



South Miami Middle Community School Magnet Dance Program Guidelines 2025-2026

Director: Mrs. Leanet Martin

*The information below can be changed at any time by Mrs. Martin
to ensure ultimate success of the magnet dance program.*

I. STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

A. DANCE DRESS CODE

1. **The dance dress code has been chosen for you.** The style numbers of the dance attire needed are included in the list that was sent to you during the summer. This allows you to purchase the same dance attire at any store of your choice so long as the items match the style numbers provided exactly.
2. **It is important that all students bring the required items.** It is important that each child come fully prepared to professionally represent the Magnet Dance Program on a daily basis.
3. **Hair is to be pulled back into a secure bun.** Bangs must also be securely pulled back, away from face.
4. **If you have bought new shoes, it is important that the teacher check them for proper fit before being worn.**
5. **Those students chosen to dance on pointe shoes by Mrs. Martin will begin pointe classes immediately. Those students not yet on pointe will be evaluated throughout the year and will be notified by Mrs. Martin when and if they are ready to begin pointe classes.** Each child is evaluated on an individual basis.
6. **All dance uniform items worn throughout the year must always look presentable.** Holes, runs, discolorations, etc. in tights, leotards, shoes, etc. will not be allowed. All holes or runs must be properly sewn up by the next school day to be considered acceptable. A warning will be given the first time any item is not "presentable". After this, if items are worn that are considered unacceptable, the students may be asked to do a writing assignment instead of dance and/or will receive a grade cut for not being fully and properly prepared for dance class.
7. **All articles of the student's uniform and accessories must have the student's name clearly written inside with permanent marker. This helps identify ownership when an article of the uniform is misplaced / lost by a student.** Anything lost or stolen within the dance room / dressing room is not the responsibility of Mrs. Martin or the Magnet Dance program. Each student is responsible for their own property. This is why each child is assigned a locker and should use it throughout the school year.
8. **No jewelry is allowed while in dance class.** This includes necklaces, rings, and dangle earrings. Only small studs are permitted. The teacher will decide if a pair of earrings is acceptable or not.

B. DRESSING OUT

1. **The students will have 8 minutes (at most) to change into their dance clothes before class and 8 minutes (at most) to change back into their regular clothes.** The students must be inside the locker-room before the tardy bell rings, and report to their assigned seats inside the dance studio before the 8 minutes of dress out time are up. (The only exception is the period 1 class that is asked to come to class already dressed everyday and must be in their assigned seats, ready to go by the time the tardy bell rings). During class time the students must be fully dressed in leotard, tights, and shoes, with hair properly pulled back away from the face. Tardies to assigned seats affect the start time of individual and class activities / assignments and will result in the lowering of your grade, phone call to parents, detentions, and/or an administrative referral.
2. **The bathroom must be used before or after class!** Bathroom use during class time will only be permitted in the case of an emergency. If the use of the restroom during class time becomes excessive, a doctor's note will need to be provided stating its necessity.
3. **No additional clothing other than the designated leotard and tights (Top, tights, and jazz pants for boys) will be allowed.** Excess clothing restricts Mrs. Martin from seeing proper alignment of the body and the proper execution of each movement.
4. **If for any reason the student is not able to dance, they must still come to class completely dressed out.**
 - If the student is not participating in class due to illness or physical injury, the student must observe the class and write down the observations and corrections learned from each exercise or complete any assignment Mrs. Martin sees fit for that day. This will count as their daily participation grade for the day.
 - This paper or assignment will be turned in by the end of the class period unless otherwise instructed by Mrs. Martin.
 - Being fully dressed and turning in complete and satisfactory written work will allow the student to receive a full participation grade for the days he/she is not physically participating in class. This is considered an "Excused Alternate Participation", and each student is allowed one for the year without a valid doctor's note. If the student is not completely dressed out and / or they do not properly complete their written assignment by the end of the class session, they will be given an "F" for the day as an "Unexcused, Non-participation" grade.
 - If the student is seriously ill and obviously unable to complete the assignment, the student will be sent to the office to call home or stay in the clinic.
 - If the illness or injury refrains the student from participating in class for more than one day, the student must bring a note from the parent. A doctor's note is necessary for an extended period of three days or more. During this time, the student will have to complete an assignment, other written assignments, and/or will assist the teacher with various tasks.
5. **If your dance uniform has been stolen or lost, it is the student's responsibility to 1) bring a note from home, 2) purchase a new item or items by the following Monday.** Until then, the student will wear dance attire of some kind (approved by the teacher) and their hair still properly secured in a bun!

