

Tustin High School
Dance Exploration Syllabus
2024-2025

Course Description

Dance exploration is a class to help Colorguard members perform dancing and other skills better. This class must be taken with Colorguard.

Course Requirements

This class is an auditioned only class. Students must keep their grades up to stay in this class as stated in grade expectations. Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

Grading

Students are responsible for maintaining their grade and sharing it with their parents. Grades will be updated weekly on Aeries. You will be evaluated in the following areas:

Performance	50%
Monthly Participation	30%
Reading/Writing	10%
Skills Assessment	10%

Performances

Attendance at performances is a required part of your grade. There is no way to make up a public performance. Your absence from a performance not only affects you, but it affects the other students in the program. If a student is absent from a competition, it could have a direct impact on the group's overall score.

The performance part of your grade is worth 50% of your overall grade. You will be given 100 points at the beginning of the semester. Students will lose points for the following reasons:

Being tardy	-2
Being very tardy (10 minutes or more)	-2 to -5 points
Leaving before you are excused	-2 to -5 points
Inappropriate behavior	-2 to -20 points
Inappropriate dress	-2 to -5 points
An excused missed performance (with make-up assignment)	-0 points
An unexcused missed performance	-50 points

If you have any conflicts with the year's schedule, it must be submitted in writing, using the absence form, to the Band Director no later than August 4, 2023. The Band Director then must approve your request for it to be an excused absence; otherwise an unapproved absence will affect your grade. The only excused absences after that date will be as follows: funerals or extreme medical conditions. If a situation comes up, and you will have to miss or be late to a performance, you must contact the Band Director immediately. Do not wait until the last minute. Most problems can be solved. Make sure to give enough time to allow that to happen. Work, babysitting, not having a ride, being grounded are examples of non-acceptable excuses.

There will be one required fundraisers during the year. One shift will be required during Tiller Days. Failure to do so will result in -5 points each.

If you miss(ed) a performance you will have to fill out a pink absence form. If you know about the missed performance before the performance, the pink form must be turned in as soon as you know you are going to miss. If you miss a performance at the last second, you will have two (2) day to turn in the form if you would like to make it up. Turning in the forms at the end of the season will not allow you to make up the missed performance.

Monthly Participation

Band is a class and students will receive credit for the class, however it is not set up to exist like the traditional academic class. In a math class or English class the student's attendance is not critical to the success of the performance of the class. It is critical for a student's own success but not for the group's success. In a performance class, attendance is very critical to the success of the program.

Monthly participation in class is worth 30% of your overall grade. You will be given 5 points at the start of every Month. You will lose points for the following reasons:

Tardy (per day)	-1 Point
Talking during rehearsal (per infraction)	-1 Point
Chewing Gum	-1 Point
Not having supplies (Music, Pencil, etc.)	-1 Point
Use of electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.)	-1 Point
Not turning in forms on time (per day)	-1 Point
A cut class	-3 Points

There can be other reasons to lose points as well. There is no way to address every scenario. Use your best judgment. It is possible to have negative points at the end of the month.

Reading/Writing

Reading/writing is worth 10% of your grade. There will be different assignments throughout each semester. Most assignments will be done during class, some might be homework. Late assignments receive 50% credit. Late assignments will be taken up to a week late.

Skills Assessment

The skills assessment is worth 10% of your grade. You will be given 5 skills each semester to work on. There will be assessments throughout the semester. Each skill is worth 5 points. You must receive at least a score of 4 in order to pass each skill. Students may test multiple times until they pass. Students can choose to submit a video through Schoology or test in person with Mr. Fisk. If the student submits a video online a receives less than a 4, the student will have to test in person to pass that skill.

Fundraising

General Funds – The general fund is the responsibility of the Instrumental Booster Club. It costs about \$35,000 to run this program every year. We need everyone's help to raise this money. The Booster's Treasurer will provide monthly updates of the general fund at every booster meeting. If you have any questions regarding the budget, or would like to see it, please contact the Band Director.

Hair/Make-up/Jewelry

We are a Marching Band and are in uniform. Uniform means the same. These expectations below are to make sure one student is not a distraction to the judges and audience.

