

A.R.M.E.S.
Arts Reaching Middle & Elementary Schools
Dance Handbook

ARMES Purpose and Goals

The ARMES Program is an Arts program designed to meet the needs of Greenville County's students (grades 4-8) who have demonstrated outstanding talents and a deep interest in theatre, visual arts, orchestral strings, or dance. Sponsored by the Fine Arts Center, the purpose of the program is to allow the student to explore their chosen art form in depth while promoting individual creativity.

The ARMES program is funded by South Carolina's Educational Improvement Act (EIA) and is offered at no cost to the students. Admission to the program is by nomination and auditions, which are held each spring. The ARMES Program serves approximately five hundred fifty students from forty-eight elementary schools and seventeen middle schools.

The ARMES Program Objectives

- *To allow young students to develop as artists
- *To create a stimulating learning environment in which students experience both intellectual and social interaction with other young artists
- *To develop behaviors and skills useful in self-directed learning
 - *To heighten enthusiasm for learning
- *To increase knowledge and usage of creative problem-solving skills and critical thinking skills
 - *To foster appreciation for personal abilities
 - *To encourage the development of aesthetic values
- *To provide students with a better understanding of the relationship between art and the society in which we live

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ARMES Program

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PARTICIPATION AND RULES

The ARMES program of The Fine Arts Center is a tuition free program for which any student may audition, based upon a recommendation by a teacher, parent or student. Because this special Gifted and Talented program exists for the student's benefit, we will work to the highest artistic standards possible.

Students selected for the ARMES program have the opportunity to participate in an intensified instructional arts program. Because students receive a limited number of instructional hours, it is very important that they arrive on time and do not miss classes. Students who do not attend consistently miss substantial instruction and may compromise the pace of instruction.

Please remember that the ARMES program and your students are the guests of The Fine Arts Center. The artwork that is on display in the Gallery and hallways is of great value and should be treated with respect and care. **DO NOT TOUCH. NO HORSEPLAY** will be allowed inside the building.

ATTENDANCE

Three approved absences are allowed. A note to the teacher should follow each absence for the absence to be excused. If a student needs more than the three approved absences, the parent must contact the instructor. Students will be dismissed from the ARMES program after three unexcused absences so the pace of instruction will not be compromised. If the attendance problem cannot be resolved, a letter of dismissal will be sent.

ARMES classes are taught at a pace and level of complexity appropriate for artistically gifted children. Students often find the ARMES class work stimulating and look forward to doing it. However, ARMES students must first maintain their regular class work. Participation in the ARMES program does not excuse students from their regular school assignments.

Spaces in the advanced classes are limited and acceptance for the following year in the ARMES program is not guaranteed. Behavior in class, commitment to the work, and positive attitude are criteria which will be considered when reviewing returning student applications. [All returning DANCE students are asked to re-audition each year so that the teacher can evaluate their commitment and level of placement for the next year.](#)

EVALUATIONS

The ARMES program will issue report cards at the end of each grading period (three per year). It is hoped that all students will strive to make superior progress in their discipline. Progress reports will be sent home, if necessary, in between report cards.

Students are allowed two weeks after report cards are issued to return the report *signed by a parent*. If the *signed* report card is not returned after two weeks, the student will not be able to participate in class until the report card is returned.

ACTIVITIES AND CALENDAR

ARMES classes at The Fine Arts Center will begin on **Tuesday, September 1, 2009**. As always, we will follow the public school calendar for vacation days, teacher work days, and holidays. **If school is dismissed for a holiday at the end of the school day, there will be NO ARMES CLASSES ON THAT**

DAY. Please make a note of this! Also, if school is dismissed early or cancelled for the day because of inclement weather, THERE ARE NO ARMES CLASSES ON THAT DAY. Because we are guests at The Fine Arts Center, priority is given to The Fine Arts Center school activities. Classes may occasionally have to be cancelled because of a conflict with the high school schedule and/or faculty. An email will be sent home if a class is to be cancelled. It is hoped that you will check your email regularly so that you will not make an unnecessary trip to the Fine Arts Center. A calendar of dates is provided so you may know at this time the dates that ARMES classes will not be held. [See the attached calendar for important dates and times for the ARMES dance 2009-10 program.](#)

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF GREENVILLE COUNTY DISCIPLINE CODE

Student Behavior Code (July 1, 2009) **Student Behavior (Policy JCDA)**

The Board expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner. This requirement refers to their actions toward other students and teachers, their language, their dress and their manners. The Board believes self-discipline is an interpersonal goal of public education.

Students have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of the school and District. Violations of such policies, rules and regulations will result in disciplinary actions. The Board directs students to the District's Behavior Code set forth in this policy and the student handbook for their individual school. The Board authorizes its school authorities to employ probation and suspension and to recommend expulsion, if necessary, to enforce this policy.

It is the philosophy of the District to handle all student disciplinary matters at the lowest supervisory level possible and in the most reasonable manner possible. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with appropriate procedural rights being afforded to students and their parents/guardians as provided by state law, State Board of Education regulation, and/or the policies of this District.

The Board and the administration offer the following listing of offenses and the required or recommended dispositions for the information of students, parents/legal guardians and school personnel.

Application of this Policy

The following rules regarding student conduct are in effect during the following times and in the following places:

- on the school grounds during, and immediately before or immediately after, school hours
- on the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a school group
- off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event
- en route to and from school or a school activity on a school bus or other school vehicle
- at any time or in any place that impacts the school's ability to maintain order and discipline in the Greenville County School District

Student Conduct Away from School Grounds or School Activities

The Board expects administrators to take appropriate action when information becomes available about

student misconduct away from school grounds or school activities that may have a direct and detrimental effect on or seriously threaten the discipline, educational environment, safety or general welfare of students, faculty, staff and/or administrators of the District. When assessing the impact of out-of-school behavior on a District school, the administrator should take into consideration the seriousness of the alleged out-of-school offense and the protection of students, faculty, staff and administrators from the effects of violence, drugs and/or disruptions.

