



# ERMS BALLROOM

*Workshop Information*  
[www.ermballroom.weebly.com](http://www.ermballroom.weebly.com)

## Why Ballroom?

At your age, there are a lot of things out there competing for your attention--sports, video games, homework, lessons, and other pursuits. Why bother with ballroom? Well, like I always say, "If you want to wrestle around with other guys, play sports. But if you want to be with GIRLS, learn to dance!!!" Ballroom is a practical skill you can use throughout your life. It's something you do in high school, college, throughout your adult life and even when you are elderly. Ballroom is unique from other forms of dance like ballet or tap. It has set dances with set steps that are learned by all beginners. Because of this, anyone two people trained in ballroom--even if they are from different studios, states, or countries, can dance together without any choreography or planning. Although set routines and formation dances are a lot of fun and can add a lot of flare, it's those basic steps that are the most important because they are the ones you will use the longest. Ballroom is also a great way to boost confidence and build lasting friendships. Come and try something new--I know you won't regret it!

## Ballroom Workshop - September 2 - September 24

You are invited to attend a three week ballroom workshop, which will take place in September. During that three weeks, all students who sign up for team will be welcome to come and learn six dances--Cha-cha, Swing, Waltz, Samba, Rumba, and West-Coast Swing. We will have class twice a week for those three weeks. After three weeks, I will select UP TO 20 students to continue on as members of the team for the Talent Show. Those who make it will be chosen based on skill, attendance, and commitment. They will be required to purchase ballroom shoes and their costume, and will be expected to attend twice a week rehearsals until November. Those who do not make it will still be invited to attend Wednesday technique rehearsals if they wish to continue learning ballroom, but they will not be in the talent show unless someone drops out. But whether you make it or not, within a few short weeks you will have a much better understanding of ballroom and should be able to do basic routines.

- The workshop is only open for 8th and 9th grade boys and girls. (However, if you are a 7<sup>th</sup> grader who already has experience in Ballroom, please come see me!)
- Sign up any time before September 2, 2014. Fill out the attached sheet to sign up.
- **You must sign up with someone of the opposite gender.** This is strictly to keep numbers even. They will not be your "partner." You will be rotating partners every few minutes during class. *Please make sure the person you sign up with has agreed to the requirements and intends to be committed.*
- No more than 60 students may sign up in total. So space is limited!
- If you are not interested in Team but would still like to do the workshop, you are welcome to come!
- The first workshop meeting will be Tuesday, September 2nd for 45 minutes in the cafeteria. We will not be dancing that day, but there will be important information and a fun demonstration by Mrs. Rees and partner.
- The first official workshop day will be Wednesday, September 3rd from 3:00 to 4:00 in the cafeteria.



- The Workshop will go from September 3rd to September 24th, every Monday and Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:00
- If there is enough interest, there will be another workshop in March after the school play.
- Excellent attendance is a must--do not sign up if you know you have conflicts or do not intend to commit to this!
- Instruction videos will appear on this website, teaching you the basic steps we will go over in the next lesson. Workshop members will be required to go over these steps BEFORE class. This will help us make our limited time more valuable, and it will also help me see who my most committed students are when I select team.
- Remember that Mrs. Rees is also on the committee for the school musical and will be at auditions. Your abilities, attendance, commitment, and behavior during the workshop and if you make team, can all help or hurt you at auditions. This is a great opportunity to both hone your skills and also make yourself known.



## Ballroom Team Info

- Team rehearsals will begin September 29th. At this point, the workshop will be over and only those invited to continue on as team members will continue to come every Monday and Wednesday. (Non-team members may still come to Wednesday rehearsals in October)
- Team members will be selected ONLY from those who attend the workshop
- Team members will be required to pay for shoes and their costume. The total cost will be about \$80.
- Team members will learn a choreographed dance that will be performed at the talent show on January 7th.
- Monday rehearsals will focus on the routine, Wednesday rehearsals will focus on the actual dances and the technique to dance them properly.
- Partnerships on the team will be based on height, not your personal preference.
- There will be no more than 20 members on Team.
- If the team number exceeds 16 members, there will be some switching of partners during the routine. Six couples will be in the full routine, while four couples will rotate and only dance half the dance. They will also serve as alternates if other members are missing.
- Team rehearsals will be on Mondays and Wednesdays, September-October. In November, when the play rehearsals start, Wednesday rehearsals will be discontinued on days that it conflicts with play practice. Monday rehearsals will continue unchanged. There will be no Play rehearsals on Mondays through December.
- Team rehearsals will begin at 3:00 p.m. and go until 4:30. Please make sure you have a way home.
- There are two Friday rehearsals scheduled on days when there is no school--on October 1st (Parent Teacher Conferences) and October 31st (end of quarter.) These rehearsals will go from 8:00 a.m. to noon.
- There will be occasional Saturday rehearsals for team members in November and December, and at least one 4-hour rehearsal over Christmas break.
- After the talent show, ballroom Team will be over. However, if opportunities to perform arise, we will take them!
- As Mrs. Rees is also the assistant director for the school play, there will be little to no conflict between ballroom and the school play--YOU CAN DO BOTH!! This is also a great opportunity to gain some dancing skills for the school musical.
- Excellent attendance is a must. Team members who miss too many rehearsals will be replaced or eliminated.



Please bring to Mrs. Rees, room 404, before 1<sup>st</sup> period on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Workshop Sign-Up Sheet

I would like to sign up for one the limited spots open for the ERMS Ballroom workshop. I understand that I must sign up *with a partner* who must fill this form out with me. Although we are signing up together, I understand that we will not be “partners” every day.

#### Female

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ (please write legibly!)

**Grade:** 8<sup>th</sup>                      9<sup>th</sup>                      7<sup>th</sup> (special permission only)

**1<sup>st</sup> Period Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please initial each statement below, then sign.

	I understand that I will be participating in a 3-week ballroom workshop from September 2 – September 24 <sup>th</sup> .
	I have transportation home after school, as class will out between 4:00 and 4:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays
	I have looked over the calendar and am able to participate for all lessons.
	I understand that not attending will cause me to be eliminated from the class.
	I fully intend to attend all six classes
	I will be respectful and courteous during class time.

Female Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Male

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ (please write legibly!)

**Grade:** 8<sup>th</sup>                      9<sup>th</sup>                      7<sup>th</sup> (special permission only)

**1<sup>st</sup> Period Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

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	I understand that not attending will cause me to be eliminated from the class.
	I fully intend to attend all six classes
	I will be respectful and courteous during class time.

Male Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_