

NORTH SHORE DANCE DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

Evolution
A Senior Dance Capstone



Thursday, April 23, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Special Thanks To...

Director's Note

This evening is not meant to feel like an ending. While tonight celebrates our senior dancers and the work they've done, it is really a pause. A moment to notice who they have become through years of showing up, working through uncertainty, and growing together.

Many of the dancers you see tonight have spent a significant part of their lives in this program. They have danced in a cafeteria, a gym, a studio and on this stage. They've learned to adapt, support one another and have discovered that progress doesn't come from perfection, but from persistence. Along the way, they've learned how to listen, how to revise, how to trust and how to keep going when things felt hard.

This performance is designed to reflect that journey. Rather than a traditional recital, it is meant to feel like a collection of moments each shaped by collaboration, choice and reflection. The chapters you'll see represent phases of growth, reminding us that evolution happens gradually, through experience, reflection, and time.

My hope is that these dancers carry forward not only their love of movement, but the skills they've built here, empathy, resilience, advocacy, curiosity, and joy.

Thank you for being here to witness this moment.

It remains an honor to be their teacher,
Simone Kuranishi

North Shore Schools Board of Education

Dr. Andrea Macari, President

Ms. Lisa Colacioppo, Vice President

Ms. Lisa Cashman, Dr. Jessica Dillon, Mr. Brian Hanley, Ms. Maria Mosca,
Mr. James Svendsen, Trustees

Dr. Christopher Zublionis, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. CarolAnn Smyth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Mr. James Pappas, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Ms. Dalia Rodriguez, Director of Fine & Performing Arts

Mr. Eric Contreras, Principal North Shore High School

Ms. Jennifer Imperiale, Assistant Principal North Shore High School

Dr. Kevin Kurrus, Assistant Principal North Shore High School

Dr. Ryan O'Hara, Principal North Shore Middle School

Dr. Maram Mabrouk, Assistant Principal North Shore Middle School

Ms. Sharon Morello, Secretary of Fine & Performing Arts Department

Jerry Boertzel & the Custodial Staff of the High School

Arts Angels

Corinne Matheson & Emily Solano-Sandoval, Dance Student Teachers

Prologue: The Evidence

Please visit the theater lobby to see some of the work our seniors have created over the course of their time in the dance program.

Senior Bios

Chapter 1: Becoming

This chapter explores the early stages of growth, learning to belong, taking risks, and discovering the beginnings of a dancer's identity.

Senior Remix

Choreographed by: Simone Kuranishi

Artistic Focus: Memory, Momentum, Legacy

Performed by: All Seniors

Dramatic Irony

Choreographed by: Josef Hunter & Corinne Matheson

Genre: Musical Theater

Artistic Focus: Confidence, Humor, Personal Voice

Performed by: Josef Hunter

Through contrast and irony, this solo embraces individuality and the moment when a dancer begins to claim space with clarity and confidence.

Becoming, Unrushed

Choreographed & Performed by: Giuliana Ferrari, Penelope Lonigro,

Siena Siu, Joshlynn Wang & Maebel Wright

Genre: Lyrical

Artistic Focus: Breath, Suspension, Release

This piece reflects the North Shore Dance program's commitment to growth over time. Where dancers are encouraged to trust their process, refine their artistry, and evolve at their own pace.



Giuliana Zaccagnino is a senior and this is her 5th year in the dance program. She's been dancing for 15 years and she started dancing for Mrs. K when she was in 6th grade. She loves participating in dance because it's a very positive environment and she's able to express herself. She is very excited to perform for her last time with Mrs. K at the senior showcase.

Senior Bios



Giada Settino is a senior who has been dancing for almost 11 years and has been in the dance program for 5 years. Throughout her time here, she's grown as a performer and a person. Giada is also a part of the National Honor Society of Dance Arts. As she is getting ready to graduate, she is grateful for all of the experiences the dance program has given her.



Siena Siu has been part of the NSHS Dance Department since 9th grade. She has learnt to collaborate effectively with other students, how to explore her creativity, and how to express herself through dance. She has learnt affective dance technique, and how to use her body to tell a story. Siena has worked closely with peers on choreography and various dance pieces. Siena tries to foster a positive environment in the dance studio. She is thankful for the supportive environment that she has been able to grow through.