Administrators are directed to evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis. At a minimum, administrators or their designees should meet with the student upon his/her arrival at school, give the student notice of the concerns based on the reported out-of-school behavior and allow the student an opportunity to present his/her side of the story. Based upon all of the circumstances, including a finding that the alleged conduct will have a direct and immediate effect on the school or threatens the discipline, educational environment, safety or general welfare of students, faculty, staff and/or administrators of the school, the administration may either permit the student to attend classes as usual or may take appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension in order to conduct an investigation into the matter. The parents/legal guardians of students will be notified of any action taken by the administration and offered the opportunity for a conference with the administration.

In the event the student is incarcerated based on his/her out-of-school conduct, the principal or his/her designee will notify the student that he/she is to meet with the administration prior to returning to school.

At the conclusion of the inquiries to obtain more information on the matter, the administrator or his/her designee should take appropriate action which may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- returning the student to his/her normal class schedule and removing all evidence of suspension
- placing the student on probation and allowing the student to resume his/her normal class schedule
- placing the student on probation, allowing the student to continue class work, but restricting the student's participation in extracurricular activities and/or designated school activities, for example, clubs, study halls, pep rallies, student government activities and so forth
- suspending the student
- recommending placement in the District's alternative school
- recommending expulsion of the student for the remainder of the year

The disciplinary action taken must be supported by the evidence and take into full consideration the impact of the student's presence at school on the discipline, educational environment and safety or general welfare of other students, faculty, staff and/or administrators of the school.

Levels of Offenses

Students who engage in an ongoing pattern of behavior that is disruptive to the orderly operations of the school shall be recommended for expulsion. The following is a general listing of offenses and the required or recommended disciplinary actions which should be taken as a result of such offenses being committed.

Disorderly Conduct - Level I

Disorderly conduct is defined as any activity in which a student engages that tends to impede orderly classroom procedures or instructional activities, orderly operation of the school or the frequency or seriousness of which disturbs the classroom or school.

Acts of disorderly conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- classroom tardiness
- cheating on examinations or classroom assignments
- lying
- blackmail of other students or school personnel
- acting in a manner so as to interfere with the instructional process
- abusive language between or among students, to include profane language
- failure to complete assignments or carry out directions
- use of forged notes or excuses
- violation of school bus regulations
- cutting class
- possession or use of a paging device in violation of District policy
- school tardiness
- truancy
- use of obscene or profane language or gestures
- other disorderly acts as determined at the school level, which are not inconsistent with Board policy

The administration may apply sanctions in cases of disorderly conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- verbal reprimand
- withdrawal of privileges (a privilege, as defined by the Greenville County School Board, is a student's opportunity to participate in any function of the school beyond attending class, riding buses and participating in the school District's food service program)
- demerits
- detention
- in-school/out of school suspension
- other sanctions approved by the Board or administration

Disruptive Conduct - Level II

Disruptive conduct is defined as those activities engaged in by student(s) which are directed against persons or property and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of themselves or others in the school. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses, justifying both administrative sanctions and court proceedings.

The administration may reclassify disorderly conduct (Level I) as disruptive conduct (Level II) if the student engages in the activity three or more times.

Acts of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- fighting
- vandalism (minor)
- stealing
- use or possession of laser pointers, fireworks, smoke bombs, pepper-style sprays, and other similar devices or materials
- threats against others
- trespass
- abusive language to staff, to include profane language
- other disruptive acts which interfere with the educational process
- refusal to obey school personnel or agents (such as volunteer aides or chaperones) whose responsibilities include supervision of students
- possession or use of unauthorized substances, including tobacco and tobacco products, non-prescription drugs, "look-a-like" drugs, and drug paraphernalia, including rolling papers
- illegally occupying or blocking in any way school property with the intent to deprive others of its use
- inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- misuse of District technology resources
- gambling on school property
- unlawful assembly
- disrupting lawful assembly
- harassment, intimidation or bullying
- intimidating, threatening, or physically abusing another student
- any other acts as determined at the school level that are not inconsistent with Board policy

The administration may apply sanctions in cases of disruptive conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- in-school suspension
- withdrawal of privileges (a privilege, as defined by the Greenville County School Board, is a student's opportunity to participate in any function of the school beyond attending class, riding buses and participating in the school District's food service program)
- temporary removal from class
- out-of-school suspension
- referral to outside agency
- assignment to alternative school
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate, should be sought by local school authorities
- other sanctions as approved by the Board or administration

Criminal Conduct - Level III

Criminal conduct is defined as those activities engaged in by students (whether or not they result in criminal charges) that result in violence to themselves or to another's person or property or which pose a

direct and serious threat to the safety of themselves or others in the school. These activities usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and/or action by the Board.

Whenever a student is engaging or has engaged in activities including, but not limited to, one of the acts specified below, while on school property or at a school sanctioned or sponsored activity which a principal or his/her designee has reason to believe may result, or has resulted, in injury or serious threat of injury to a person or to his/her property, the principal or his/her designee is required to notify law enforcement officials.

