**Beginning Dance—Mrs. Finley**

**Mountain Empire High School**

[**emily.finley@meusd.k12.ca.us**](mailto:emily.finley@meusd.k12.ca.us)

[**http://mrsfinleymehs.weebly.com**](http://mrsfinleymehs.weebly.com)

**619-473-8601 x 2210**

Welcome to Beginning Dance! My name is Mrs. Finley. I’m so excited to be teaching this class yet again as teaching and dancing are two of my greatest passions. We’re going to have lots of fun! Of course, in order to have fun, you all need to know what’s expected in order to succeed, so let’s take a look at the syllabus. ☺

**Required Materials**

Appropriate dance attire that follows school dress code:

* + Comfortable, breathable clothing
    - Appropriate: loose fitting t-shirt, shorts/pants that you can move in
    - Inappropriate: spaghetti straps/tank tops, jeans, skirts/dresses/short shorts
  + Comfortable, breathable shoes
    - Appropriate: athletic shoes, jazz/ballet shoes
    - Inappropriate: sandals, platforms, heels

**Course Learning Objectives**

Students will gain a basic understanding of dance terminology, develop basic skills needed in order to learn the fundamentals of a variety of dance styles (ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, swing dance, etc.), learn proper dance decorum, learn how to choreograph dance routines, and develop their performing arts skills.

**Classroom Behavior: RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY**

My expectations for classroom behavior are simple: I expect all students to show **RESPECT** and **RESPONSIBILITY** at all times. Thank you in advance for abiding by the following expectations, which all demonstrate respect and responsibility in this classroom:

* Using appropriate language
* Treating others the way you want to be treated
* Actively listening to others while they speak
* Using classroom supplies only when given permission
* Working on classwork/homework for this class only
* Keeping electronic devices out of sight & on silent (unless given permission to use during class)

**Food/Drink**

In this class, we will use both the mirror room and my classroom. In order to keep these rooms tidy and also free of unwanted critters, neither food nor drink is permitted in either of these rooms. Water, however, is OK.

**Grades**

Your grade is based on your achievement of the learning goals for the class, most of which is determined by your class participation. Always do your best! Grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

50% Class Participation/Classwork

25% Movement Tests/Performances/Choreography Projects

25% Written Quizzes/Tests/Journals

**Daily Points**

You earn 5 points a day for class participation: 4 pts. for active and engaged participation (working hard, positive attitude, not sitting down between routines, and working respectfully with others), and 1 pt. for wearing proper attire. Unexcused absence = zero points for the day + no chance for make-up.The **only** thing that will excuse you from participating in class without penalty is a **doctor’s note**. Should you present such a note that excuses you from physical activity, an alternate assignment will be given to you.

**Performances**

This class earns you visual and performing arts credits that count toward graduation. Throughout the year, we will have dance performances both during the school day and after school. It is a requirement of this class that students participate in these performances as performing is an essential part of our learning goals. Refusal to participate in a performance, an unexcused absence on a school day performance, or failure to show up to after school performances will result in a zero with no chance of make-up.

**Tardiness**

* In order to give students time to dress out, class will begin 6 minutes after the bell and end 6 minutes prior to the bell:
  + Regular day: class begins @ 1:42 and ends @ 2:34
  + Minimum day: class begins @ 11:43 and ends @ 12:07
* Students who dress out are tardy if they’re not in the mirror room ready to go 6 min. after the bell
* Students who don’t dress out are tardy if they’re not in the mirror room when the bell rings
* Refer to the student handbook for consequences regarding tardies.

**Dressing Out**

Wearing appropriate attire is an essential part of dance. If you don’t dress out, you will automatically lose 1 of your 5 points for the day. Additionally, if you choose not to dress out, you are expected to:

* Be in class by the time the bell rings
* Remain in class until the bell rings

In other words, you don’t get to come to class late or leave early if you’re not dressing out. If you’re not properly dressed and arrive to class late, you will be marked tardy; similarly, you will earn a lunch detention if you leave class early.

