

**St. Luke's Episcopal School**  
**In School PE Dance and After School Dance Program**  
**Discipline: Tap**

**Paula Gorman – Dance Director / Instructor**

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**Paula Gorman will be available Fridays at 2:00 pm for pre - arranged conferences**

*\*Syllabus is subject to change as deemed necessary by the instructor and any adjustments to the syllabus will be announced in class. It is a student's responsibility to stay informed.*

### **Course Description:**

This course will teach basic tap rhythm exercises and steps to be set in dance combinations. This course will teach tap dance terminology and will be supplemented with context from tap dance history. Students will learn proper body alignment, tap theory and style. These principles will be incorporated in regularly scheduled tap classes and tap choreography will be performed for the public.

### **Dance Style Description:**

Tap dance is a form of dance characterized by a tapping sound that is created from metal plates that are attached to both the ball and heel of the dancer's shoe. These metal plates, when tapped against a hard surface, create a percussive sound and as such the dancers are considered to be musicians.

Early tappers like Fred Astaire provided a more ballroom look to tap dancing, while Gene Kelly used his extensive ballet training to make tap dancing incorporate all the parts of the ballet. This style of tap led to what is today known as "Broadway style," which is more mainstream in American culture. It often involves high heeled tap shoes and show music, and is usually the type of tap first taught to beginners. The best examples of this style are found in Broadway musicals such as 42nd Street.

The instructor will follow a semester time line to cover the following common tap steps: the shuffle, shuffle ball change, flap, flap heel, cramp roll, buffalo, Maxi Ford, single and double pullbacks, wings, Cincinnati, the shim sham shimmy (also called the Lindy), Irish, Waltz Clog, the paddle and roll, the paradiddle, stomp, brushes, scuffs, and single and double toe punches, heel clicks, single, double and triple time steps, riffs, military time step, and chugs. In the future, advanced tap dancing will combine basic steps together to create new steps.

### **Materials Needed:**

1. You will need a notebook and pen for note taking.
2. You will need proper black tap shoes for boys and girls.
3. You will need black jazz pants and a long sleeved black leotard/white t-shirt for boys.
4. You will need hair bands to pull hair off your face.

### **Course Goals:**

The goal is for students to perform to their best ability tap dance technique. As a result, class choreography will be memorized and performed utilizing proper tap technique and musical timing for the public. This course aspires to have student's understand tap dance terminology and identify and execute various musical rhythms. The goal is to gain an appreciation of the role tap has played in dance history and to experience the joy tap dancing offers humanity.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will improve strength, flexibility, coordination, rhythm and motor learning skills by learning how to use their plie correctly, align their body correctly and safely, stretch their legs and feet correctly, listen and count music correctly.
- Students will gain an appreciation for the tap-dance form's historical importance to our present day dance styles. The challenge to physically comply with the tap dance class structure and required exercises will prepare students for other diverse dance style training challenges.
- Students will be able to gauge their own progress by measuring their improvement in comparison to the instructor's technical demonstrations, fellow class mate's technical growth and their own self expectations at the beginning of the course.

- Students will gain a sense of *self*. As in life, how we perform in our ‘space’ affects our environment. How students execute their part of the choreography affects the ‘whole’ and its success.
- Students will gain a sense of self discipline that will carry over into other academic challenges and life in general.
- Students will be able to ask questions, formulate opinions, and add ideas during dance class. As a result, communication and creative skills will be strengthened.
- Students will increase sensory awareness by blending with others in movement patterns such as dancing around, over, under and between other people.
- Students will gain an aesthetic awareness of the line and design in dance.
- Students will be able to understand tap terminology and will be able to identify and execute various steps in different musical rhythms.

**Additional Instructor Requirements:** *If expectations are not consistently met by a student/s the instructor reserves the right to drop the student/s from the class.*

1. I expect you to follow the “Play Nice Policy” by being respectful of the other classmates and their dance abilities.
2. I expect you to listen to and apply corrections.
3. I expect you to cooperate with the class structure.
4. I expect you to work to achieve your personal best.
5. I expect you to have fun while maintaining a professional working attitude.
6. I expect you to attend every class in mind, body and spirit.
7. I expect you to have all materials by the first week of classes.
8. I expect you to wear the required dance attire and have hair properly coiffed for every class.

### **Class Evaluation/Assessment:**

#### **Dress Code 20%**

Each student should take pride in their appearance and be acceptably dressed for any possible visitors.

*Dorothy’s Dance Shop carries in stock the SLES Dance Program’s required attire. They have them on file by number. The Dress Code on the dance web page also contains the specific numbers for these items.*

- Ballet: long sleeve black leotard with pink, footed tights and pink ballet shoes must be worn to a ballet class. No undergarments are to be worn beneath dance attire. Black chiffon ballet skirts are allowed to be worn by MS dancers.
- Jazz and tap: long sleeve black leotard/white t-shirt for boys and full length black jazz pants, black jazz shoes and black tap shoes (with ties or elastic top)
- No t-shirts or loose fitting clothing are allowed in class. Students may wear solid colored ballet sweaters and leggings on cold days with teacher permission.
- Hair should be securely and neatly pulled off the face and neck in a bun or a French twist.
- Jewelry should be kept to a minimum-no bracelets, dangling earrings, watches or large rings.

#### **Attitude 40%**

Attitude extends beyond the demeanor of the student, but also to the work ethic and application of corrections to the dance technique. Attitude will be comprised of, but not limited to elements such as:

1. Respect towards teacher
2. Positive interaction with classmates
3. Ability to listen
4. Sharing the joy of dance and movement
5. Cooperation
6. Encouraging attitude toward self and others
7. Working to achieve personal best
8. Application of corrections

#### **Participation and Personal Growth 40%**

A student must be present in body, mind and spirit in every dance class to embody dance technique. Each student will be evaluated as an individual and not compared to classmates.

A student’s commitment to work physically and mentally will be evident in the student’s growth artistically and technically throughout the semester. The dance class is intended to foster an appreciation for the arts, increase knowledge of the subject, and instill a lifelong appreciation for the discipline.

## *Calendar*

- Dance classes begin in August and finish in December, first semester and in May the second semester.
- In School Dance Classes will follow the SLES Holiday Schedule.
- Dance Field Trips will be announced at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled event.
- Invitations to perform at other venues will be announced as soon as they are received.

## *Additional*

- Excessive tardiness and absences may affect participation in performances.
- Costume fees are included with the In School Dance semester fee.
- Everyone is expected to respect and willingly abide by all dance class regulations and class procedures, and to conduct themselves in a courteous manner in all dance connected activities.
- Chewing gum, food or drinks are not allowed in the dance studio.
- If you did not receive or if you need another enrollment form, it can be downloaded from the SLES dance web page.