



THE MERCY DANCE PROGRAM

Mercy's Dance Program is a college preparatory, conservatorial program within the Fine Arts Department which emphasizes both the technical and artistic training of students.

Dance is a unique art form that combines the aesthetic with the kinesthetic experiences. **The Mercy Dance Program** is a college preparatory, conservatorial program that maintains a dual emphasis on both the technical and artistic training of students, providing them with a solid, comprehensive technical foundation, and a stimulating, enjoyable artistic encounter. Students receive technical instruction in the genres of **ballet, modern dance, jazz dance, improvisation, and composition**, as well as exposure to various styles of choreography and performance opportunities. The Mercy Dance Program is well-established, having graduated dancers who have earned admission to premier college dance programs. Alumnae go on to pursue professional careers in dance as educators, choreographers, dance company directors, and performing artists. This premiere program offers students numerous opportunities to study with a number of professional and alumnae teachers and choreographers in a professional dance studio and on the performing stage in the state-of-the-art **Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Auditorium**. Mercy High School was named **Baltimore's Best School for Dance Mentorship** among Private Schools by *Baltimore Magazine* in 2010 under the direction of the program's founder and current **artistic director, Gloria Lang**.

THE DANCE TROUPE

One of Mercy's signature programs, **The Dance Troupe** is a co-curricular, comprehensive, and sequenced college preparatory program for experienced dancers. The Mercy Dance Troupe is selected by audition in the second semester of the eighth grade or in the fall of every year. The Dance Troupe earns **academic credit** and meets an average of three days a week. In addition to rigorous instruction in the genres of dance, The Dance Troupe performs several times during the year including the **formal dance concert** in the spring. The Dance Troupe has appeared at the **Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall** in the Archdiocesan Celebration of the Arts, the CCBC holiday performance of ***Our Favorite Things with the Baltimore Symphonic Band***, and at the **National Association of Independent Schools national conference**. The Dance Troupe was also selected to perform for the **Annual Archdiocesan Gala at the Marriott Harborplace East**. In The Dance Troupe, the dancer not only works with both the artistic and managing directors, but also with **professional guest artists, choreographers, and teachers**. Members of The Dance Troupe have earned awards in the Maryland Distinguished Scholar Program, and have studied dance at the baccalaureate level and beyond. Many graduates are teaching dance in studios and schools, choreographing, and performing professionally.





THE APPRENTICE DANCE COMPANY

The **Apprentice Dance Company** is designed for students with a desire, passion, and potential for dance, who have a more limited dance background than students eligible for The Dance Troupe. The Apprentice Dance Company is selected by audition every fall, earns **academic credit**, and meets an average of two days a week. The program focuses on developing technical skills in the genres of **ballet, modern dance, and jazz dance** with exposure to **improvisation, composition and choreography**. The Apprentice Dance Company has the opportunity to perform in the **Spring Concert** along with The Dance Troupe and works with both the artistic and managing directors during the school year.

CURRICULUM

The Dance Troupe and Apprentice Dance Company are co-curricular activities which take place after the regular school day. Participants who fulfill the commitments set by the artistic and managing directors during the school year earn partial academic credit for their Fine Arts graduation requirement.

AUDITION

Auditions take place in September each year at Mercy High School in the dance studio. Mini-classes in ballet, modern, jazz, and improvisation comprise the audition. **Those auditioning for The Dance Troupe (only)** will also be given the opportunity to showcase their talents by performing a very short dance in a style chosen by the dancer, 45 seconds to one minute in length. This is optional.

The Dance Troupe:

Three days in September of each year. Must attend all three days.

Apprentice Dance Company:

One day in September of each year.

INSTRUCTORS

Artistic Director, Gloria Lang, BFA
Managing Director, Michele May, BFA
Professional Guest Artists
Professional Alumnae Choreographers

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