Signature of Acknowledgment and Agreement of the Information Above.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

II. GENERAL RULES

A. Lockers

1. **Each student will be issued a locker and will be expected to use it everyday.** Students will need to purchase a combination lock *from South Miami Middle School*. All students are responsible for placing their clothing, dance bags, purses, valuables, etc. in their lockers and using their combination locks. Do not leave anything of value out in the locker room! The floor area of the locker room must always be clear for safety reasons. Items may be placed on the benches, shelves, on top of the lockers or on the hooks provided. Mrs. Martin will assume that items left on the floor are trash and will be placed in the trash bin to avoid fire hazards of any kind.
2. **DO NOT share lockers, lend your clothes to anyone, or tell others your combination.**
3. **Before leaving the locker room, check the locker area for clothes that may have been left out and make sure that your locker is locked properly. Mrs. Martin is not responsible for lost or stolen items!**

B. Studio Rules

1. **Gum, candy, food, or drinks are not allowed in the dance studio or the dressing rooms areas.** The breaking of this rule, especially the chewing of gum in dance class will result in an automatic grade cut and will affect the students' weekly process / progress grade.
2. **Only pencils are allowed for use on the marley dance floor – NO pens, markers, high-lighters, etc.** (unless otherwise instructed by Mrs. Martin). Breaking this rule will result in an administrative referral, being as the action equals destruction of M-DCPS property.
3. **Street shoes are NOT allowed on the marley dance floor!** One can only walk on the dance floor barefoot, with dance shoes, or socks. NO exceptions!

C. Absences

1. **Attendance is vital in developing talent and achieving high standards for the total program!** Excessive absences by one student impacts the group's performance level. It is hard to have a student "catch-up" on the previous day's skills. You cannot make-up performance skills through additional reading assignments!
2. **Students will be required to present a permissible admit for each day absent.** Unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the student's grade and administrative involvement / action.
3. **A pass from a teacher or the office is required for a permissible absence or tardy if a student comes to class late or misses class for any reason.**
4. **Please see "Performance / Dance Activities" for detailed information on attendance during performance time.**

III. GRADING SYSTEM

Students will be graded on the following: Preparation for Class, Class Participation / Progress / Process, Exams, Quizzes, Written Assignments, Skill Evaluation / Progress, Choreography, Performances, Attendance, Conduct and Effort.

1. Preparation for class -

Weekly Grading Scale for Dressing Out:

- Each student has the potential to earn 5 points weekly for dressing correctly **every day** - totaling as an "A" for the **week**. For each item that is missing from their uniform any day of the week, they are deducted 1 point = 1 letter grade cut for the entire week.
-1 = Hair not properly picked up / -1 = No leotard / -1 = No tights / -1 = No shoes / -1 = Wearing jewelry (except for small studs)

2. Participation / Progress / Process –

Weekly Grading Scale for Participation / Individual / Group Progress and Process

- Each student has the potential to earn 5 points weekly for participation. (This follows the same scale as the "Preparation for Class" grading system shown above.) This should be an easy grade for the students considering that they are in a Magnet Program for an activity they love & want to learn!
- Each student is expected to earn the following 5 participation points weekly.
– Coming to class on time and Prepared / – Following directions / – Skill Development Progress / Process / – Effort / – Attitude
- An automatic "0" is also given to any student who does not participate in class without a valid written excuse or reason. A "0" is equivalent to two F's.
- An automatic "0" will also be given to any student who is not participating actively in the class, or disrupts the class with unnecessary behavior, even if they are completely dressed.

3. Exams -

Written tests will be given throughout the year. Dates for these tests will be given at least one week before the exam date unless it is intended as a pop-exam.

4. Quizzes –

Quizzes and Pop quizzes can be given through out the year at any time. Some of these quizzes may be discussed before the actual quiz day, but some of these quizzes may be given without prior notice, hence the term pop-quiz. Each of these quizzes will also count for a full letter grade.

5. Writing Assignments (In Class Learning / Home Learning)–

In Class Learning

- During some class periods, writing assignments may be presented. These assignments are to be completed before that period is over. These papers will be graded through credit of completion and effort, or will be given a letter grade, depending on the assignment.

Home Learning

- Students will be expected to practice / review all that is learned each day at school, each evening at home as a home learning assignment. It is the students' responsibility to stay physically trained using the practice at home as strong reinforcement for their progressing skills.
- Every week the students will be given a weekly *Home Learning Assignment* that they are required to complete and turn in by the due date given. These assignments will count for at least one full letter grade.
- There will be at least two smaller writing assignments due for each grading period. Each of these assignments will count up to 2 full letter grades.