Hair – During marching season hair is to be kept to a non-districting color for performances. Hair may be dyed, but needs to be a non-districting color. If you hair is dyed to a

distracting hair color you could be a distraction to the judges and the audience. If your hair is dyed and it is determined that it will be a distraction you may be told you are not able to perform and as such, your grade will be affected. You will be expected to style your hair as instructed for performances. Each season the hairstyle may change. If you are unsure of how to do your hair, it is your responsibility to ask for help. Your hair should be performance ready by call time.

Make-up – You will be expected to have your make-up done as instructed for performances. Each season the make-up style may change. If you are unsure of how to do your make-up, it is your responsibility to ask for help. Your make-up should be performance ready by call time.

Jewelry – There is to be no jewelry on while you are wearing your costume unless instructed to do so. There is no need for it and it could be a distraction. All visible body piercings need to be removed.

Bus Rules

We use the bus many different times throughout the year. We want to make sure that the bus drivers look highly upon the Tustin High School Instrumental Program. All noise making devices must have the volumes turned off or you may use earphones. There should be no music playing on the bus. The bus will enter the silent zone when we are about 5 minutes from our destination. All electronic devices must be turned off and put away at this time. This is to be observed on all bus trips. Do not change seats while the bus is in motion unless authorized by the parent chaperone. Do not spray ANYTHING on the bus, including perfume. Show proper respect to chaperones, drivers, and all student leaders at all times. Pick up all trash when the trip is over BEFORE getting off the bus. No PDA on the bus.

Taping Equipment

You are responsible to make sure your equipment is properly taped before all rehearsals and performances. If you have not been taught to tape your equipment, it is your responsibility to make sure you learn from a senior member. Not knowing how to do something is not an excuse.

Early Dismissal or Late Arrival at Performances

Anyone needing to arrive late or leave early from an organized music group activity (i.e. performance, football game, or competition) must bring a note from his/her parent to the Band Director at least one week before the event. This note should contain the following: student name, parent name, date written, date of performance, reason, and the name of the person picking up the student (must be at least 21 years old and on the contact list on the student's Aeries account). The student will not be dismissed to an unauthorized adult, unauthorized sibling, or boy/girl friend. Anyone becoming ill during a performance should contact a chaperone and the Band Director. All students are expected to stay at the competition with us and ride home. The only reason the student should leave early is because of an event they need to go to. This is a team and we should all be together and support each other.

There will be no exceptions to this policy. No student will ever be able to drive themselves to an organized performance when everyone else takes the bus. All Students are expected to ride the bus to all events. If there is a special reason why you are not able to ride the bus to an event the Band Director must be told immediately. Most requests will be denied. Students are less prepared when they do not meet at school and ride the bus to events. If a student meets us at a competition without prior approval that student will lose points and may not be able to perform. The student may also be sent home since they are not technically on the trip with us. This will be counted as a missed performance and their grade will be affected accordingly.

Grade Expectations

It is expected that the students maintain an A or B in Marching Band. Once a student is earning a D or F, they will be immediately removed from the program. Earning a C will put them on probation, and they can possibly be removed.

The class you are taking is a class that requires rehearsals and performances outside of the normal school day. Because of this, it will take more time than a normal class. I will be checking every students' grades every quarter to determine that they are maintaining their grades in all their classes. The expectation is that there are no F's and no more than 1 D. If a student falls below the expectations, they will be put on probation.

Probation 1 – This is your first semester on probation. You will not be allowed to participate in Winterguard or Drumline.

Probation 2 – This is your 2nd consecutive semester falling below grade expectation. You will not be allowed to participate in Marching Band, Drumline, or Winterguard.

Dropped – This is your 3rd consecutive semester falling below the grade expectation.

You will be removed from the instrumental music program. You may rejoin if you have 2 consecutive semesters without any D's or F's.

Dropping Guard

If a situation comes up where you want or need to drop guard, you need to wait until the end of the semester/season. Once auditions are done, you are a member of the group. If you drop guard after that date you will not be welcomed back to any instrumental music class at Tustin High School and will be removed from any other ensembles. Colorguard commitment is from August (auditioned date) to the end of November. Winterguard is from December to April.