Acts for which principals must recommend students for expulsion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- bomb threat
- possession, use or transfer of weapons - a weapon is defined as a firearm (rifle, shotgun, pistol or similar device that propels a projectile through the energy of an explosive); a knife, razor, bludgeon, blackjack, metal pipe or pole, brass knuckles (to include multi-finger rings); incendiary or explosive device; or any other type of device or object which may be used to inflict bodily injury or death
- sexual offenses (which include sexual acts that do not result in a criminal offense)
- arson
- distribution, sale, purchase, manufacture, use, being under the influence of, or unlawful possession of alcohol or a controlled substance, as defined in S.C. Code Ann. §§ 44-53-110 through 44-53-270. (See Policy JCDAC)
- threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm upon a school employee or member of their immediate family
- ganging ("Ganging" or participating as a member of a gang and inflicting a violent act of bodily harm, however slight, upon another person will not be tolerated. A "gang" shall consist of two or more persons acting together for and with the purpose of committing an act of violence against another person. "Participation" also includes any act that interferes with or hinders a staff member from stopping the infliction of bodily injury that is the objective of the gang.)

Additional acts for which principals may recommend students for expulsion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- vandalism (major)
- theft, possession or sale of stolen property
- disturbing the schools
- possession, use, or transfer of "look-a-like" weapons
- assault and battery
- extortion
- any other acts as determined by the Board

Note Regarding Students Under the Influence: In determining whether a student is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, the student's appearance, behavior, manner, presence of an odor of the substance, and statements made by the student as to the use of controlled substances or alcohol may be

considered without regard to the amount of alcohol/controlled substance consumed.

Note Regarding Recommendations for Expulsion

Recommendations for expulsion do not automatically result in expulsion. Hearing officers have the authority and flexibility to consider other disciplinary action based on the offense, age of student, previous disciplinary record, extenuating circumstances, and totality of the incident.

The principals must recommend students for expulsion if they have committed offenses which are underlined above. If a student commits an offense that is not underlined, the principals may recommend the student for expulsion when the circumstances warrant it. The administration may apply sanctions in cases of criminal conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- withdrawal of privileges (a privilege, as defined by the Greenville County School Board, is a student's opportunity to participate in any function of the school beyond attending class, riding buses and participating in the school District's food service program)
- out-of-school suspension
- assignment to alternative school
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate, should be sought by local school authorities
- other sanctions as approved by the Board or administration

Extenuating, Mitigating or Aggravating Circumstances

The Board confers upon the Superintendent or his/her designee the authority to consider extenuating, mitigating or aggravating circumstances which may exist in a particular case of misconduct. The administrator should consider such circumstances in determining the most appropriate sanction.

Discipline of Disabled Students

Students identified as disabled pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act ("IDEIA disabled") will be disciplined in accordance with federal and state law as set forth in the special education procedures developed by the administration.

Paging Devices, Telecommunications Devices, and Cell Phones

For purpose of this policy, paging devices are defined as telecommunications devices, to include mobile telephones, that emit an audible signal, vibrate, display a message or otherwise summon or deliver a communication to the possessor.

Students who choose to bring paging devices to school must keep them in their vehicles or lockers, or another appropriate location determined by the school principal. During school hours while on school grounds, no student may use, or have turned on, a paging device without the prior permission of the

principal, as set forth below. "Turned on" includes a paging device that is activated and set or programmed to ring, vibrate or otherwise send or receive a signal.

The principal or his/her designee may authorize a student to otherwise possess a paging device if the student is an active member of an emergency service organization, needs the paging device for a legitimate medical reason or otherwise needs the paging device for a legitimate reason, as determined by the principal. In such cases, the student must have prior written consent from the principal or his/her designee.

A person who finds a student in possession or use of a paging device in violation of this policy, must report the student to the school principal. The principal or his/her designee must confiscate the device. The device will be returned to the student's parent/legal guardian according to the terms set forth below. A student who violates this policy regarding use and possession of paging devices is subject to discipline as follows:

First offense – confiscation of the paging device or mobile telephone and after a conference with the parent/legal guardian, the paging device or mobile telephone will be returned to the adult.

Second offense - confiscation of the paging device or mobile telephone and after a conference with the parent/legal guardian, the paging device or mobile telephone will be returned to the adult 30 days after the confiscation.

Third offense - confiscation of the paging device or mobile telephone and after a conference with the parent/legal guardian, the paging device or mobile telephone will be returned to the adult 60 days after the confiscation and the student may be subject to additional disciplinary consequences including: detention (during or after school), in-school suspension, out of school suspension, and work detail assignment.

Fourth and subsequent offenses - confiscation of the paging device or mobile telephone and after a conference with the parent/legal guardian, the paging device or mobile telephone will be returned at the end of the school year and the student may be subject to additional disciplinary consequences including: detention (during or after school), in-school suspension, out of school suspension, and work detail assignment.

Suspension

(Summary of Policy JDD)

The Board provides due process of law to students, parents/legal guardians and school personnel through procedures for the suspension of students, which are consistent with federal law, state law and regulation and local policy.

According to state law, the Board may authorize the suspension of a student from school for commission of any crime, gross immorality, gross misbehavior, persistent disobedience or for violation of written rules and regulations established by the District Board of Trustees (Student Behavior Code Policy JCDA), or the State Board of Education. The Board may also authorize the suspension of a student when the presence of the student is detrimental to the best interest of the school. Suspension means a student

cannot attend school or be on the school grounds, cannot attend any program at the school in the daytime or at night and cannot ride a school bus.

Suspension is the exclusion of a student from school and school activities for a period of time not to exceed 10 school days for any one offense. The Board uses the word suspension in this policy to mean either suspension from school or in-school suspension as determined by the principal.

The Board delegates the power of suspension to District administrators.

Requests for review of suspensions may be made to the principal and the Superintendent's designee. The decision of the Superintendent's designee ends the appeal process for suspensions. However, the Board must review suspensions that occur within the last 10 days of the school year if such suspension would make a student ineligible to receive credit for the school year.