Nicole Tom, a senior at North High School and Mrs. K's intern, has danced for 16 years. She teaches multiple levels of dance at her dance studio and also teaches students at NSHS. She is in NHSDA and is president of the Select Dance Ensemble. She works closely with Ms. K when choreographing dances for the musicals and the Sea Cliff Extravaganza. Nicole is committed to challenging her classmates and building confidence in those just beginning to learn dance.



Joshlynn Wang is a senior in the program, involved in the Senior Showcase. She enjoys contributing to performances and celebrating the creativity of her peers.

Chapter 2: Partnership

These works demonstrate how collaboration and connection shape growth through shared rhythm, trust, and timing.

Side by Side

Choreographed & Performed by: Ava Maffei & Samantha Maffei

Genre: Tap

Artistic Focus: Partnership, Trust, Rhythm

This work explores how connection is built through listening, both to the music and one another, and how growth often happens alongside someone else.

New Heights

Choreographed & Performed by: Stella DiPasquale, Sylvia Gao & Grace Harding

Performed by: Stella DiPasquale, Sylvia Gao, Grace Harding, Fiona Hughes, Samantha Maffei, Olivia McCarthy, Olivia Volz & Giuliana Zaccagnino

Genre: Jazz

Artistic Focus: Time, Reflection, Awareness

This piece reflects the quiet realization that growth happens gradually, shaped by time, experience, and the people who move alongside us.

Chapter 3: Pressure and Perseverance

This chapter examines the emotional weight of expectation and the resilience required to continue striving, even when growth feels heavy.

The Weight of Trying

Choreographed by: Giada Settino

Genre: Lyrical

Artistic Focus:

Performed by: Eva Dominguez & Sadie Elbaum

“The Weight of Trying” demonstrates the physical and emotional exhaustion of pushing yourself again and again, yet still feeling unsatisfied with the outcome. Through this perspective, the work reveals how effort, frustration, and hope coexist in the journey toward growth.

Still Becoming

Choreographed & Performed by: Ava Maffei, Delilah McAuliffe, Abigail Neice, & Alexa Petulla

Genre: Musical Theater

Artistic Focus:

This piece is inspired by the three seniors who are leaving this phase of their lives behind. They are growing up and are still becoming who they are. Of course, with a hint of theater kid in it, they express the excitement and nervousness that come with moving on.

Reclamation

Choreographed & Performed by: Nicole Tom

Performed by: Nicole Tom & Elle Paulinski

Genre: Jazz

Artistic Focus: Reflection, Transformation, Freedom

This piece uses the idea of breaking dishes to show letting go of the old, releasing built-up tension, and moving toward growth and renewal through changing movement and energy.

Senior Bios



Delilah McAuliffe is a senior who has been a part of the North Shore dance program since 8th grade. She also takes part in the school musical each year. Delilah is very grateful for the dance program, as it has allowed her to grow and become a better person.



Juliana Meli has been dancing for fifteen years, and she has been a part of the North Shore Dance Program for five years. Starting in her 8th grade dance class, she has been a leader where she has taught herself and other students to become more confident in themselves. She has been treasurer of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts and Select Ensemble for the past three years, and she has also been an intern for Mrs. Kuranishi for the past two years. She is so grateful for all of the opportunities that this program has given her, and she is especially grateful for Mrs. Kuranishi who has continuously supported her over the past five years.



Abigail Neice has been in the dance department for five years. She is currently in the Advanced Dance class. Her favorite styles of dance include lyrical, jazz, and modern. She is excited for one last show with her fellow senior dancers.



Alexa Petulla has been in the dance department for the past 5 years and was in the first ever 8th grade class in the dance department. She has further explored dance at a local studio and through 7 musicals within the North Shore Theatre Department. She was also a member of Pulse and the Select Ensemble. She is going to miss the North Shore Dance department deeply.

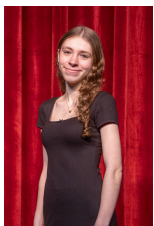
Senior Bios



Grace Harding is a senior and this is her second year in the dance program. She is also the Treasurer of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. She enjoys participating in dance because it allows her to express herself and gives her a creative outlet. She is looking forward to the senior showcase to perform one last time with her friends.



