



## 2022-23 Technique Classes Explanation and Implementation

Dear Parents and Students of Extreme Ballroom!! We are very excited to announce to you all that we are re-vamping the way our technique program is going to be run. This is something I have been wanting to do for awhile, and it is finally coming to fruition!!

We want our students to get the best Ballroom Dance education they can here at Extreme Ballroom, regardless of the level they are starting out at. We feel this will really help them to understand that taking technique classes is a privilege and that the level of work they put in, will be equal to what they earn in their skill level. As teachers, we are also going to be doing more training ourselves, so we can be better equipped to teach them the best we can. We are always striving to do our best to provide the best dance education we can to our students.

I have prepared this in list form because it makes it easier to refer back to. Hopefully this will help you understand our goals!

1. ALL of our students at Extreme are required to take technique classes in order to be on our teams. If you are on a medley team, you are required to take more than those on Youth Showcase. If you are from a different program, and would just like to take technique classes with us to improve yourself, you are more than welcome to do so. We are offering more technique classes than we have in the past to accommodate different interests as well.
2. We have spread out the class levels more evenly, so that we can teach to the proper level more efficiently. This will allow for students to be taught more fully at their level, rather than “above their level,” or “below their level.” For instance, we have a Pre-Teen/Jr. Silver Ballroom 1 Class, and a Silver Ballroom 2 class in that same age group. This allows for us to teach students that are fairly close in level, but not quite the same, in a manner that is most helpful for them.
3. We are going to provide a list of student “Mentors” this fall for those of you who are interested in having your younger child get extra help from an older student mentor. We will keep you posted more on how this will all work as we get closer to our new dance year.
4. All students will have the ability to “test out” of a level each semester, and move up to the higher level by the next semester. Testing will take place two times a year: The last week of classes in December, and in late Summer/early Fall.
5. In order to test out of a class, they must demonstrate proficiency in their dancing and execute steps correctly, with the proper technique. They will also need to know the names of the steps and will take a written portion of the test to ensure this. For instance, if there is a child who has worked extremely hard from Sept. to Dec., in their Gold 1 Latin class, and wants to try to test out of that class and move into the Gold 2 Latin class, they can do so in December. If they pass the exam, they can then move into Gold Latin in January, rather than waiting for the following year. We feel this will help encourage the kids to take their learning seriously and set and accomplish goals.
6. All of our students will be required to test in December, however can decide if they are opting to test out of the class they are currently in. The testing not only will help them move within the year, but for those who don’t move, it will still provide feedback on what they can do better. We have done testing before, so some of you may remember how that works, however this will be even more purposeful and directly help them advance if that is their goal.
7. We will use auditions to place the students in their tech. classes for the Fall, however as mentioned above there will also be the optional late Summer/Fall exam provided for those who have worked hard all summer and want to try and test ‘up’ before classes begin. We will announce when those testing opportunities will be held as we get closer to the new dance year in the fall.

8. Technique classes will not be assigned according to team, they will be assigned according to their level in a particular style. For instance, there might be dancers on Youth Gold who are in the Gold 2 Latin Class, but Gold 1 Ballroom. Also, Jr.'s and Youth in the same levels will be combined. For instance, a Junior who is proficient enough to be in the Gold 1 Latin class, can participate as well. Because of this change, we have also separated team tuition from technique class costs. We used to have all of the costs combined into one, however now with this they have been separated. You will see this clearly in your welcome letter that explains your monthly fees.
9. Those who are assigned to the Gold 2 level classes will now be learning all 4 dances in each of the styles of dance as well as having hour long tech. classes rather than 45 minutes only. For instance, in Gold 2 Latin, students will learn technique from Cha-Cha, Samba, Rumba, and Paso Doble rather than just Samba and Rumba. Jive will be added in if there is time. All other tech. classes, will remain 45 minutes per class.
10. Those assigned to Gold 2 level classes will also be required to attend one workshop per month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 8-9:30 am. The time and date will remain the same so we can provide consistency. These workshops will continue through February, but after that will be discontinued due to the nature of our competition schedule. We will be bringing someone in from outside our studio to work with them for these workshops as much as possible. There is no additional cost for this, as it is included with their monthly tech. class fees. Those in the Gold 1 level classes are also welcome to attend these workshops, however, they will pay an additional cost to attend, as it is not included in their monthly fee.
11. Our Pre-Teen Gold team, as well as our Junior Silver Teams, will be now taking 3 tech. classes so we have more time to prepare them with Ballroom, Latin, and American styles. They really need to have a stronger base before moving up to the higher-level classes. That is the purpose of this change.
12. We have currently assigned all of our students to a technique level that we feel is best for them based off of our recent auditions. You will see those assignments emailed out to you. We will be doing testing this Fall for anyone who would like to try and test out of their current level. Most all of the classes are still conveniently placed near your child's team time to eliminate coming in to the studio too often. We are trying to make this easier and also better for your children all the way around!!!
13. We will be providing step lists for each class before our Summer Workshops begin. This way your student will be able to know what is required of them in each class, and can work on those techniques/figures/routines during our Summer Workshops that we offer from the end of June through July. These workshops are optional for anyone hoping to improve enough for advancement in the Fall. This does not guarantee that you will advance, but could help you try if you take it seriously and work hard.
14. Last but not least, we will be offering a Jr/Yth. Gold American Style class!! We have never done this before, and always just try to sneak in the American Style dances in our other classes so kids can compete those dances, but we are no longer doing that. If the older kids would like to learn and test the American dances such as Mambo, Cha-Cha, Foxtrot, West Coast Swing, Triple Swing, American Tango, they will need to take this class. However, something we are doing to make this more do-able is making it available in sessions according to dance. For instance, if you wanted to learn the Mambo, you could register specifically for that session. It will be a 3 to 4 week session. Then your commitment to that class would be over, unless and until you wanted to register again for another dance. Our teachers are also going to rotate through this class, which will be a lot of fun and great for our students to get some training from those they may never get instruction from.

We sincerely hope this will help our students succeed even more, and give them more opportunity to push themselves, set and achieve goals, and remain competitive in Ballroom Dance! It will be up to them how much they get out of it though! They will need to work hard in their technique classes to make change happen, practice outside of class, and test to get the feedback they need!! Thank you for supporting your children in their endeavor to succeed at what they love!!

Sincerely,

Staci Huston  
Extreme Ballroom Owner/Director