Suspension of students who are classified as disabled will be handled consistent with federal and state law and with procedures established by the Board.

Missed Work

Students who are suspended must make up missed work.

**Expulsion
(Summary of Policy JDE)**

Expulsion is the removal of a student from a school for the remainder of the school year, except in cases of permanent expulsion.

A student may be expelled for any reason listed in the Student Behavior Code Policy JCDA, for the commission of any crime, gross immorality, gross misbehavior or the violation of any other written rules and regulations established by the Board or the State Board of Education, or when the presence of the student is deemed to be detrimental to the best interests of the school. Students who engage in an ongoing pattern of behavior that is disruptive to the orderly operations of the school shall be recommended for expulsion, as set forth in Policy JCDA. Expulsion means the student cannot attend school or be on the school grounds, cannot attend any school-related events or activities on or off campus, and cannot ride a school bus.

The Board delegates to a District hearing officer the authority to conduct administrative hearings and expel students. The decision of the hearing officer may be appealed by either the student or the administration to the Board as indicated in Policy JDE.

**Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
(Summary of Policy JCDA)**

As provided in the South Carolina Safe School Climate Act, the District prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying of a student by another student or students, staff, or third parties that interfere with or disrupt a student's ability to learn and the school's responsibility to educate its students in a safe and orderly environment whether in a classroom, on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, at a school-sponsored activity or event, whether or not it is held on school premises, or at another program or function where the school is responsible for the student.

The District expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner. Students and employees have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of the school and District.

Definitions

"Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" is defined as a gesture, an electronic communication, or a written, verbal, physical, or sexual act that a reasonable person should know will have the effect of:

- a) harming a student, physically or emotionally, or damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or damage to his property; or
- b) insulting or demeaning a student or group of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Reporting

Any student who believes he/she has been subject to harassment, intimidation, or bullying should file a complaint with the principal or his or her designee. Such a complaint may also be filed by a student's parent. If an employee receives a complaint of harassment, intimidation, or bullying or observes any behavior which could amount to harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the employee must transmit the complaint to the school's principal or other designated contact person as soon as practicable.

Consequences for Engaging in Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

If the investigation determines that harassment, intimidation, or bullying has occurred, the administration shall take reasonable, timely, age-appropriate, and effective corrective action. Examples of corrective action include, but are not limited to, disciplinary action against the aggressor, up to and including termination of an employee or expulsion of a student; special training or other interventions; apologies; dissemination of statements that the school does not tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying; independent reassessment of student work; and/or tutoring.

Individuals, including students, employees, parents, and volunteers, may also be referred to law enforcement officials. The District will take all other appropriate steps to correct or rectify the situation.

Sexual Harassment (Summary of Policy JCA)

All students and employees must avoid any action or conduct that could be viewed as sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature. This includes any action or conduct communicated or performed in person, in writing or electronically. Sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature directed at students, either male or female, by District employees, other students, volunteers or third parties associated with schools is strictly prohibited. Such conduct is considered a violation that is disorderly, disruptive, and/or criminal in nature and will not be tolerated. Any employee who engages in such conduct may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including a recommendation for termination. A student who engages in such conduct may be disciplined up to and including expulsion.

Any student who believes he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature by an employee, another student, a volunteer, or a third party, is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with JCA/JCA-R. A parent may also file a complaint on behalf of his/her child. Students will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal for having filed a complaint.

Gang Activity or Association (Summary of Policy JCDAE)

Gangs and activities of gangs are prohibited on or near school property and at school-sponsored events. A "gang" consists of two or more persons acting together for and with the purpose of committing an act of violence against another person.

The following conduct is prohibited at all times on school property and at school-sponsored events, regardless of where the events are held:

- Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, manner of grooming or other item that evidences or reflects membership in or affiliation with any gang
- Engaging in any act, either verbal or nonverbal, including, but not limited to, gestures or handshakes, that indicates membership in or affiliation with any gang
- Engaging in any act in furtherance of the interests of any gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting membership or affiliation with a gang; soliciting any person to pay for "protection"; or soliciting any person to engage in physical violence against any other person
- Painting, writing, engraving, or otherwise inscribing any gang-related graffiti, messages, symbols or signs on school property

In determining as part of the implementation of this regulation whether certain acts or conduct are gang-related, school officials should consult with local law enforcement.

If the District determines that a student has violated the prohibitions set forth in this policy, the student will be subject to exclusion from participation in extracurricular activities, detention, suspension, and/or expulsion, dependent upon the specific circumstances of the offense. Students also may be referred to law

enforcement. The District also reserves the right to permanently prohibit any student from wearing or displaying any article of clothing or accessory which the District has determined to be a gang indicator.

Searches, Student Interrogations, and Arrests (Summary of Policy JCAB)

The Board recognizes that both state law and the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution protect citizens, including students, from unreasonable searches and seizures. The Board accordingly directs all District personnel to conduct searches and seizures on District property or during District sponsored events in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

Searches

As authorized by state law, District and school administrators and officials may conduct reasonable searches on District property of lockers, desks, vehicles, and personal belongings such as purses, book bags, wallets, and satchels, with or without probable cause, subject to the limitations and requirements of this policy.

Contacting Law Enforcement

As provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 59-24-60, school administrators must contact law enforcement authorities immediately upon notice that a person is engaging or has engaged in activities on school property or at a school sanctioned or sponsored activity, which may result, or results in, injury or serious threat of injury to the person, or to another person, or his property. Such reportable activities or conduct may include, but are not limited to, the examples of criminal conduct referenced in Level III of Board Policy JCDA (Behavior Code).

