



St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School Regional Arts Program

Dance Department

Program Information

What courses will my child take and when?

When enrolled in STA's Regional Dance Program, your child will have the opportunity to take all mandatory compulsory courses (i.e. English, Math, Religion, Science etc.) with at least two dance related courses taken every year. These elective classes will allow your child to excel in all areas of academics with the addition of a variety of dance classes where they are able to demonstrate their passion and talent, while representing St. Thomas Aquinas' Regional Arts Program. An outline of the Education Planner for the Dance Major is available upon request.

What dance related extracurricular activities are offered at St. Thomas Aquinas?

- Ballet Club
- Jazz Xtreme Team
- Hip Hop Xtreme Team
- Tap Xtreme Team
- Contemporary Xtreme Team
- School Musicals
- Dufferin-Peel Dance Showcase
- RAP Council

St. Thomas Aquinas recommends extracurricular dance activities for students interested in pursuing dance outside of the classroom. STA's chosen grade 12 Dance Majors run various small dance groups throughout the year known as the "Xtreme Dance Teams". These teams perform and compete at various dance competitions throughout the province. These teams are completely optional but strongly encouraged. St. Thomas Aquinas has held the "Dufferin-Peel Dance Showcase" at the school for the preceding three years. This showcase allows dancers from all over the School Board to perform in front of an adjudicator with a solo, duet, trio or group number. This event is a celebration of dance shared with like-minded individuals across the Board. New to STA, is the RAP council. Similar to a student council, the Regional Arts Program Council gives students the opportunity to plan various events and activities for students specifically geared to the Arts Programs.

What performance opportunities are given to the Regional Arts Program Dancers?

- Night of the Stars – Semester One
- Dance! Dance! Dance! – Semester Two
- Choreographic Workshop – Semester One
- Senior Dance Project – Semester Two
- Dufferin-Peel Dance Showcase
- Musicals

Dancers in the Regional Arts Program are provided with an assortment of performance opportunities. Towards the end of each semester, the Regional Arts Dance Program holds a showcase show known as "Night of the Stars" (Semester One) and "Dance!Dance!Dance!" (Semester Two). Dance students are given the opportunity to perform the multiple dance pieces they work on in class in a professional venue. Additionally, students are encouraged to explore their own choreography. The Choreographic Workshop, held at STA, is a chance for students to perform their self taught choreography. At this performance, students present their piece in front of the dance teachers and coordinators of the semester end showcase. Parents and friends are invited to come and watch their child perform and cheer them on. If your child's piece is chosen by the judges, they will have the opportunity to dance it in the Night of the Stars or Dance!Dance!Dance!



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EDUCATION PLANNER FOR THE DANCE MAJOR

GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
RELIGION HRE 10D	RELIGION HRE 201	RELIGION	RELIGION
ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH
MATHEMATICS	MATHEMATICS	MATHEMATICS	MODERN DANCE ATM 4MD
SCIENCE	SCIENCE	DANCE ATC 3MD	COMPOSITION ATD 4MD
GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY	MUSIC THEATRE ATU 3MD	
FRENCH	CIVICS/ CAREER EDUCATION	PERFORMANCE PRACTICES ATP 3MD	
DANCE ATC 10D	DANCE ATC 20D		
PHYSICAL ED. PPL10F/M	JAZZ DANCE ATJ 20D		

Audition Workshop Information

1 - What is the audition workshop?

The audition workshop is a chance for students and teachers to meet and prepare for the audition.

2 - What should my child bring to the audition workshop?

Candidates should be dressed in attire suitable to dance in.

3 - What do the students learn in the audition workshop?

- Basic steps
Students will be taught basic steps that demonstrate basic footwork, flexibility, turns and jumps.
- Choreography
Students will be guided through a contemporary piece of choreography where students will have the opportunity to highlight their own natural abilities.
- Audition Preparation
Students are prepared for the audition process.

4 - How long does the audition workshop take?

The audition workshop usually takes one hour.

Audition Information

1 - The audition is comprised of four elements:

- Interview
Students will be asked a series of questions related to the program, previous dance experience, commitment to the arts, and catholicity.
- Basic steps
Students will perform the basic steps that were taught at the Audition Workshop (basic footwork, flexibility, turns and jumps).
- Choreography
Students will perform the contemporary piece of choreography that was taught at the Audition Workshop.
- Solo
Students will perform a solo. The solo can be in any genre. The solo can be anywhere between one and five minutes in length.

2 - What should my child bring to the audition?

Candidates should be dressed in suitable dance attire, bring the registration package, music on CD or ipod for the solo component of the audition.

3 - How long does the audition take?

The audition takes approximately fifteen minutes.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many students are chosen to be in the program?

Twenty-Five

When will successful candidates be notified?

Successful candidates will be notified via mail at the beginning of February.

What styles of dance are taught?

A full range of dance styles are taught both by the staff and guest artist. Some of the styles that have been taught are: ballet, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, tap, Irish, salsa, house, disco, etc.

What is the alternative should my child be unsuccessful in the audition?

Students are encouraged to enroll in the open Dance courses offered at St. Thomas Aquinas.

What are students expected to wear to class?

Female students are expected to wear a black bodysuit and black tights. Male students are expected to wear black shorts and a fitted black top.