



Fall 2026 Course Descriptions

*****be sure to view our 26-27 Academic Year Calendar for specific course dates including holidays, breaks, etc.
Not all courses meet on the same days/weeks.*****

Course instructors reserve the right to recommend which course you or your child may enter that will best suit skill level and experience. Advancing to the next level of study is only allowed when the course instructor has determined that all skills taught at the current level have been mastered by the MVP (Mon Valley Performer) and when the MVP has demonstrated proper personal discipline, responsibility, and maturity.

Courses for Pre-K & K (Ages 4-5)

Creative Play for Pre-K & K 11 week course, Tuesdays 5:00-5:30pm | Sept - Dec

This course is for our young pre-reader and beginner-readers who are interested in exploring the basics of various creative elements, such as dramatic play, art/crafting, storytelling, music, and physical expression. Topics may include examining feelings/emotions and how we express them through art, dramatic play (could include provided puppets, toys, props, costume pieces), constructing arts & crafts based on stories, famous artists' works, music, and seasons/holidays, listening to stories and responding artistically, creating and developing stories together, moving/dancing/singing for personal expression and entertainment, and responding critically to various forms of art and music. This course will allow the interested MVP to transition smoothly into Fundamentals of Acting. Instead of the students in this class participating in the end of the year Showcase, parents of the students will be invited into the classroom at the end of units to observe the lessons learned. The instructor will let you know when that will be.

Foundations of Dance 13 week course, Mondays 5:00-5:45pm | Sept - Dec

This course is intended for students who are new to the discipline of dance, with little to no prior instruction. Foundations of Dance is designed to explore dance related motor skills. Students awaken and strengthen coordination and self-expression through simple dance movement and music. This class uses a wide variety of music, props, and balancing techniques. Instead of the students in this class participating in the end of the year Showcase, parents of the students will be invited into the classroom at the end of units to observe the lessons learned. Course instructor will let you know when that will be.

Courses for Ages 6-7 (*minimum 1st grade*)

Fundamentals of Acting *11 week course, Tuesdays 5:35-6:20pm | Sept - Dec*

This course is for the student who wishes to develop his or her craft of acting. The Academy teaches the Cohen acting method of character analysis (G.O.T.E.). An emphasis will be placed on mastering the craft of acting when performing solo

(monologues) and in scenes (with one or more partners). Additional topics may include stage directions, comedic vs. dramatic acting, story-telling (individual and small-group), and responding critically to performances. Note: This course requires the student to rehearse outside of class time for line memorization and preparation for partner work in class.

Foundations of Dance *12 week course, Mondays 5:00-5:45pm | Sept - Dec*

This course is intended for students who are new to the discipline of dance, with little to no prior instruction. Foundations of Dance is designed to explore dance related motor skills. Students awaken and strengthen coordination and self-expression through simple dance movement and music. This class uses a wide variety of music, props, and balancing techniques. Instead of the students in this class participating in the end of the year Showcase, parents of the students will be invited into the classroom at the end of units to observe the lessons learned. Course instructor will let you know when that will be.

Musical Theatre Dance I *12 week course, Mondays 5:50-6:40pm | Sept - Dec*

This course is open for all beginning/intermediate students with previous dance instruction. It will include a warm up of stretching, cardio, and conditioning. Technique will be addressed as students learn combinations in styles of dance used in musical theatre. The goal will be for students to increase their ability to learn choreography quickly and accurately for greater success in musical theatre auditions. Increased intensity, additional vocabulary and more challenging combinations will be utilized to aid students in reaching their goals.

Courses for Ages 8-12

Intermediate Acting *11 week course, Tuesdays 6:25-7:10pm | Sept - Dec*

This course is for the student who has mastered the introductory acting method and is ready to explore scenes and monologues on a deeper level. Continued study of Cohen's analysis process, use of the body to create truth, and basic audition preparation may also be explored. The instructor and Artistic Director will determine student readiness for this course. Note: This course requires the student to rehearse outside of class time for line memorization and preparation for partner work in class.

Musical Theatre Dance I *12 week course, Mondays 5:50-6:40pm | Sept - Dec*

This course is open for all beginning/intermediate students with previous dance instruction. It will include a warm up of stretching, cardio, and conditioning. Technique will be addressed as students learn combinations in styles of dance used in musical theatre. The goal will be for students to increase their ability to learn choreography quickly and accurately for greater success in musical theatre auditions. Increased intensity, additional vocabulary and more challenging combinations will be utilized to aid students in reaching their goals.

Voice Class I *6 week course, Thursdays 6:15-7:00pm | Sept - Nov*

Do you like to sing? Do you like to make silly voices? Imitate a singer or character? This course introduces students between the ages of 8 and 12 to the many parts (anatomy) of the vocal process and what each does each time they use their voice. Having a hard time hitting that note? Not sounding evil enough? Not able to produce the same sound each time? Join Dr. P for some vocal gymnastics through application to scenes and songs!

Resume/Headshot/Audition Prep Workshop *3 day workshop, Thursdays 5:30-6:15pm | Oct 1, Oct 8, Oct 22*

This course is for MVPs of all ages who want to develop skills, methods, and materials for future audition opportunities. The course will cover music selection and cutting, monologue selection and cutting, "book" preparation, resumes, make-up and attire, headshots, etc.

Beginner/Intermediate Improv Workshop *3 day workshop, Saturdays 9:30-10:30am | Sept 19, Sept 26, Oct 3*

Former MVPAA faculty member Eli returns to host this popular workshop! This course is for students with little to no experience in Improvisation. The foundations of improv will be introduced and explored in preparation for work in short form improvisation in an ensemble, culminating in a short performance at the closing of the final course day.

