

The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts

Dance Department Audition Information

The dance department seeks young ladies and gentlemen entering 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade who have a passion for dance, enjoy being physical on a daily basis, and have an interest in studying dance as an art form. Formal dance training is not required to audition, however, it is helpful.

Audition Dates 2013 (for school year 2013-14)

Friday, February 15, 2013

Saturday, February 23, 2013

Friday, March 1, 2013

The Audition

The audition consists of four parts. Parents may accompany their child to the studios to sign in, but then will be excused until they are needed for the academic review. An approximate time for the review will be given to each student and parent during the sign-in process. While waiting for their assigned time, parents may relax in the Commons or venture out for a bite to eat at a nearby restaurant.

Part 1: Class: Students will take a group audition class that consists of a basic ballet barre with two or three basic center exercises, followed by two modern movement phrases. (Training, or lack of training, in these techniques does not necessarily determine acceptance or non-acceptance.)

Part 2: Interview: To become better acquainted with the student, members of the dance faculty will conduct a brief interview. At the interview, students will turn in their personally written essay and two photos (One of them must be in the required dance pose.)

Part 3: One and One-Half Minute Solo Dance: The student will come to the audition with a choreographed and rehearsed, 1 ½ minute solo in the dance style of their choice. The dance can be newly created for the occasion or previously performed; it can be self-created or choreographed by a teacher or friend. It is important to choose the dance style that best shows the student's ability and talent. No costumes, please. Music that accompanies the dance can either be on CD or iPod. We will supply the sound system and iPod cable. Music does not have to be professionally cut at 1 ½ minutes.

Part 4: Academic Review: Following the dance portion of the audition, the student and his/her parent(s) will meet with a guidance counselor or member of the academic faculty to review the student's academic records and put all paperwork in order. This concludes the audition process.

Required dress for audition

Ladies: Black leotard in any style, pink convertible tights (can be worn over feet or rolled up to ankle), and pink soft ballet slippers. Hair must be tightly pulled back in a bun or a clip if length allows.

Males: White form-fitting t-shirt, dance belt, black convertible tights (can be worn over feet or rolled up to ankle), and black ballet slippers. Hair, if long, must be secured away from face.

No jewelry or warm-up clothing is permitted during the audition. Warm-up clothing **is** permitted and suggested while students wait to perform their solo.

The student should bring the following items with them to the dance part of the audition:

- 3x5 or 4x6 head shots (one will be placed in the dance audition folder, the other will be given to the academic reviewer)
- 3x5 or 4x6 photo of student, wearing only tights, leotard and ballet slippers (females) or t-shirt, tights and ballet slippers (males), in a dance position of your choice.
- A typed or hand-written, one page minimum, essay describing how the educational experience at The Lehigh Valley Charter HS for the Arts could help you to develop or meet your goals. Reading the information on our website, www.charterarts.org will help with this requirement.
- A recording of solo music on iPod or CD. If using an iPod, have the hard protective case removed to make the hook-up to the sound machine easier.
- A bottle of water (can also be purchased at the school)

DANCE FAQS: THE AUDITION

The best way to learn about the audition is to attend one of our four **Audition Open Houses**. We will walk you through the process and answer your questions.

October 29, 2012, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

January 7, 2013, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

November 7, 2012, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

January 9, 2013, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

What is the dance department audition like?

You will sign in when you first arrive, be given an audition number, and led to the dressing rooms and studio where you can warm up. The audition begins with a basic ballet class that lasts approximately 40 minutes. Most of the class will occur at the barre, with only a few center exercises given. Following this, you will be taught and perform a few basic modern dance phrases. Only the dance faculty will watch this part of the audition. Following the class portion of the audition, you will individually be called in to participate in a brief interview, hand in your essay and photos, and perform your 1 ½ minute solo. A current dance student will assist you with your music. Your audition in the dance department is only the first part of your audition. Either before you perform your solo or after, you will have an academic review with members of the faculty or guidance department. Once both parts of your audition are over, you are finished and may leave.

What type of student are we looking for?

We are not looking for a finished dancer, but rather a student who enjoys being very physical and wants to be educated in the art of dance. A student must be passionate enough about dance to want to physically participate half a day for almost every day of the school year. Because our ballet classes are leveled we take students who are ready for a basic level of ballet training all the way up through advanced. We have, in the past, taken students who have had no formal ballet training, and this is because they display a passion for the art, are physically fit and have a great desire to be educated in the art. If you enter our school as a Freshman, you will

participate in an excellent dance education for four years. If you are committed to fully participating in your education, you will learn everything you need to know to pursue dance post high school, if you choose this avenue.

I believe I am a skilled dancer. Will I be challenged in The Lehigh Valley Charter HS for the Arts dance department?

There are four levels of ballet in the dance department which serve students who are at different levels of skill, mind-body connection, and strength. The most advanced levels of ballet are highly challenging. The choreography you will perform will also stretch your abilities and artistry. The modern curriculum is designed to physically condition you stretch your technique for the demands of contemporary modern choreography.

What type of dance should I perform for my audition?

It is entirely up to you. We ask that you come prepared with a 1 ½ minute audition solo so that we can get an idea of what you look like when you are doing something you are comfortable and familiar with.

What type of music should I use?

Again, the choice is yours. We are prepared with technology to support either music on iPod or CD. It is not required that you have your music cut to 1 ½ minutes. You can just indicate to the teachers that your solo has ended and the music will be turned off.

Do I need to wear a costume when I perform my audition solo?

No. In fact, we prefer that you don't wear a costume.

Can I perform my solo on pointe?

Yes. The studios have state of the art flooring which offers you a perfect surface for pointe. Be aware that rosin is not needed and is not permitted on these floors.

Who watches me audition?

For the performance of your solo and the interview, only the dance department teachers and one of our student helpers (who is also your helper) will be present. Parents and friends are not permitted to watch any part of the audition.

What is the interview like?

The interview helps the dance faculty to get a better idea of who you are and why you want to attend a performing arts high school. We mainly want to get you talking about yourself and your goals.

Is it okay if I choreograph my own solo?

Yes. It shows us that you have taken the initiative to prepare yourself for the audition and it also shows us that you aren't afraid to be creative.

What if I mess up during my solo?

The dance faculty understands that auditions can make a person very nervous. (We, ourselves, have been through many auditions!) Even if you make some mistakes or can't make it all the way through your dance, we can tell a great deal about your abilities and potential in a very short time, through watching a very small amount of your dance.

Will I receive feedback after my audition is over?

The nature of an audition is that there is no verbal or written feedback once it is over.

If I don't pass this audition, can I audition again next year?

Yes. Absolutely! If you don't pass the audition it may be due to weak or no ballet training. Find some good community ballet classes and start preparing right away. Also, come to see some of the dance department performances. This will give you a good idea of what the dancers in the department are like.