



## Program 3: Addressing the Diverse Needs of Students

# Dance

### SEGMENT 4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Mary Harding**  
14 years teaching

**Tom Kanthak**  
28 years teaching

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#### About the School

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**Arts High School**  
Perpich Center for Arts Education  
Golden Valley, MN

**Type:**  
Statewide residential program/  
Arts-focused public high school

**Grades:**  
11-12

**Students:**  
300  
Very mixed socio-economic status

**Majors:**  
Dance, Literary Arts, Media Arts, Music,  
Theatre, and Visual Art

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#### About the Dance Program

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**Faculty:**

2 full-time

**Students:**

20-30 dance majors + 75 non-majors

**Facilities:**

Above Average in the Area

- 1 large studio
- 2 locker rooms
- 120-seat black box theatre

**Focus:**

Modern dance-based ensemble program that welcomes dancers with developed talent as well as potential.

**Required Courses:**

Ballet Technique, Composition, Improvisation, Dance History, Dance Criticism, Career Explorations, Anatomy and Somatics, Music for Dance, Repertory, Guest Artist Residency, Conditioning, Yoga, and Jazz

**Elective Courses:**

Modern Dance, Arts Improvisation, Arts and Ideas, Moving Anatomy, Viewpoints in Dance and Theatre, and Drumming

**Audition:**

Movement class, interview, and an arts-oriented assignment. Prior to the audition, each student is sent a list of 5 words and asked to bring in a new, original artwork related to those words. Dancers must present a short solo in any style.

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#### About the Featured Class

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**Moving Anatomy  
(for non-dance majors):**

Students explore human anatomy through the lenses of Bartenieff Fundamentals, improvisation, and somatic studies. Students learn the structure and function of the body through movement exercises and reflective writing.

**Preparations/Prerequisites:**

No prerequisites, though students are majors in other art areas.

**Student Motivation:**

High

**Student Level:**

Mixed

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#### In the Teacher's Words

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***What are some of the different learning styles you see among your non-dance majors?***

*Mary Harding: I see a larger proportion of visual learners. The theatre students tend to see narrative in work and they are highly verbal. In general, these students sometimes are more creative and open in improvisation than the dance majors.*