Gifted and Talented Program

Dance
Rationale

The study of dance as an artform is the philosophical base of the *Dance Years 7-10 and HSC Dance Syllabi*. ‘Dance as an artform’ determines the content and teaching approaches that are used in the teaching of dance as art in education and underpins the students’ artistic, aesthetic and cultural education through dance. The Primary Dance syllabus provides students with a unique medium for learning and addresses a range of different learning styles. Dance Provides students the opportunity to express their feelings, moods and ideas symbolically through movement.

The Gifted and Talented Program for Dance (GTPD) as a part of the Plumpton Education Community aims to provide students with a deeper understanding and knowledge of dance as an artform. The GTPD will provide students with a personal expression and enjoyment through dance, learning about oneself, other people and the world and confirming cultural identity. Students will learn to value dance as a form of cultural expression related to cultural understanding, tradition, location, gender and through social and technological issues.

The program will develop student’s knowledge, understanding and experience of dance as an artform through equal emphasis on the process of experience and end products. Students will learn both movement principles and stylised techniques, through problem solving and directed teaching. The development of creativity, imagination and individuality is emphasised equally with knowledge of theatre dance.

The integration of the practices of performance, composition and appreciation is a key feature of the dance syllabi and the elements of dance are the components that link the study of the practices. Students will learn the three elements of dance, being space, time and dynamics and will learn how to use these elements to increase their dance technique, performance quality and dance knowledge.

Safe dance practice is embedded through the practices to ensure that students are able to maintain safe, healthy and rewarding lives.

The GTPD provides students with a high quality performing arts education, with a focus on the development of a strong dance technique and performance skills and aims to educate, train and prepare students for the study of dance in years 7-12. The GTPD is an exclusive program offered by Plumpton High School with a fully qualified DEC Dance Teacher.

At Plumpton High School students have the opportunity to study dance as an elective from years 7-12, this program gives students the opportunity to access the program earlier.
Objectives

Knowledge, understanding and skills

Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills about dance as an artform through:

1 Dance Performance
as a means of developing dance technique and performance quality to communicate ideas.

Students learn about the technical and performance elements of dance.

2 Dance Composition
as a means of creating and structuring movement to express and communicate ideas.

Students learn how to create a dance with a theme or idea.

3 Dance Appreciation
as a means of describing and analysing dance as an expression of ideas within a social, cultural or historical context.

Students learn to evaluate and discuss a dance work.

Value and attitudes

Students will value and appreciate their engagement in the study of dance as an artform.

Teachers will report to parents on the student’s competencies in the above facets.
Selection Process

Students will be selected into the program through audition only. Students who audition will be selected on the following criteria:

**Practical**
- Level of performance quality
- Level of dance technique
- Movement style
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Understanding of their bodies and how they move in space

**Academic**
- Demonstrates a high work ethic in their academic studies
- Demonstrates exemplary behavior and self-discipline in class and during rehearsals and performances

What will each lesson look like?

3:30pm – 3:50pm: 
**Warm Up**

3:50pm – 4:25pm: 
**Technique**

4:25pm – 4:35pm: 
**Drink/Snack Break**

4:35pm – 5:10pm: 
**Composition**

**Creativity**

**Choreography**

5:10pm – 5:30pm: 
**Appreciation**

**Watching a dance work and discussing it**
Teacher will report to parents on the achievements of students in this program through a semester report. Students will be assessed on their knowledge and skills outcomes. These are descriptors of what students will know and be able to do as a result of studying the dance program. The purpose of the assessment is to provide information on students’ achievement and progress and set the direction for ongoing teaching and learning.

Dance, as an area of the curriculum, is based on students learning about performance, composition and appreciation, and learning to perform, compose and appreciate. Teachers use a range of strategies to collect information on the demonstration of skills and understanding which students exhibit in a variety of contexts. It is important to make judgements about students’ achievement of outcomes, understanding that evidence relating to a number of outcomes might be embedded in a single demonstration. Similarly, a student will demonstrate that he or she can achieve the requirements of an outcome, in a number of different activities.

Judgements about student achievement of outcomes are made on the basis of evidence. A variety of strategies may be used to collect evidence on student achievement. Some examples include:

- observing students performing dance sequences
- observing students during the process of composition
- discussing with students their own work and the work of others
- interviewing individual students about their own performance and their involvement in composing dance
- collecting and analysing written work in dance journals
- peer assessment and self-assessment

Teachers will record student achievement for reference when providing feedback to students and others and when formally reporting to parents and caregivers.
**Audition Information**

**Who is able to Audition?**

Any student in years 5-8 from the Plumpton Education Community, with a passion to learn dance as an artform.

**How to Audition?**

Students will need to submit a permission note to your school Principal and come along to one of the lessons. Please contact Plumpton High School for more information.

**What is required?**

Students will be required to participate in the full two hour class.

**What does my child wear?**

Students are required to wear any dance clothing they are most comfortable in.

**How do I find out if my child was successful?**

Students will be notified in writing one week after the audition whether they were successful or not for the program.

**Where will the Audition take place?**

The audition will take place at Plumpton High School in the Performing Arts Centre.

**Are parents able to watch the audition?**

The audition is a closed audition and as such parents will not be permitted to watch the audition. There will be teacher supervision during the audition.
Why will the GTPD be beneficial for my Child?

The GTPD offers students from years 5 to 8 the opportunity to experience dance in a professional and educational setting with other likeminded students.

Dance involves the development of physical skill as well as aesthetic, artistic and cultural understanding. Learning in dance and learning through dance enables students to apply their own experiences to their study of dance. They learn to express ideas creatively as they make and perform dances, and analyse dance as works of art. They think imaginatively and share ideas, feelings, values and attitudes while physically and intellectually exploring the communication of ideas through movement.

The GTPD is designed to complement and enhance student’s prior knowledge of dance and to work with the students towards their individual and group goals. The program will provide students with; knowledge, skills and understanding about dance as an artform, the capacity for student’s to manage their own learning, the facility to work together with their peers towards a goal and respect for dance as an artform. Each lesson will be personalised to the students in the class and differentiation of the lesson content will be made available for students individual learning needs.

The GTPD staff work in a nurturing environment and provide students with the highest quality of teaching available.

Meet the Teacher

Miss Ashley Jones – Bachelor of Arts (Dance)/Bachelor of Education

Dance Coordinator - Southern Stars Performing Company
Dance Director - Southern Stars - The Arena Spectacular
Graduate of the University of New South Wales
Tutor/Choreographer – School’s Spectacular and Arts Unit

Miss Jones has twelve years teaching experience in a dance studio environment and five years in the classroom environment. For the past five years Miss Jones has developed and instructed auditioned dance programs for the Illawarra and South East Region, Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts, Southern Stars – The Arena Spectacular, NSW State Companies and the Schools Spectacular. Miss Jones has also run a successful dance studio on the South Coast for the past 10 years and is well in-tuned to student’s individual needs of technique and training.

Miss Jones’ educational philosophy is to provide students with an education that fulfills their individual needs, through quality teaching and directed learning. Miss Jones aims to develop student’s physical health, social awareness, cognitive development and academic achievement through the study of dance as an artform.
Performance Opportunities

There are a variety of performance opportunities available for the PEC dance group including:

Synergy Dance Festival

Mount Druitt – Minchinbury Public Education Concert

Formal Assemblies

MADD Night @ Plumpton High School

PULSE @ the Opera House

Southern Stars – The Arena Spectacular

Schools Spectacular