

***Mon Valley Performing Arts Academy***

***Course Policies***

In the on-going effort to train disciplined and responsible artists, the Academy adheres to the manner of dress and classroom expectations practiced by professional training companies across the United States. Coming to class unprepared in any of these areas is both unprofessional and disrespectful to the instructor and your peers. Students who arrive unprepared for class may be asked to sit out and observe at the instructor’s discretion. Repeated failure to comply with course policy may result in failure to advance or dismissal from the course.

**All-Academy**

The following apply to all classes:

* On-time attendance is expected.
* All course materials, homework, and supplies must accompany MVP to class each week.
* No open-toed shoes are to be worn at any time. (flip-flops, sandals, etc). Appropriate dance shoe or sneaker is expected.
* Long hair must be secured away from the face.
* Shorts with less than a 2.5in inseam must be worn with leggings or tights underneath.
* No hats or hoods are permitted to be worn in any class at any time.

**Fundamentals of Acting I, Fundamentals of Acting II and Beginning Acting**

In addition to the all-Academy guidelines, the acting student should bring and wear:

* Clothing in which it is easy to move and in which they can sit on the floor must be worn to each class
* Two sharpened or mechanical pencils
* A binder with pockets
* A water bottle

**Intermediate and Advanced Acting**

In addition to the all-Academy guidelines, the student of Intermediate and Advanced acting should bring and wear:

* All black clothing in which movement is easy. Yoga pants, t-shirts, black gym shorts, etc., jazz shoe or dance sneaker.

This is in order to remove the individual from the group and enhance the ensemble atmosphere that must be present in order for trust, directed play, and growth of the entire group to occur. Wearing all black presents a blank slate to the instructors and allows for the greatest potential of work to be achieved.

* Two sharpened or mechanical pencils
* A binder with pockets
* A water bottle

**Voice Students (All classes)**

In addition to the all-Academy guidelines, all voice students should bring and wear:

* Two sharpened or mechanical pencils.
* A binder with pockets
* A water bottle
* Comfortable clothing in which it is easy to move

**Dance:**

**Appropriate attire, footwear, and hair styles are an important part of the etiquette of dance class.**

FOR MEN:

* T-shirts and athletic shorts or jogging pants are acceptable attire for all dance classes.
* **Men ages 12+ must purchase dance belts** (the dance equivalent of a jock strap) in TAN. You can find two options under my “Affordable Dancewear (Adults)” dress code list, though I highly recommend the padded version, as it provides far greater support.
* Men should also purchase ballet slippers (black) and/or jazz oxfords (black), and tap shoes (black).
  + Only men in Theatre Dance will need tap shoes.
  + Men can wear either ballet flats or jazz oxfords for ballet.
* Long hair should be secured with a headband, bandana or hair tie as appropriate.

FOR WOMEN:

**Ballet**: Leotard (any color), tights (preferably black or pink); ballet slippers (pink).

* Appropriate footwear is a requirement of participation.
  + Socks, bare feet, half soles, foot paws, etc. are not acceptable for ballet class.
* Form fitting warm-ups (leg warmers, sweaters, knit shorts, etc.) are permitted for the first few exercises only. Dancers must remove excess clothing prior to center work for safety and alignment purposes.
  + Loose t-shirts, street clothing, exposed midriffs or bare legs are not permitted.
  + Ballet skirts can be worn for the duration of class.
* Hair must be secured completely away from the face.
  + **NO PONYTAILS.** Secure buns or French twists with no loose hair (aka: sloppy topknots are prohibited).
  + Long bangs must be pinned or secured with a stretchy headband.

**Jazz**: Leotard or unitard (any color) and tights, leggings, shorts (with at least a 2.5” inseam) or dance pants (any color); jazz oxfords (black or tan).

* Hair must be secured completely away from the face.
  + Ponytails are acceptable.
  + Long bangs must be pinned or secured with a stretchy headband.

**Tap**: Leotard or unitard (any color) and tights, leggings, shorts (with at least a 2.5” inseam) or dance pants (any color); Mary Jane or oxford style tap shoes (black) for children; character taps (black or tan) for adult women.

* Hair must be secured completely away from the face.
  + Ponytails are acceptable.
  + Long bangs must be pinned or secured with a stretchy headband.

**Musical Theatre Dance:** Leotard or unitard (any color) and tights, leggings, shorts (with at least a 2.5” inseam) or yoga pants/leggings (any color); jazz oxfords (black or tan), character shoes (black or tan).

* Hair must be secured completely away from the face.
  + Ponytails are acceptable.
  + Long bangs must be pinned or secured with a stretchy headband.

**GENERAL DRESS CODE NOTES:**

* Shorts with less than 2.5” inseams must be worn over tights or leggings.
* Form fitting t-shirts or tanks are permissible in jazz, tap and musical theatre classes ONLY.
* Sports bras are undergarments, not shirts. Please wear something over them. This is a performing arts academy, not a competition dance studio.
* Skirts, sweaters, sweats, shorts, jazz pants and leg warmers are permitted for most classes, however any clothing that prevents the instructor from easily viewing body alignment must be removed for center.

**We suggest that you keep a bag at the ready for Academy materials. Help your MVP get into the habit of preparing the Academy bag on Sunday for the week.**