

# **Contemporary Dance**

**With**

**Matthew Venus**

Description: Although contemporary dance does not have a codified technique, it combines technique from several different genres including ballet, jazz and modern. Because of this, students must be enrolled in ballet technique classes in order to enroll. Contemporary dance is very expressive in form and often emotional or tells a story. In this class, we will explore all areas of contemporary dance, including contemporary ballet, contemporary jazz, improvisational techniques, and post-modern dance techniques. Attire: Form fitting dancewear is required. Dancers may go barefoot or wear foot paws.

Contemporary Advanced 1: We will work on the basics of lyrical and modern technique in this class, while allowing the dancers to begin expressing themselves through movement. This class will have an emphasis on classical lines and timing as they begin to build skills in improvising movement and storytelling. One ballet class per week is required to participate in this class. Students will perform a piece in the annual recital.

Contemporary Advanced 2: These students will be given choreography in class that begin to challenge structured lines and form. They will begin to explore more advanced improvisation tools, with an emphasis on timing and shape and find different ways to express themselves with given choreography. One ballet class per week is required to participate in this class. Students will perform a piece in the annual recital.

Contemporary Advanced 3: In this class, students will be given advanced combinations that will push them as more free-thinking dance artists, while maintaining a strong foundation in classical technique. We will begin to introduce different styles of contemporary dance, like contemporary jazz and contemporary ballet. We will explore even more advanced improvisation exercises and small choreography exercises as the dancers begin to find their own artistic voices within the medium. Two ballet classes per week are required to participate in this class. Students will perform a piece in the annual recital.

Contemporary Advanced 4: These students will have pre-professional choreography set on them that will continue to break down structured dance genres. In this class, students will explore all styles of contemporary dance and improvisation. These students are refining tools that will help them define their voice clearly as dance artists. They will explore experimental improvisational exercises and will use these as a basis for their own choreography assignments. Two ballet classes per week are required to participate in this class. Students will perform a piece in the annual recital.

We are excited for this new form of dance at DDDS!