The Board recognizes that, when law enforcement authorities are contacted pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-24-60, the law enforcement authorities must make the determination whether they will conduct an investigation into the matter.

Interrogations by School Personnel and School Resource Officers

Administrators and teachers, as well as school resource officers, may question students about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or enforcement of its rules. The questioning shall be conducted discreetly and under circumstances which will avoid, to the extent practical under the circumstances, unnecessary embarrassment to the person being questioned. School resource officers shall act consistently with law enforcement guidelines should any routine questioning turn into a criminal investigation. Any student who answers falsely or evasively or who refuses to answer an appropriate question may be disciplined.

Interrogations by Law Enforcement

When law enforcement officers find it necessary to question a student during the school day regarding matters not connected to the school, the principal or his/her designee shall cooperate with law enforcement and shall request to be present, so long as his/her presence does not impede the investigation. The principal or his/her designee should make a reasonable attempt to contact the student's parent/legal guardian and request his/her presence.

Weapons in School (Summary of Policy JCDA)

While on school grounds, in school buildings, on buses or at school-related functions, students will not possess any item capable of inflicting injury or harm (hereinafter referred to as a weapon) to persons or property when that item is not used in relation to a normal school activity at a scheduled time for the student. No vehicles parked on school property may contain firearms, knives, blackjacks, or other items which are generally considered to be weapons. In addition to disciplinary action, having a weapon is a felony offense.

Weapons (firearms)

The Board or its designee will expel for no less than one calendar year any student who has brought or possessed a firearm on school property, at District or school related functions, or at any setting under the jurisdiction of the Greenville County Schools. For purposes of this section of the policy, weapon is defined as a firearm. The term firearm is defined extensively in the U. S. Code, but generally means a weapon (gun) or destructive device (explosive, incendiary).

Alcohol Use/Drug Use (Summary of Policy JCDAC)

No student, regardless of age, will possess, use, sell, purchase, barter, distribute, or be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, as defined in S.C. Code Ann. §§ 44-53-110 through 44-53-270, (see the Behavior Code) in the following circumstances:

- on school property (including buildings, grounds, vehicles)
- at any school-sponsored activity, function or event, whether on or off school grounds (including any place where an interscholastic athletic contest is taking place)
- en route to or from, or during any field trip
- during any trip or activity sponsored by the Board or under the supervision of the Board or its authorized agents

NOTE: In determining whether a student is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, the student's appearance, behavior, manner, presence of an odor of the substance, and statements made by the student as to the use of controlled substances or alcohol may be considered without regard to the amount of alcohol/controlled substance consumed.

The administration will recommend students who violate this policy for expulsion. The Board intends to expel all students who are determined to have distributed any controlled substance on school grounds.

Tobacco Use (Policy JCDAB)

Students are not permitted to use or possess any tobacco products while in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses, or at any time that a student is under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school or school officials. Disciplinary actions will be handled in accordance with the Behavior Code.

Computer Acceptable Use Rule

Each school year every person who uses a Greenville County School District computer must review the Acceptable Use Rule (Board Rule EFE). This rule is available on the GCS website at www.greenville.k12.sc.us/gcsd/depts/ets/policy/aup.asp.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Student participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege (not a right) that a student earns through proper conduct and academic achievement. A student may be denied the privilege of participating in an extracurricular activity and/or an event when the student's conduct is not consistent with District Policy; the District's Behavior Code and/or academic standards; the conduct expectations and/or academic standards of the student's school; and/or the conduct expectations and/or academic standards of the particular activity. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, athletic teams, academic clubs/teams, prom, graduation exercises, and attendance at any school function outside of the normal school day.

Dress Code (Policy JCDAF)

Greenville County School District students are expected to dress and be groomed in such a way as to not distract or cause disruption in the educational program or orderly operation of the school. Personal appearance of students should promote health and safety, contribute to a climate conducive to teaching and learning, and project a positive image of the District to the community. Students should dress for the educational setting and not the recreational one. The principal may create further guidelines regarding student dress, which are consistent with this policy.

- Clothing and/or hair should not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the education process. Therefore, clothing deemed distracting, revealing, overly suggestive or otherwise disruptive will not be permitted.
- Wearing accessories or clothing that could pose a safety threat to oneself or others is not allowed.
- Hats and sunglasses may not be worn in the building.
- Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a "gang" in any negative sense of the term.
- Proper shoes must be worn at all times.
- Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent or offensive.
- Clothing that inappropriately exposes body parts is not permitted. Students shall not expose undergarments.

- Pants must be worn at the natural waistline and undergarments are not to be visible. Pants and slacks must not bag, sag, or drag.
- No clothing, jewelry, or tattoos are permitted that display profanity, suggestive phrases, or advertisements for, or messages or pictures depicting or suggesting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or sex.

The administration will make the final judgment on the appropriateness of clothing and/or appearance and reserves the right to prohibit students from wearing any articles of clothing or other items which lead to or may foreseeably result in the disruption of or interference with the school environment. In the event the administration determines a student's dress is inappropriate for school in accordance with this policy, the administration will either require the student to change or will inform the student not to wear the garment to school again. Repeated violations of the Dress Code will be treated as disruptive behavior in violation of the District's Behavior Code.

BEHAVIOR AND EVALUATIONS

Student work is monitored at each class meeting. If the teacher perceives that a student's work is questionable or not up to standard, the following procedure will be in effect:

- The teacher will talk with the student about a change in work or behavior
- The teacher will observe whether the work/behavior is changing
- The teacher will send a note to the parents, alerting them of a possible problem or requesting a conference
- A conference will be held with the teacher, parent and Director of the ARMES program
- Unsatisfactory behavior or improvement will result in dismissing the student from the Program

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the parent to deliver the student to The Fine Arts Center and pick up the student on time! Although it is understandable if a pick up is a few minutes late, a consistent pattern (more than 3 times) of parental tardiness will require a meeting with the teacher, parent, and Director of the ARMES program to determine whether the child may remain in the ARMES program.