Video Taping Performances

If your parents want to video tape the performance they are usually allowed to do so. A couple points:

- Please be aware where you are standing. Make sure you are nowhere near the judges and make sure you are not standing up and blocking anyone around you.
- Some competitions do not allow you to video tape. If you are videotaping we could receive a penalty. Listen to announcements and look at signs, and if they say do not video tape, do not video tape.
- The performances we do are involving music. We own the copyright to play this music, but you do not own the rights to video tape and distribute the product (YouTube). This is called synch rights and they are very expensive. Do not put yourself in a situation to get sued. If you are going to post the video on YouTube, make it private. That way anyone you want to see it can view the link but no one else can. Music companies have people that go looking on YouTube for copyright violations. This includes pep music.
- Since we are a competition group, it is best if no one else sees our performances. It is to our benefit not to post videos for anyone to see. I often go online to look for performances of other groups we are competing against. Don't help the other groups out.

Pictures and Likeness

This is a performance group. We have many performances outside of the school day. At many of the performances there is often a photographer taking pictures of the group. Your child may have their picture taken and posted on our website or an outside website. We have no control on who they post on an outside website or on any promotional material. We are not able to opt out of it. Because of this, if your child performs with our group, you are giving your permission to have their picture posted online. If there is a picture that you do not like on our website, please email and as long as it is not a group picture I will remove it.

Competition Warm-up Area

Warm-up areas at competitions are just for that, warm-ups. We need a few parents to help get the students water and help with any other problems what come up. If a parent is not signed up or is not asked to help in warm-up we ask that they stay away. Younger siblings and alumni are not permitted in warm-up areas.

Code of Conduct

Because our performing organizations represent our school, it is necessary for the welfare of the school to have each member be on their best behavior at all times. To encourage the highest expectations and respect for the school, family, and the organization you perform in, the Instrumental Music Department Staff at Tustin High School will expect all performers to abide by the following:

- Always demonstrate appropriate behavior at all times
- Display a positive attitude
- Follow all school rules and regulations
- Do not smoke, use drugs, alcohol, or use profane language
- Respect the director, instructors, parent volunteers, and student leaders in rehearsals and performances and use proper etiquette at all times
- Be aware of the dates, times, and events which are taking place and notify parents, employers and others concerned regarding these dates, times, and events
- Support the group by participating in all fundraising activities
- Be on time for all specified events at or away from school
- Always attend and perform to the best of your ability in rehearsals and performances
- Attend all rehearsals and performances unless there is a death in the family or a serious illness of the member as documented by a doctor's note
- Have your instrument in playing condition at all times
- Do not post any negative comments about any other student or group at Tustin High School on any social media or internet posts
- Do not post any negative comments about any other school's performing ensembles on any social media or internet posts
- Be professional in group texts used for school purposes.

Communication With Families

Booster Meetings – These meetings are held once a month in the Tustin High School Instrumental Room. They are usually held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM. The dates are listed on the website. In addition to conducting the business of the Instrumental Music Organization, information is given about upcoming events and activities, and the Band Director will be available for questions. These meetings are open to everyone who has a student in the Tustin High School Instrumental Music Department, and all parents are encouraged to attend.

E-mail - Email addresses of all students and parents will be requested at the beginning of the year. This will be the primary form of contact by the director. This is an easy way to stay informed and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Music Students - Information will be given to each student throughout the year. Most of the information given to the students will also be emailed to parents; however, the students are going to be responsible for bringing home some information to the parents that is not sent by email.

Website – Most information that is given to students or distributed at a booster meeting will be available on the website. All calendars and up to date news will also be on the website. Please bookmark it and check it often. www.tustinhsmusic.com

Cell Phones/Electronics/Earbuds

Students may not use a cell phone or any electronic devices during class time or during rehearsals without permission from the director. Phones should not be on stands and students must remove headphones/earbuds before entering the music room. It is suggested that students leave their phone in their case or locker. Students may not record any part of a class rehearsal in any media for any reason without my written permission and review (no verbal permission will be granted). However, students are encouraged to have a cell phone on their person for after school activities and performances.

Food in the Room

There is no eating on cart and no eating/sitting on DL/WG Floors. Trash must be disposed of when finished eating. Students must not help themselves to leftover food/drinks from an event. This food will be stored for future events.

