

Dance Department
Audition Requirements 2023-2024

The dance department seeks students 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 very helpful.

Audition Dates

Friday January 27, 2023, Friday February 17, 2023, Saturday February 18, 2023

PRIOR TO YOUR AUDITION: Prepare a one page minimum essay describing how the educational experience at Charter Arts could help you to develop or meet your goals. Visiting our website at www.charterarts.org will help with this requirement. Email your essay to the director of the dance department, Jennifer Weaver at jweaver@charterarts.org at least one week prior to your audition date.

The Audition The audition consists of four parts. Parents will report to the Commons Cafe with their child and wait for a member of the dance faculty to usher their child to the audition space. Each auditioning student will be given an audition number and solo performance order. Parents will be given an approximate time to meet their child for the academic review process. While waiting for their assigned time, parents may relax in the Charter Arts Commons or venture out for breakfast at a nearby restaurant.

Part 1: **Class:** Auditionees 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 auditionee, members of the dance faculty will conduct a brief interview. Please see the “what to bring” section.

Part 3: **One and One-Half Minute Solo Dance:** The auditionee 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 phone. We will supply the sound system and dongle. (Please remove your phone case so that our cord can be fully inserted into your device). Music does not have to be professionally cut at 1 ½ minutes.

Part 4: **Academic Review:** Before or after performing their solo, the auditionee and his/her parent(s) will meet with a member of the academic faculty to review his/her academic records and put all paperwork in order. An approximate time will be assigned for this review process prior to the audition beginning. This concludes the audition process.

Required dress for audition: Pick from the following two choices:

Black leotard in any style, ballet pink or flesh tone convertible tights (to be worn over feet for ballet or rolled up to ankle for modern), and ballet slippers. Hair must be tightly pulled back.

White form-fitting t-shirt, flesh tone or black convertible tights (to be worn over feet for ballet or rolled up to ankle for modern) or black form-fitted leggings, and ballet slippers.

Jewelry or warm-up clothing is not permitted during the audition. You may wear warm-ups while waiting to do your solo. *Please contact the registrar if you have difficulty meeting this requirement.

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

- Two 3x5 or 4x6 head shots (one will be placed in the dance audition folder during the interview, the other will be given to the academic reviewer.) Photos **do not** need to be professionally taken.
- Your solo music on phone or CD.
- A bottle of water.

DANCE FAQS: THE AUDITION: The best way to learn about the audition is to attend one of our three **Audition Open Houses**. We will walk you through the process and answer your questions. **Wednesday, Wednesday October 26, 2022, Tuesday November 15, 2022, or Thursday January 5, 2023**

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 one hour. 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 Charter Arts 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 and perform your 1 ½ minute solo. Your audition in the dance department is only the first part of your Charter Arts audition. Either before you perform your solo or after, you and your parents will proceed through an academic review with members of the Charter Arts faculty or guidance department. All necessary documents are needed for this. 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 thrives on 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 for half of the school day 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 are entering as a freshman, you will be trained at Charter Arts for four years. If you fully participate 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 Charter 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 and artistically challenge you for the demands of today's contemporary modern choreography. As a more advanced dancer, you have the chance to audition to work with a choreographer after school.

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 in your favorite form of dance 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 phone 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 solo you will be performing 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 an arts high school.

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 and through watching a very small amount of your dance. For this reason, we may not have you start over.

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. It is helpful to come to see any one of our yearly performances and through this you can discover what we are looking for and how you should proceed with your training if you would like to participate in an audition the following year.

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, create a conditioning program for yourself, 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 and will also introduce you to the culture of the school.