



LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

2025-2026

Dear Parents and Magnet Dance Students,

Let me begin by welcoming you to South Miami Middle Community School's Magnet Dance Program. I know that this year will be a great extension of our previous successful experiences, and a developing achievement with all our talented dancers.

As you (re)enter the magnet dance program, we would like to make sure that you understand the commitment both parents and students need to make. In accepting your (re)admission into our program, you will need to actively participate as a performing arts student and parent. This performing magnet dance program works hard all year to display each student's talent and efforts in each of our showcases. For each student to be able to receive a performance grade, it is necessary that they attend all mandatory scheduled performances throughout the year. The only acceptable excuses are as follows: a death in the family, illness that results in hospitalization, or any unfortunate accidents. Even if a student is injured in such a way where he / she cannot perform, (as per doctor's orders), he / she will still need to attend the performance and help with any and/or all back-stage necessities. Failure to attend a show will result in a substantial grade-cut that could place your child on probation and/or exclusion from the dance or performance all together.

As a student, you should understand that you must be ready to perform on the night of any show assigned without question and attend all rehearsals with full effort and attention. All dances are choreographed with each student having an intricate part. When a student fails to show up for a performance, the entire piece falls short, and everyone is affected. Rehearsals and performances are a professional responsibility to the magnet program.

As a parent, you must understand that your child relies on you to make their special nights successful in many ways. Please be aware of all scheduled events and performances and be active in either helping or having your child prepared, organized, and on time. In addition, each magnet program has a booster club, in which we encourage your participation.

It is teamwork from the student, parent, teacher(s), and school that ensures a successful experience. We know that **your** experience here at South Miami Middle Community School ~ Center for the Performing Arts will fall nothing short of an excellent one!

PERFORMANCES: Other than the two mandatory performances performed throughout the year, (the Winter Showcase or and the End of the Year Recital), our performance groups will be committed to perform for many other performances, in various locations, during various times of the day, and during various dates within the 2025-2026 school year. Some examples include smaller shows and exhibitions such as the Superintendent's Showcase, The Hispanic Heritage Show, the Black History Show, Luncheons, Fairs, shows with other magnet strands, etc. The specific dates, times, and locations of these shows are not yet known, but will be provided to the parents as soon as they become available to the director to avoid any conflicts. The dancers and parents must understand though that information is sometimes given in a "last minute" fashion. In this case, it is expected that the dancers and parents of this group understand and embrace the professional realities of being part of the performance world and be ready to always be "Center Stage" dancers. All dancers and parents are expected to show up to all showcases **on time and prepared** as instructed. Some events may ask for the parents to always remain with the dancer throughout the performance experience, while other events will allow you to drop off your child at a certain time and then pick them up when finished. Remember, punctuality is vital! Mrs. Martin will decide if any conflict is permissible without consequence and has the right to decide that a conflict is not excusable with consequence. Mrs. Martin also has the right to decide which consequence is suitable for tardiness, absence, lack of preparation, etc. - including the expulsion of a dancer from the performance group or magnet dance program all together and drastic grade cuts or grade modifications. As a dancer and parent of this performance group, it is understood that your commitment lies with the Center Stage Magnet Dance Group on and off school grounds, during and after school hours.

REHEARSALS: Each performance throughout the year, big or small, requires many, many hours of work to result in a successful and professional exhibit. Therefore, each rehearsal (from beginning to end) for all performances are always considered mandatory throughout 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. (Please see the "S.M.M.C.S. Guidelines" for more performance attendance rules.) Missing rehearsals due to excess excused absences, extended injuries and / or illnesses, 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.

*Please note: 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.

Mrs. Martin's performance groups have a responsibility to perform at any / all extra shows and events (some on short notice). It is their responsibility to know the material for each show thoroughly and be available when needed. All students and parents involved in the performance group understand that their commitment lies with our dance program and will make all efforts to participate in all activities / events asked. This specific group gets graded upon dances performed and the professional aspects surrounding each performance. As performance groups, these students especially need to adhere to the attendance rules stated within in the S.M.M.C.S. magnet dance guidelines.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Leant Martin
Magnet Dance Director

Signature of Acknowledgment and Agreement of the Information Above.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____