Other Important Information and Rules

Communication – Most misunderstandings occur when students are not communicating their needs effectively to their parents or me. Please inform me of any problems as soon as possible. I do understand that students' and parents' lives are busy and hectic. Please allow me the chance to help you resolve any conflicts. Finding out about a problem after the fact will be a mutual point of frustration and possibly cause your grade to be lowered. We will be utilizing the website for the primary form of communication. I am available almost every snack and lunch for extra help for the students. Most of the time, problems can be solved within 15 minutes of one-on-one time.

Donation Information – **Dear Student:** The Constitution of the State of California requires that we provide a public education to you free of charge. Your right to a free education is for all school/educational activities, whether curricular or extracurricular, and whether you get a grade for the activity or class. Subject to certain exceptions, your right to a free public education means that we cannot require you or your family to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity, nor can we require you or your family to pay security deposits for access, participation, materials, or equipment. Under certain circumstances, students involved in extracurricular programs, clubs and/or sports may be required to attend fundraising events held by the program, sport or club just as you may be required to attend any other event put on by that program, club or sport. However, you will not be required to raise funds as a condition of participation.

Back Door – At no point during the school day is the back door to be opened for any reason. If you open the back door, you will be given detention. Please do not ask to have something dropped at the back door.

Picking up students after rehearsals and performances – All rehearsals will end at the time specified. No rehearsal will go over. Please plan to pick up your child within 15 minutes after the rehearsal is scheduled to be over. I will be leaving 15 minutes after the rehearsal is over. If you have not picked up your child by that time, they will be encouraged to go wait at the front of the school. No supervision will be provided after the first 15 minutes.

After all performances, please plan to show up when we are scheduled to arrive. With almost all students having cell phones, it is much easier to let parents know if there are any changes to the schedule.

Forms – There will be different times throughout the year when the students are going to be given forms to fill out and a return deadline will be given. Please make sure that all forms are turned in on or before the deadline. Students will be given classroom detentions if the forms are turned in after the deadline. It takes a lot of work to put the forms in order and to track down the students that did not turn it in yet. Please do not be that student.

Writing on the Board – Please refrain from writing or erasing anything on the whiteboard or blackboard without permission from the Band Director. The information on the board is important to everyone and should not be messed with.

Friends in the Band Room – As much as I want your friends to see how band works and to hang out in the band room with you, it does not work well.. With all of the equipment in the band room, it is much easier to not have anyone in the room during the day besides music students. Please ask your friends to wait outside if you are going in the band room. If one of your friends would like to talk to me about band, they are more than welcome to come in and talk to me.

Hats and Sweater Hoods – At no time when you are in the band room may you wear a hat, sweater hood, beanie, or anything else on top of your head. It affects the sound that you hear when you are playing. Get in the habit of taking it off when you enter the room.

Entering the Room During Class Time – Students should not enter the music room during other class times. Students are not allowed to come in to go to the bathroom, get a form signed, get something from their locker, or any other reason. Entering the room during a class time other than your own is a distraction to the other students. The only exception to this rule is during 6th period. Students who are waiting for an afterschool rehearsal and do not have a 6th period may wait in the locker room quietly. All other exceptions need to be preapproved by Mr. Fisk.

Gum – There should be no gum in the music room at any times, including snack, lunch, or afterschool.

PDA in Room – There should be no PDA (Public Displays of Affection) in the music room at any time including snack, lunch, or afterschool. PDA including, but are not limited to: hugging, kissing, cuddling, etc. Students will be given one warning and then be removed from the room. Students continuing to break this rule will be banned for a certain time period.

Protecting Instruments/Equipment - In order to protect equipment in the music room, students must not put anything on any instrument/equipment. This includes but is not limited to: percussion cabinet, percussion instruments, piano box, Winterguard/Drumline floor, etc.

Contacts – If you have any questions throughout the year, please feel free to contact me at anytime.

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Syllabus Agreement and Information Sheet

We have read the 2024-2025 Dance Exploration syllabus and understand the conditions of participation in the Winterguard, as well as the grading policy, classroom policies, and expectations.

I hereby give my permission for _____ to participate in the Winterguard subject to these conditions.

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian's Signature