

Dance

I. Course description and aims

The DP Dance course takes a holistic approach to dance, and embraces a variety of dance traditions and dance cultures—past, present and looking towards the future. Performance, creative and analytical skills are mutually developed and valued whether the students are writing papers or creating/performing dances. The curriculum provides students with a liberal arts orientation to dance. This orientation facilitates the development of students who may become choreographers, dance scholars, performers or those, more broadly, who seek life enrichment through dance.

In addition, the course enables students to:

1. understand dance as a set of practices with their own histories and theories, and to understand that these practices integrate physical, intellectual and emotional knowledge
2. experience dance as an individual and collective exploration of the expressive possibilities of bodily movement
3. understand and appreciate mastery in various dance styles, traditions and cultures familiar and unfamiliar
4. recognize and use dance to create dialogue among the various traditions and cultures in their school environment, their society and the world at large.

II. Curriculum model overview

Composition and analysis

The development of the creative aspect of making dances

- Composing original work

World dance studies

The development of a comparative knowledge of several dance styles from more than one culture and/or tradition

- Exploring dances, gaining both a physical and theoretical understanding
- Individual investigation

Performance

The development of an understanding of and facility in performing dances

- Movement skills appropriate to the dancer's performance
- Clarity in relationship to space, time, dynamics and movement qualities appropriate to the work
- Communicative expression in relation to other performers and to the audience