Tardiness exceeding fifteen (15) minutes in *picking up* the student from the ARMES program will result in an immediate conference, and a repeat of that tardiness will cause the student to be dismissed from the program.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Early dismissal requires a note to the teacher from the parent in advance of the dismissal, and a responsible party or the ARMES assistant **MUST COME TO THE CLASSROOM TO PICK UP THE STUDENT**. For safety reasons, no student will be allowed to leave the classroom without a designated adult.

The SCHOOL DISTRICT OF GREENVILLE COUNTY exercises no control in who picks up your child from the ARMES program. It is the parent's responsibility to advise the child who can and cannot transport them to and from the program. After 4:00 pm our office is not staffed and therefore early dismissals cannot be monitored. In addition, please advise instructors *in writing* of any special circumstances or anyone who is not permitted to pick up your child from ARMES.

VENDING MACHINES

The Fine Arts Center provides the vending machines that dispense bottled water only!

No food or drink other than bottled water is allowed in the building!

We suggest you provide a snack, if needed, for your student to eat before your student arrives at The Fine Arts Center and prior to the beginning of the ARMES classes. Snacks and drinks will not be permitted in the building.

CARPOOL INFORMATION

We understand it is often a hardship to transport students to The Fine Arts Center in the afternoon and so we provide carpool information for those who request it. You may view the carpool information by accessing our website at www.fineartscenter.net/ARMES.

DANCE DRESS CODES:

Mrs. Nitsche would like for each ARMES dancer (girls only) to have at least one black leotard (high back tank style), one pair of footless black tights, one convertible pair of pink ballet tights, hair brush/ponytail holder/clips/pins for own hair, and a dance bag to keep items in. Ballet shoes are recommended, but are only required for Advanced ARMES dancers. To purchase these necessary items please visit THE SOCK BASKET located on Laurens Rd. in the shopping center beside Old Time Pottery. THE SOCK BASKET will be also be at the Fine Arts Center during our parent meeting on Monday, August 24th from 6:00-7:30 PM in order for you to purchase your items at that time for your convenience. It is recommended that your dancer come with you in order to purchase the appropriate sizes necessary. It is also recommended that you consider purchasing more than one leotard & tights of each color so that you can keep each item clean and useable for your dancer. Tights sometimes do not last during the duration of the year b/c of tears or rips. It would be wise to have more than one pair on hand.

Girls Dress Code:

Leotard and footless tights OR footless unitard

For safety and health reason, girls who have developed sufficiently should wear a bra.

Your leotard should cover the straps and back of your bra.

Leotards where the back is cut low may not allow you to do this

Ballet shirts are allowed as long as they stay on properly during ballet class.

Hair must be pulled back off the face, neck, and shoulders, or in a bun, bangs out of eyes

And Hair must be secure while moving!

Ballet shoes are recommended for when we have ballet technique classes, but not required. Ballet shoes are required for advanced dance students only.

Ballet day – wear leotard, pink tights, ballet shoes.

Modern day – wear leotard and black tights (footless). Unitards and tight dance shorts are allowed.....not the “cheerleading type shorts”.

Days that we are working on other things such as choreography, projects, etc..... dancers are allowed to wear either pink or black tights.

Boys Dress Code:

- Tight fitting gym shorts or sweatpants – in solid black if able
- Solid-colored, tight fitting T-shirt or undershirt to be tucked into pants when needed
- No dance shoes are needed unless he would like to wear ballet shoes (black)

THE COLOR BLACK IS ALWAYS PREFERRED FOR DANCE CLOTHING!**All Dance Students:**

NO: necklaces, watches, earrings other than studs, skirts, sweat pants, sweat shirts, T-shirts, or other loose fitting clothes over your tights and leotard (some tight-fitting items may be permitted in very cold weather to keep the body warm, but moveable). Dress attire should always look neat and clean.

Bring your Dance Clothes!

It is essential that every dance student bring his/her dance clothes daily in order to fully participate in this class. Please encourage your child to remember to do this! This is a DANCE class and dancers must dress appropriately for his/her class. It is a waste of class time for me and for your child if they are not fully participating! Parents will be called if their child has not “dressed-out” properly for more than 2 times and appropriate actions will be taken.

Students may not walk around the building before, after, or in between classes without proper cover-ups (shirt, and pants or skirt). Students may not arrive or leave the Fine Arts Center wearing practice clothes only, and should always wear street clothes and shoes outside the building. Students are expected to arrive and depart in appropriate street clothes. It is recommended that dance students wear or bring “slip on shoes” (not ballet shoes) to exit the dance room at any time. Flip flops are allowed for these students.

OTHER DANCE CLASS SUPPLIES:

Dance Bag: Students must have a dance bag that holds all of their dance clothes and hair supplies (such as: comb, brush, pins, pony tail holders, barrettes, deoderant, etc.)

Notebooks: Students will be given a notebook to keep in the dance classroom.

Pen or pencil: Students will be provided with pencils when needed in class.

