JULIAN MERCER

DANCE TEACHER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dance Teacher with 9+ years instructing ballet, jazz, and contemporary for ages 4 through adult at a ballet school, a city recreation program, and a community arts center. Builds structured technique progressions, choreographs annual showcases, and keeps classes full through strong parent relationships.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Faculty Instructor, Ballet and Contemporary Sep 2021 - Present
Pacific Northwest Ballet School, Seattle, WA

- Teach six weekly classes for students ages 8 to 16, building technique levels that moved 14 students into the pre-professional division in two years.
- Choreograph two pieces each spring for the school showcase, rehearsing groups of 12 to 18 dancers across a 10-week schedule.
- Introduced a short conditioning warm-up at the start of each class, and student-reported minor injuries fell from 9 to 3 per term.
- Wrote written progress notes twice a year for about 90 students and met with parents to set goals.
- Mentor two apprentice teachers each season on lesson planning, spotting, and giving corrections in a positive tone.
- Adapted combinations for students with different ability levels in the same class, and moved four dancers up a level mid-year after skills assessments.

Dance Instructor Jan 2019 - Aug 2021
Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle, WA

- Taught ballet, tap, and hip-hop to children and adults at two community centers, with average class size rising from 10 to 17.
- Moved eight weekly classes online within two weeks of closures and kept 80% of enrolled students attending through the spring term.
- Produced a summer recital for 120 students, handling music licensing, costumes, and run-of-show with two volunteers.
- Created a free beginner class for teens, with 22 registrants at launch and a waiting list by the second session.
- Collected parent feedback after every session and used it to move two classes to better time slots, which lifted attendance by about 12%.

Assistant Dance Teacher Aug 2017 - Dec 2018
City of Kirkland Parks and Community Services, Kirkland, WA

- Assisted lead teachers in four youth classes, demonstrating combinations and giving individual corrections.
- Kept attendance and registration records in the studio software, reducing missed makeup classes by tracking credits weekly.
- Led warm-ups and cooldowns for the summer intensive, supporting 35 dancers over three weeks.
- Helped costume and stage-manage two seasonal performances, checking props and cues backstage for casts of up to 40 children.

CORE SKILLS

Classical ballet technique | Jazz and contemporary | Choreography | Lesson planning | Class management | Student progress notes | Music selection and editing | Injury prevention | Recital production | Parent communication | Dance studio software | Child safety practices | Teaching and mentoring

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, NC

CERTIFICATIONS

Pilates Mat Instructor Certification, Balanced Body | CPR and First Aid, American Red Cross