Dance Workshop (ages 10+) *1 day workshop, Wednesday, 5:30-8:30pm | Sept 16*

Delaney invites all ability levels ages 10 + to come together to challenge and inspire one another. This workshop will allow dancers to have a better understanding of their strengths and challenges as a dancer as they focus on their technique. After a period of stretching and warmups, across the floor exercises will focus on rhythm, technique, and movement quality. The final portion of the evening will be spent learning a combination, followed by a period of guided improvisation. Dancers will walk away having challenged themselves, supported one another, and strengthened their love of dance.

Mock Audition Workshop (ages 10+) *1 day workshop, Wednesday, 5:30-8:30pm | Dec 2*

This one day workshop is designed for students aged 10 and older with a desire to boost their confidence and stage presence when auditioning. Registered students will be sent information on what to “prepare” and bring (i.e. song, monologue, etc.) All students will present their audition package and participate in a mock dance audition. Students will receive feedback and coaching, but most importantly, students will end the day knowing how to “fill the room” and present their best selves - which is often more impactful than nailing that high note!

Courses for Ages 13+

Intermediate/Advanced Tap *6 week course, Wednesdays 6:00-6:45pm | Sept - Nov*

We are so excited to have Shyla join the faculty this semester. Dancers are expected to have a strong foundation in tap. In this class they will strive for clean sounds while executing difficult combinations. Higher speed steps, more complex rhythms, and turns are taught to challenge our students at this level. Dancers are taught to perform, not to just execute their steps. This course is for dancers 13 and up.

Intermediate/Advanced Jazz/Hip-Hop *6 week course, Wednesdays 6:45-8:00pm | Sept - Nov*

This course is for students who seek to challenge and expand their abilities in these dance styles. Fundamentals such as balance and general alignment are reinforced at this level. Taught by Shyla, this course will include a warm-up with stretching and cardio, and floor combinations. Dancers strive for strength, flexibility and musicality while exploring a wide

range of movements and expressions. This class emphasizes mastery of turns, jumps, and leaps, alongside developing individual style and performance quality. This class is for dancers 13 and up.

Musical Theatre Dance II *11 week course, Tuesdays 6:00-6:50pm | Sept - Dec*

This performance course is open for all intermediate and advanced students aged 13+. It will include a warm up of stretching, cardio, and conditioning. Technique will be addressed as students learn combinations in styles of dance used in musical theatre. The goal will be for students to increase their ability to learn choreography quickly and accurately for greater success in musical theatre auditions. Increased intensity, additional vocabulary and more challenging combinations will be utilized to aid students in reaching their goals. We welcome Miss Giules to the faculty as she brings her years of professional dance and choreographic experience to our students!

Voice Class II *6 week course, Thursdays 7:00-7:45pm | Sept - Nov*

Do you like to sing? Do you like to make silly voices? Imitate a singer or character? This course introduces students aged 13 and up to the many parts (anatomy) of the vocal process and what each does each time they use their voice. Having a hard time hitting that note? Not sounding evil enough? Not able to produce the same sound each time? This course helps strengthen your vocal foundation so that YOU are in control.

Resume/Headshot/Audition Prep Workshop *3 day workshop, Thursdays 5:30-6:15pm | Oct 1, Oct 8, Oct 22*

This course is for MVPs of all ages who want to develop skills, methods, and materials for future audition opportunities. This course is also for parents who are assisting their younger MVPs in the audition preparation process. The course will cover music selection and cutting, monologue selection and cutting, "book" preparation, resumes, make-up and attire, headshots, etc.

Intermediate/Advanced Improv Workshop *3 day workshop, Saturdays 10:30-12:00pm | Sept 19, Sept 26, Oct 3*

Former MVPAA faculty member Eli returns to host this popular workshop! This course is for students who have had previous training in short form improvisation. The foundations of improv will be reviewed and strengthened with additional focus on working together as a performance ensemble. Students with outside experience will be interviewed by the instructor and Artistic Director to ensure proper placement.

Dance Workshop (ages 10+) *1 day workshop, Wednesday, 5:30-8:30pm | Sept 16*

Delaney invites all ability levels ages 10 + to come together to challenge and inspire one another. This workshop will allow dancers to have a better understanding of their strengths and challenges as a dancer as they focus on their technique. After a period of stretching and warmups, across the floor exercises will focus on rhythm, technique, and

movement quality. The final portion of the evening will be spent learning a combination, followed by a period of guided improvisation. Dancers will walk away having challenged themselves, supported one another, and strengthened their love of dance.

Mock Audition Workshop (ages 10+) 1 day workshop, Wednesday, 5:30-8:30pm | Dec 2

This one day workshop with Miss Delaney is designed for students aged 10 and older with a desire to boost their confidence and stage presence when auditioning. Registered students will be sent information on what to “prepare” and bring (i.e. song, monologue, etc.) All students will present their audition package and participate in a mock dance audition. Students will receive feedback and coaching, but most importantly, students will end the day knowing how to “fill the room” and present their best selves - which is often more impactful than nailing that high note!

Courses for College Students

College Dance 11 week course, Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm | Sept - Dec

Miss Giules will be offering a one hour class for college-aged students that will span various styles allowing students to further explore movement and expression through dance. A perfect class for anyone seeking to de-stress from the academic responsibilities that accompany all majors. Take time out of your week to gather with other dancers, explore various styles of dance, including but not limited to jazz, tap, hiphop, improv, commercial dance, and musical theatre. MVPAA is delighted to welcome Miss Giules to the faculty and we look forward to her sharing her gift of dance with others.