**** Please write student’s names in all supplies to prevent loss or theft.**

Dance Studio Rules:

- No food or drink in studio or dressing rooms at any time, closed water bottles only
- Use the proper trash cans for “trash” and the proper recycle bins for recycling
- No street shoes to be worn on the dance studio flooring
- No chewing gum in studio or dressing rooms at any time
- Do not hang on ballet barres or touch the mirrors
- Do not touch thermostats, windows, curtains or any other items unless asked by the teacher
- Stay out of office area at all times
- Do not touch audiovisual equipment, musical instruments, or computers
- School phones should be used only with permission at appropriate times and for a good reason
- Do not disturb bulletin boards or other posted materials

Tardiness for dance class:

In recent years, it seems to be the habit of some students not to be ready until 15 minutes after the scheduled class starts time. Please encourage your child to get ready immediately and not to “stall” the learning process of this program. I will not hesitate to call parents if a child is not following these procedures. A student can eventually be removed from this class if tardiness occurs too often.

Student’s Observing Class when injured or sick:

Students that are not able to dance on a class day must take written notes during class and hand them in at the end of class. If student is injured or ill they must have a note from the doctor or parent stating that he or she cannot engage in class activity. If this situation happens too often, the teacher will notify the parent for a conference.

Classroom Etiquette

- remain attentive at all times: you may be working on your own or within a group, but stay focused on DANCE
- do not talk when the teacher is speaking or demonstrating, or while other students are dancing – always be respectful to everyone
- you may answer questions when asked or join in an ongoing discussion but blurting out when not expected should be avoided
- pay attention to demonstrations, and corrections of other students: “ A correction for one is a correction for all” - everything that goes on in class should be of interest to you whether you are directly involved a the moment or not
- address teachers as “Mr.” Or “Mrs.” And speak respectfully to them and to your fellow students at all times

Parent Observations –

We will have special class days/times throughout the year that parents will be asked to attend class to observe what students are learning. A note will be sent home to inform you of these times – usually a week or two before the date. Other than these special days, if a parent would like to observe a regular class – please contact Mrs. Nitsche ahead of the day/time and you will be welcome to attend.

Donations:

The ARMES program is free to students of Greenville County. Donations will be gladly accepted and will go directly to your child’s area – **dance** – and will help with cost of special projects. For example, donations for dance students will help with the cost of costumes or the rental of the facility/items for the dance concert at the end of the school year. Please fill out the green form in your packet and return to Mrs. Nitsche or someone in the main office at the Fine Arts Center. You will receive a receipt once Betty (the Fine Arts Center secretary) can receipt all of the donations. Thank you for your contribution!

ARMES Dance Course Syllabus

School Name: Fine Arts Center (School District of Greenville County)

Course Name: ARMES Dance

Instructor: Jeana Nitsche

Office Room Number: Dance Studio

Phone Number: 355-2575

Email Address: jnitsche@greenville.k12.sc.us

Class Time/Room Number:

Dance I (beginning-intermediate level) – Tuesdays 3:30-4:45

Dance II (intermediate) – Thursdays 3:30-4:45

Dance III (interm-advanced) – Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:00-6:30

Required Textbook(s):

None

Course Description:

Dance curriculum based on the National and South Carolina Standards for Dance Education.

The ARMES Program is a tuition-free arts program designed to meet the needs of students in grades 4-8 who have demonstrated an aptitude for and an interest in dance. The purpose of the program is to allow students to explore dance and learn about dance while promoting individual creativity. This after-school program provides art education taught by professional artists. All ARMES classes are offered at no cost to the student. The dance program is funded by the South Carolina Educational Improvement Act (EIA) and currently serves approximately 65 students in Greenville County.

Goals and Objectives:

Goals:

Goals numbered 1-4 are approached in that order in terms of priority and prevalence

1. **AESTHETIC PERCEPTION** Multisensory Integration/Technique and Skills
To develop an awareness of the body as an instrument of expression.
To increase movement/vocabulary.
To promote functional and artistic use of the movement/dance elements: body, space, effort/dynamics and time.
2. **CREATIVE EXPRESSION** – Process and Product
To express ideas, feelings, and concepts in dance through the creative process.
To apply choreographic tools and composition principles in evaluating dance works of self and others.
3. **DANCE HERITAGE** – Historical and Cultural
To acquire knowledge of the historical and cultural significance of dance, the universality of the dance phenomenon, and to develop and awareness of the significance for dance for society.
To acquire knowledge about the role of the dancer-choreographer in society.
4. **AESTHETIC VALUING**
To appreciate the art of dance as a communication form, both as the participant and the observer.
To assess the quality of dance(s) and the skill of the performer by applying aesthetic principles and choreographic criteria.
To increase dance vocabulary and expressive language in discussing aesthetic valuing.

OBJECTIVES:

Objectives numbered 1-4 are approached in that order in terms of priority and prevalence

1. **AESTHETIC PERCEPTION** – Multisensory Integration/Technique and Skills
Students will be able to:
Demonstrate an understanding of the key elements of movement/dance vocabulary.
Demonstrate an increased skill level in the use of the body in space, in time and with dynamic fluency.
Demonstrate increasing levels of coordination, balance, stamina, elevation, and technique appropriate to age and development.
Demonstrate kinesthetic awareness of the body in motion and in stillness.
Demonstrate mastery of dance technique and expanded movement vocabulary, and appropriate multisensory integration.
Demonstrate knowledge and use of anatomically and kinesiology sound movement principles for safety, efficiency, and longevity as a dancer.
2. **CREATIVE EXPRESSION** – Process and Product
Students will be able to:
Communicate personal feelings and ideas through movement with originality, individual style, and clarity.
Experience the creative process in dance through experimentation, improvisation, and synthesis by selecting and organizing movement motifs, phrases, and dance compositions for others in informal and performance settings.
Use abstract concepts and environmental and sensory stimuli as sources for composing dances.
Apply choreographic criteria to assess works in progress and finished pieces by self and others.
3. **DANCE HERITAGE** – Historical and Cultural
Students will be able to:
Demonstrate cultural and historical similarities and differences among dance forms.
Identify a variety of dance styles and demonstrate proficiency in executing more than one style.
Identify dance innovators in past and contemporary cultures. Identify careers related to dance in contemporary society.
4. **AESTHETIC VALUING**
Students will be able to:
Identify the traditional great works of dance and their aesthetic values as creative milestones.
Apply aesthetic principles and choreographic criteria to judge the quality of dance both as observer and internally as the creator/participant.
Identify the relationship between the level of choreographic expertise and the aesthetic sophistication of the dance.
Demonstrate use of correct vocabulary for dance criticism.

