



## 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. **Mercy's 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 Dance Program at Mercy High School is a well-established program that has successfully graduated dancers who have earned admission to college dance programs and who 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 highly regarded **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 **Director of Dance, Gloria Lang**.

### THE DANCE TROUPE

One of Mercy's signature programs, **Dance Troupe** is a co-curricular, comprehensive, and sequenced college preparatory program. The Mercy Dance Troupe is selected by audition in the second semester of the 8th grade or in the fall of every year. Dance Troupe earns **academic credit** and meets an average of three days a week. In addition to rigorous instruction in the genres of dance, Dance Troupe performs several times during the year, with the **Hunt Valley Symphony Orchestra** in December and the **formal dance concert** in the spring. 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**; and also was selected to perform for the **Annual Archdiocesan Gala at the Marriott Harborplace East**. In Dance Troupe, the dancer not only works with the Director of Dance and the Assistant Director, but also with **professional guest artists, choreographers, and teachers**. Members of 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, but with a more limited dance background than Dance Troupe or have no prior dance training. The Apprentice Dance Company is selected by audition in the fall of every year, earns **academic credit**, and meets an average of one to 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 will have the opportunity to perform in the **Spring Concert** along with Dance Troupe and will work with both the Director of Dance and Assistant Director during the school year.

---

## CURRICULUM

Mercy's 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 Director of Dance 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. The audition will be comprised of mini-classes in ballet, modern, jazz, and improvisation. **Those auditioning for 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 and not mandatory.

### 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

Director of Dance, Gloria Lang, BFA  
Assistant Director of Dance, Michele May, BFA  
Professional Guest Artists  
Professional Alumnae Choreographers

1300 E. NORTHERN PARKWAY  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21239  
P: 410.433.8880  
[WWW.MERCYHIGHSCHOOL.COM](http://WWW.MERCYHIGHSCHOOL.COM)



**MERCY**  
HIGH SCHOOL