**Absence Make-Up**

* You can make-up missed work (including daily points) for **excused absences only**.
* On the first day that you return to school after an absence,ask me for a make-up assignment.
* For every day that you had an **excused absence**, you have one day to make-up the work due in order to get full credit. If you submit absent work after this time, you will lose points (see below).

**Late Work**

* Work is due when I collect it; it is late if you turn it in at any point afterward.
* Late work will be accepted up to ONE WEEK prior to the end of each progress report. The following are the late work deadlines for each grading period this year:
  + Fall Semester, 1st Progress Report: September 27, 2016
  + Fall Semester, 2nd Progress Report: November 4, 2016
  + Fall Semester, 3rd Progress Report (Semester Grade—Before Finals): December 16, 2016
  + Spring Semester, 1st Progress Report: February 17, 2017
  + Spring Semester, 2nd Progress Report: April 21, 2017
  + Spring Semester, 3rd Progress Report (Semester Grade—Before Finals): June 2, 2017
* Late work will receive a maximum of 70% of the original point value.
* Need more time on an assignment, but don’t want to be penalized for turning it in late? Ask for an extension BEFORE the work is due, and you will likely be given more time. If an extension is granted, and you submit the work on the agreed upon date, there will be no penalty for turning it in late.

**Remind**

Remind is an app that allows teachers to send HW reminders and important announcements to students and parents. To join, send a text message to the number 81010 with the message @mehsdance.

**Restroom Use**

Please use the bathroom during passing period, break, and lunch. You may use the bathroom with my permission; if permission is not granted, it only means that I don’t want you to miss out on learning! ☺

**Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty**

* Assignments not done **entirely** by you will receive a grade of zero with no chance of make-up. Clear cases of plagiarism (i.e. it was copied from the internet) will also result in a referral.
* As soon as a test/quiz is administered, you must be silent, and you must keep your eyes on your own paper. **If you speak at all, I will confiscate your test, and you will receive a zero without chance for make-up.** Clear incidences of cheating (i.e. word for word copying of an answer) will also result in a referral.

**Student Work**

Unless otherwise requested, all student work left in this classroom will be discarded in September 2017.

--------------------------------------------------------------(tear here)----------------------------------------------------------------

Dear Students and Parents,

Please sign in the appropriate spaces below to indicate that you have read the syllabus for Beginning Dance. Then, return this sheet (keep the syllabus in your binder) to Mrs. Finley by September 2, 2016.

**Students:**

STUDENT signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_     Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents/Guardians:**

PARENT/GUARDIAN signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name:

Annual Movie/Video Permission

Dear Parents/Guardians,   
  
During the course of the 2016-2017 school year, I plan to show PG/PG-13 and occasionally R rated movies in full or as excerpts. In addition, students might view other media as well in order to enhance our class curriculum.  
  
Our school requires parental permission for your student to view movies that are used in our curriculum, or selected by our teachers, which are rated PG-13 or R.   
  
We believe that showing your son or daughter this media enables him or her to benefit from another medium as a resource in his or her study of dance and the visual and performing arts.  
  
Movies, along with other classroom activities, give students a well-rounded opportunity to discover the world of performance art; they go beyond dry facts, help bring events “alive,” and show students what performing *looks* like. Be assured that I will use proper discretion when showing these movies.   
  
Thank you for taking the time to read and sign this permission form. Please have this completed and returned by Friday, September 2.  
  
Sincerely,

Emily Finley  
  
\_\_\_\_ Yes, I approve my child’s viewing of curriculum and school appropriate media rated PG-13, or R.

\_\_\_\_ No, I do not approve my child’s viewing of curriculum and school appropriate media for the following rating (check all that apply):

☐ PG-13

☐ R

I understand alternate learning experiences will be provided for my child while the movie is being watched.   
    
  
Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_