Signature of Acknowledgment and Agreement of the Information Above.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(Continued from Page 2 – Writing Assignments)

- There will be at least two research projects/reports due throughout the school year. These assignments may count as much as 6 full letter grades. Individual and group projects are designed to enforce independence as well as teamwork and will be graded accordingly.
- Credit will also be given for consistency and thoroughness of the *Class Journal*. These books will be checked on a consistent yet random basis.

*(The subject and content that each assignment will consist of will be given prior to that assignment's due date in full detail.)

6. **Skill Evaluation / Progress** – The grade for skill / progress will be based on the student's ability level, progress, willingness to correct themselves, attitude, and effort.
7. **Choreography** – The grade for choreography will be based on creativity, the ability to work in groups, effort, and progress through choreographic approaches.
 - For the smaller choreographic assignments, the students will be given credit for completion of the assignment and the meeting of criteria mentioned above.
 - The bigger choreographic assignments will be worth at least two full letter grades.
8. **Performances** – Grades and credit will be given for performances and all work associated with the preparation of the shows. This includes rehearsals, costume care and return, punctuality to each session pertaining to the performance, etc.
9. **Conduct** - Excessive talking and disruptive / disrespectful behavior **WILL NOT** be tolerated and can seriously affect a student's conduct grade. Conduct will be evaluated daily and will be given an independent grade at the end of each semester.
10. **110% effort is expected from each student each day**. Effort will be evaluated daily and will be given an independent grade at the end of each semester.

IV. PERFORMANCES / DANCE ACTIVITIES

1. **There will be two major performances this year.**
 - The first performance will be South Miami's annual "Student Choreography Showcase" or Holiday Show.
 - The second will be the annual *Spring Concert* at the end of the year.
 - **These two major performances are mandatory.**
 - We will also be participating in smaller shows and exhibitions such as the Superintendent's Showcase, Hispanic Heritage Month, Luncheons, Fairs, shows with other magnet strands, etc. The dates and times of these shows are not yet known, but as soon as they are available, the students and parents will be notified to avoid any conflict. These smaller performances are usually performed on a voluntary basis, unless otherwise stated by Mrs. Martin.
2. Each performance throughout the year requires many, many hours of work to result in a successful and professional exhibit. Therefore, each and every rehearsal for all performances are considered mandatory at all times through out the year and are only excused by legally excused absences and / or illnesses or injuries that are excused by a doctor's note with a time span. No student is allowed to leave on a field trip of any sort one week before any Dance Magnet performance and can only go on field trips if excused by Mrs. Martin two weeks prior. Missing rehearsals due to excessive excused absences, injuries, or illness, may result in the student being taken out of a section of any given dance piece, an entire dance piece, or the entire performance all together. Missing rehearsals due to unexcused absences, field trips, or unexcused injuries / illnesses WILL result in the student being taken out of a section of any given piece, an entire piece, or the entire performance all together. These ultimate decisions will be made by Mrs. Martin and all actions will result in drastic grade cuts or grade modifications.
3. **Though outside dance training and extra-curricular activities are encouraged for student growth, we remind you that school and the Magnet Program take priority. If ever there is a conflict of schedule with mandatory events within our program, as stated in the Commitment Letter signed, it is expected that our school and program event take priority over any other event or activity.**
4. Please recognize that it is to the discretion of the Dance Director and any other independent choreographer / teacher who is involved with the Center Stage Magnet Dance program to choose who they wish to have participate in any given dance piece, class, event, etc. Not every dancer will be asked to participate in all activities / dance pieces. This should not be taken as an insult and will not be negotiated.
5. During each performance, costumes and accessories will be provided for the students as long as they fund-raise sufficient money through Booster Club fundraising activities throughout the year. Any money not raised by the student (due to lack of effort) for performance or program needs will have to pay for these needs out of pocket. Costumes/accessories/props not returned on time after a show, or purposely damaged or mishandled, will also have to be paid for out of pocket.
6. Booster Club activities held throughout the entire year are used to raise money for the benefit of the students, providing them with special privileges, such as: new costumes, extra-curricular activities, celebrations, awards, professional theatre and equipment rental, and much more. We have developed a strong booster program to avoid excessive "out of pocket" payments by the parents for special items/activities presented throughout the year. Booster Club activities are geared towards promoting teamwork, responsibility, and incentive. We take pride in being able to provide our students with opportunities that have come from hard work and dedication.

Please feel free to contact me before 8:30 am or after 3:00pm or e-mail me at lemartin@dadechools.net. If you would like to speak to me in person, please call me first to make an appointment. Due to the Magnet Program's busy schedule, I will be unable to speak to any parent during class time and unless they have an appointment.

Thank you,

Mrs. Leane Martin

Signature of Acknowledgment and Agreement of the Information Above.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____