

The Program

The Whitman Dance Program is a NY state accredited program. Students receive Arts credit and may pursue a sequence. All classes meet the four NY State Standards for the Arts in Dance. The course work and student placement is organized sequentially by level, not age. No experience is necessary. Students receive technical training in modern dance and ballet, performance experience and learn about dance history and composition. Students learn that dance is more than just tights and lights but an avenue for expression of ideas, stories, and feelings. The WDP explores diverse themes through creative activities, choreography and interdepartmental collaboration. Some examples of previous content include art work by Chagall, Picasso, Bishop and Munch's *The Scream*; poetry by Dante (*Divine Comedy*) and TS Eliot (*Hollow Men*); literature such as William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* and Elie Weisel's *Night*, *The Great Barrier Reef*, drug abuse, environmental awareness, depression and anxiety, and child abuse. The Whitman dancers collaborate with the Whitman Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Chorus and Fashion Classes to provide live music and costumes.

Students are prepared to pursue dance and/or theater in college and professionally if they so desire, or simply immerse themselves in dance culture if they are interested in the experience of moving and creating but not necessarily pursuing a career in dance. The Dance Program offers students a tremendous artistic and cultural experience. The WDP is housed in a beautiful 35' X 20' studio with sprung floors, mirrors, dressing rooms, and is ideally located adjacent to the Performing Arts Center. Its walls are decorated with professional and student art work and numerous photos of the students performing. Please feel free to visit and watch a class. Contact Susan Turner Radin at sradin@shufsd.org and she will be happy to discuss your dance education options.

Course Offerings

Studio in Dance students train in modern dance and ballet techniques daily. They study dance history through readings in their journal *Evolution through Revolution; A Concise History of Dance*, discussion, movement exploration and video analysis. Students attend professional performances and participate in the annual concert in the Spring concert. SGI component. No Experience Necessary

Modern Dance I students train in a variety of modern dance techniques daily. They learn about the evolution of modern dance through discussion, experience and video analysis. Students attend professional performances and participate in the annual concert in the Spring. SGI component. No Experience Necessary

Modern Dance II/III students train in advanced modern techniques daily. They learn how to choreograph dance expressing diverse ideas and concepts utilizing phrase and motif development, structure, partnering and improvisation. Students develop their own creative voice and hone their artistic vision. SGI component. Prerequisite required.

Essential goals:

- Encourage self-confidence
- Apply self-discipline and motivation to all tasks
- Develop their creative voice and individual perspective
- Develop and hone skill, strength, flexibility and versatility as a dancer
- Think abstractly and solve problems creatively,
- Analyze, interpret, write, and speak about dance.
- Collaborate with classmates in the creation and presentation of dance works
- Share ideas
- Expand the role of dance in students' lives and society
- Integrate dance in academia and world issues

HONORS

The Whitman Dance Program is part of the **National Honor Society for Dance Arts. (Chapter 4)**

Students have been recognized by several organizations for their accomplishments:

Long Island Scholar Artist Award in Dance

2008 Elizabeth Tomaselli

2009 Brianna Padilla

2010 Marissa Graham

Long Island Scholar Artist Award in Theater

2011 Joseph Cairl

NDEO Award for Artistic Merit, NY State

2011 Alison Ribellino and Marissa Graham

PTA Reflections Awards for Dance, 2009-2012

Walt Whitman Dance Program's Annual Concert is MAY 31 at 7:30pm FREE

Concert themes include West Side Story, Depression, ELVIS, Painkiller Addiction, The Lion King, Charles Mingus, Immigration, Romantic Ballet

Extracurricular Activities Available to Dancers at Whitman

- Annual Musical
- Body Electric
- Whitman's Got Talent
- WWHS Kickline Team
- WWHS Step Team
- Performances in outside venues.

PHOTOS BELOW