Course Requirements:

- A. **Attendance and Tardy Policy:**
Outlined in the ARMES and Fine Arts Center student handbook.

Students selected for the ARMES Program have the opportunity to participate in an intensified instructional arts program. Because the students receive a limited number of instruction hours, it is very important that they do not miss classes. Students who do not attend consistently miss substantial instruction and may compromise the pace of ongoing instruction. **The parent/student decision to participate in ARMES indicates a commitment to regular attendance. The following procedure should be followed: a total of three (3) unexcused absences are allowed.** Examples of absences that would be unexcused – vacation, after - school dance. Three approved absences are allowed. Examples of absences that would be excused – Mandatory School Function such as a strings concert or beta club ceremony. If a student, for one reason or another, needs more than the three approved absences, the parent must contact the instructor. The instructor may follow the policy stated above in the event of a chronic absence. See the Fine Arts Center Policy on attendance for more specific details – the ARMES program will follow this same policy. The instructor will document all absences and will be reporting each to the Fine Arts Center Director when certain situations occur. Parents will be notified by phone or letter after 2 unexcused absences have occurred. Students will be dismissed from the ARMES program after 3 unexcused absences so the pace of the instruction will not be compromised. If the attendance problem cannot be resolved, a letter of dismissal will be sent home.

B. Classroom Rules and Expectations:

- Students are expected to attend class each day, to arrive on time, and to bring all necessary materials as outlined in the ARMES Dance Handbook.
- Students are expected to participate fully in all class activities.
- Students are expected to comply with dress, behavior, attendance, and participation requirements as outlined in the ARMES Dance Handbook.
- Students are expected to:
 - Listen carefully to instructions.
 - Be respectful of classmates and teachers at all times.
 - Be an asset to the class rather than a distraction.
 - Respect and care for school property and the property of others.
 - Keep a good attitude and always do their best.
 - Participation in the ARMES program does not excuse students from their regular school assignments.
 - Spaces in the advanced classes are limited and acceptance for the following year in the ARMES program is not guaranteed. Behavior and attendance in class, commitment to the work, and positive attitude are criteria which will be considered when reviewing returning students.

C. Supplies Necessary for Course:

Dress requirements as outlined in the ARMES Dance Handbook.

Assessment Information and Grading Scale:

- Grades are not assigned. Three evaluations –Progress Reports - will be sent home with the student each year reflecting the student's attitude and behavior in class. These evaluations are used to help determine which students will be invited back the following year. Students are graded excellent, above average, average, below average, or unsatisfactory on dress code adherence, preparedness, behavior, attentiveness, participation, time management, following instructions, comprehension, and creativity, respect of the facility and other students as well as teamwork. If the signed progress report is not returned after two weeks, the student will not be able to participate in class until the progress report is returned.
- Critiques will occur throughout each project to encourage students to verbalize aesthetic judgement of their own and their classmates work.
- Assessment of individual student's work and progress will be discussed verbally with parents in an informal setting if requested by the parent.
- Problems will be addressed with parents as they occur, normally by email or phone.

Major Assignments and Projects Required:

- Students will be asked to remember exercises, studies, compositions, and choreography until the next class and often for extended periods of time.
- Work outside the classroom or class time will not generally be required.
- Some class work will result in material to be performed in the School District Dance Showcase or the ARMES dance showcase.

Description of Students in Class:

Artistically gifted and talented students in the fourth through eighth grades may come to the ARMES program from any Greenville County Elementary or Middle School. Private, charter school, and home schooled students are also eligible. These students must audition and be accepted into the program. Students come from all socio-economic statuses and the student body is racially diverse.

Plan for Routine Communication with Parents:

- Parent's orientation at the beginning of the year to go over ARMES policies and description of projects and to introduce the faculty to the parents.
- Three evaluations are sent to the parents reflecting the student's attitude and behavior in class. (To be signed and returned each time)
- Parents are contacted promptly in the event of academic or disciplinary problems.
- The teacher maintains a log of parent phone calls/emails, and absence notes.

Course Outline:

Please be reminded that this dance program is based upon and will follow the South Carolina Frameworks and Standards for Dance Education. The student in this class will have many unique opportunities to experience dance in a fun and exciting learning environment. Some of the topics of this course will include:

- The elements of dance (body, space, effort/dynamics, time)
- Locomoter and Nonlocomoter skills of movement
- Creating Dance Phrases and skills to choreographing a dance
- Individual and Group small projects and assignments in class
- Dance Vocabulary
- Dance History
- Anatomy of the dancer (bones, muscles)
- Nutrition for the dancer
- Process and Product of a dance performance
- Dance Technique – ballet/modern/jazz
- Guest artists (teachers & choreographers)
- Field Trips to local dance performances & classes
- Field Trip to the state dance festival (SCDancing) for the advanced students
- Collaborative work with other dance students from the ARMES dance program as well as the high school Fine Arts Center dancers
- Collaborative lessons thru arts integration (visual arts, drama/theatre, music, writing, etc...)
- Exposed to local, state and national dance events and opportunities