

# Foundations of Dance

Content Area: **Performing Arts**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **35 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

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## Foundations of Dance

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### School Mission Statement

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The mission of Chartertech is to provide artists the opportunity to blend principles of artistic expression with cutting-edge technology, so artists will excel in academic, career, and civic pursuits and contribute to the harmony and productivity of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Artistic integration:** Performing arts will be accessible to all artists as a skill and content area and will serve as a vehicle for imparting, enlivening, and motivating excellence in all academic topics, as well as providing a platform for learning multicultural appreciation and empathy, not just tolerance.

**Technological integration:** Technology will serve as the foundation for instructional delivery systems leading to knowledge acquisition, concept understanding, and skill mastery in all academic subjects. Technology will not be studied as a separate entity but infused into the very fabric of educational pursuits, exactly as it occurs in the business world. Artists will be prepared to compete in the modern workplace or post-secondary institution.

*"Education has always been torn between vocational and utilitarian purposes on one hand and creative and holistic purposes on the other... We are rapidly entering a world that is hard to imagine. By developing the problem-solving skills, creativity, and discipline required in the arts, artists can prepare for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."*

From Understanding How the Arts Contribute to Excellent Education

National Endowment for the Arts, 1991

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### School Goals

#### **Goals for Arts Education:**

**Artists will learn the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to turn their passions and gifts in the arts into vocations or serious avocations.**

- Objective 1: Each year, each artist will take two semesters (10 credits) of career-oriented training (80 minutes per day) in their artistic major.
- Objective 2: Each marking period, each artist will perform or produce frequently, in diverse settings and for diverse audiences.
- Objective 3: Artistic instruction will be integrated into the study of all academic subjects.
- Objective 4: Each year, each artist will complete at least twenty after-school “lab” hours in their artistic major. These will constitute career-oriented service to the school and/or community, and demonstrate accomplishment of the NJCCCS crosscutting workplace readiness standards.

**Goal for Technology:**

**Chartertech will model the technology-intense workplace and artists will be able to compete successfully and perform well in a technology-intense workplace.**

- Objective 5: Each artist will routinely use technology in a workplace-like manner to acquire, analyze, communicate, and present information in every subject.
- Objective 6: Each artist will have access to a computer every day, every class so that automated sources will be the main conduit for educational content.
- Objective 7: All administrative and instructional functions of the school will be supported by the most modern technology available.

**Goals for Academic Achievement:**

**Artists will apply themselves in the serious pursuit of knowledge and skills, especially skills in critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and communication.**

- Objective 8: Each year, and to be promoted to the next grade each artist will pass five credits in English, Health, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, and PE/Health. Between grades 9-12 artists will also complete 1 year of Spanish.
- Objective 9: In each academic subject, each year, each artist will complete a significant project that involves critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and communication skills, and which demonstrates cross-content workplace readiness skills.
- Objective 10: Each year artists will develop a artist resume to guide his/her academic and artistic studies and to document his/her academic and artistic accomplishments. This work will be done under the mentorship of the faculty in the artist’s artistic major.
- Objective 11: Academic instruction in all subjects will be highly cross-curricular, in accordance with curricula design and continuously improved by teachers, in compliance with the New Jersey Artist Learning Standards.

**Course Description**

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<b>Course Title:</b>	Foundations of Dance
<b>Department:</b>	Dance
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	None

<b>Number of Credits:</b>	10
<b>Grade Level(s):</b>	9
<b>Standards:</b>	Aligned to New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Dance.
<b>Description of Course</b>	<p>Focus and dedication are two major things needed to achieve success in this course.</p> <p>The artists will begin to learn the elements of the technique of dance on a daily basis. This will assist them in developing their technical proficiency. As well as learning all technical skills, such as body alignment, placement, flexibility and strength necessary to be a proficient dancer they will also begin to study many other aspects that are needed to become a versatile, well-rounded, semi-professional dancer/artist.</p> <p>The artists will begin to learn dance history and its influences on art throughout various time periods. The historical knowledge of dance and dancers/choreographers will make each artist appreciate and know dance on a deeper level, a level one should have while attending a Performing Arts HS and majoring in dance. In the foundations level, artists will learn about the origins of African dance and engage in a project to strengthen their knowledge of and connection with the material being taught. French terminology will begin to be taught to enhance the students understanding of ballet movements which will also assist them in other techniques. Artists will also begin to learn about the anatomical structure to better understand their bodies and how to initiate the execution of movement. Artists will gain an understanding of the various aspects of production and performance and its importance in the aesthetics of a production. Improvisation and choreographic skills will also be taught during this course to begin to develop the creative process using various concepts to guide and enhance choreography. The artists will also begin to gain knowledge about basic music theory as well as music editing by studying the Pro Tools system.</p>

### Overview & Pacing

Unit #	Major Content	Expected Time
Unit #1	Technique	Intergrated daily
Unit #2	Anatomy 1	2 weeks
Unit #3	Dance History 1	4 weeks
Unit #4	Improvisation/Choreography 1	4 weeks
Unit #5	Performance/Production 1	Intergrated daily
Unit #6	Terminology 1	Intergrated daily

Unit #7	Music Theory 1	2 weeks