent Volunteers Needed

**Ironing costumes** - You would need to come to ODC any day by 1:45 to help iron and sort costumes for tour. Please bring your iron. Call or e-mail Mrs. Spear-Jones to let her know if you can help

**Tour chaperones**— We need two parents per day to accompany the teachers and students on tour. Do not volunteer to come on your child’s day of attendance. We would rather you come and see your child perform. The duties for this particular job would be to help keep order backstage and attend to dancer and/or teacher needs. Again call or e-mail Mrs. Spear-Jones if you can help. You would need to be at ODC by 8:45 on the tour days. Parents might have to follow the bus in their cars depending on bus seat availability.

**Dress Rehearsal Volunteers** We still need volunteers for dress rehearsal - April 19th from 1:30 - 6:00. Call or e-mail Mrs. Spear-Jones at 473-5043 or gwen.spear-jones@ vbschools .com

## Calendar News

April 16th - 5th Grade Student/Parent Meeting 6:30

April 19th - Dress Rehearsal 2:00 - 6:00 (parent volunteers arrive at 1:30) - Plaza Middle School

April 20th - Performance - 2:00—5:30 - Plaza Middle School

April 21 - Audition Preparation - (dance students do NOT attend)

April 22 - Black Grace Performance

April 23 - Black Grace Master Class

April 24, 25, 28, 29 and 30 - Dance Auditions (regular dance students do NOT attend)

May 1 - Alvin Ailey Master Class

May 2 - Alvin Ailey Performance

April 5, 6, 7, and 8 - Committee Review (dance students do NOT attend on these day)

June 2- 6th - Last Week for Art and Dance classes

