**Dance**

**Department Overview**

*Published in the General Brochure and on the AACMS Website*

The highly qualified dance instructors of AACMS’s Dance Department provide their talented students with a variety of challenging dance technique and history classes, meaningful performance experiences, and foster an environment that encourages self-confidence. Over their four years at AACMS, dance students receive instruction in a variety of dance styles—including ballet, modern, jazz, tap, contemporary, and musical theatre—while also studying strength and conditioning, improvisation, and composition. Students also participate in classes centered on dance history, dance in world cultures, and dance appreciation. We value and treasure the artistic abilities of each student, and are honored and privileged to educate, instruct, and guide them in realizing and reaching for their fullest potential.

**Curriculum & Class Descriptions**

*Published in Department Brochure and on the AACMS Website*

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade dance students learn and develop fundamental dance technique through participation in ballet, modern, jazz, music theatre, and strength and conditioning classes. Students participle in three dance classes within the six-day cycle. Students also prepare to perform a dance piece for the annual *Innovations* performance in the spring.

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade dance students learn and develop fundamental dance techniques through participation in ballet, modern, jazz and music theatre classes. Primary dance students also participle in two additional classes, studying dance in world cultures and strength and conditioning for dancers. Students perform in the annual *Innovations* performance in the spring.

Seventh Grade

Seventh grade dance students continue to develop foundational techniques in ballet, modern, jazz and musical theatre styles. Primary dance students also explore their personal movement style in the safe and supportive environment of structured improvisation classes and study classical dance history. Students perform in the annual *Innovations* performance in the spring.

Eighth Grade

Eighth grade dancers refine their dance technique through ballet, jazz, modern, tap, contemporary, and musical theatre classes. Utilizing skills learned in improvisation classes, they learn the art of choreographing in their dance composition class. The eighth-grade dance history class focuses on the world of jazz and modern dance and how it applies to them as an artist. Students perform in the annual *Innovations* performance in the spring.

**Performance Opportunities**

*Published in Department Brochure and on the AACMS Website*

The AACMS Dance Department’s annual showcase, *Innovations*, takes place each spring and showcases our primary dancers as well as secondary seventh dance students and fifth grade students. Our dancers also perform in various community events throughout the school year.

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**Department Supply List**

*Published in Department Brochure and on the AACMS Website*

All students are expected to learn and follow proper dance studio behavior and etiquette, which includes adhering to a specific dress code. Our supply list and code of conduct can be found on the school website.

**Interview Requirements**

*Published on the AACMS Website*

Please arrive prepared to perform a 1–2-minute solo in the style of your choice. This solo can be self-choreographed or learned from another dancer or teacher. After the dancer performs his/her solo, there will be an interview with a member of the dance and academic faculty.

**NEW THIS UPCOMING YEAR:**

**In addition to having a solo prepared, all perspective dancers will be required to participate in a 60-minute dance class that will include ballet and jazz basics. Perspective students should come in dance attire or black movement clothing with their hair pulled back. PLEASE NO JEWELRY. Ballet and jazz shoes are welcomed, but not required.**

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