Josef Blaine Hunter is very committed to the North Shore Dance Program. He has been dancing with Ms. K since the 6th grade musical "Frozen." He has gotten very good at many styles, including jazz, tap, and many others. The Dance Program has allowed him to get a professional look at a piece of his future. Josef looks forward to continuing his journey with friends alongside him.



Starting her dance journey in 8th grade, Penelope Lonigro has grown from a shy, anxious newcomer into a confident and expressive performer. As a dedicated member of both the Dance Program and the High School Musical, she brings positivity, warmth, and an unwavering work ethic to every rehearsal. For 2 years, she has served as a rehearsal assistant for the middle school musicals, mentoring younger performers with patience and heart. She is a true pleasure to have in class, supportive, encouraging, and always ready to lift up her peers. Dance has been a wonderful opportunity for her to freely express herself, and she hopes to carry that creative spirit with her in her future endeavors.



Ava Maffei has been a dancer in the NS dance department ever since 8th grade. From dancing in the middle school cafeteria to being in the aux gym and finally the studio, this department has been a huge part of her life. Ava has been the dance captain for the last three musical productions and has practically lived in the dance studio. Ava has known Ms. K since she was 10 years old at the beginning of the "Frozen" production in the middle school. Ms. K and this department will be one of the hardest things to part with when she graduates. She'd like to thank Ms. K for everything she has done the last 7 years and for helping her grow as a dancer, leader, and overall person.

Chapter 4: Legacy

This chapter reflects on the enduring impact of shared experiences, honoring the memories, mentorship, and collective growth that define the North Shore Dance community and what our dancers will carry with them into their next chapter.

What We Carry Forward

Choreography by: Eva Dominguez
Performed by: NS Select Dance Ensemble

This Was Ours

Choreographed by: Simone Kuranishi & Nicole Tom
Performed by: Senior Dancers

This piece is a tribute to the senior dancers whose artistry, resilience, and leadership have shaped our program. The choreography reflects the spaces, both physical and emotional, that this class has grown through together. Each gesture and pathway echoes the memories, lessons, and shared moments that have defined their journey.

As the dancers move toward new beginnings, this piece honors the place they will always carry with them: the community they built here. May it remind them that they will forever have a "somewhere" to return to.

Senior Bios

Performers

Senior Dancers

Giuliana Cimino+, Stella DiPasquale+, Giuliana Ferrari+,
Sylvia Gao+, Grace Harding+, Josef Hunter+,
Penelope Lonigro+, Ava Maffei+, Delilah McAuliffe+,
Juliana Meli^+, Abigail Neice+, Alexa Petulla+, Giada Settino+,
Siena Siu+, Nicole Tom^+, Joshlynn Wang+
& Giuliana Zaccagnino+

Featured Ensemble

Eva Dominguez+, Sadie Elbaum+,
Fiona Hughes+, Samantha Maffei+, Olivia McCarthy+,
Adrianna Moreno+, Elle Paulinski, Olivia Volz+,
& Maebel Wright+

Viking Masquers Technical Support

Stage Manager - Luna Espinosa DeRozas
Sound Crew - Isabella Sun
Stage Crew - Marguerite Collier
Projections & Video - Keira Rechsteiner
Photography - Lila Frame
Ushers - Emma DeBlasio, Willow Lonigro & Adrianna Moreno

^Intern +NHSDA



Giuliana Cimino is a senior dancer and has been dancing for 15 years. She joined the North Shore Dance program during her sophomore year, and is also a member of the NHSDA. The dance program here at North Shore has brought Giuliana lots of joy throughout the school day and she has built many friendships because of it! She has also gained lots of confidence in dance and stage presence with the help of Mrs. K! Mrs. K has built up this program so much since Giuliana joined it and she is very grateful to have had such a great experience in it throughout the years.

Giuliana will miss her and the program so much!



Stella DiPasquale is a senior dancer who has been part of the North Shore dance program for two years. Throughout her time in the program, she has grown as a performer and gained confidence both on and off the stage. She is a proud member of the National Honors Society of Dance Arts and values the discipline, creativity, and community dance has given her. As she prepares to graduate, she is grateful for the experiences and memories that shaped her senior year.



Giuliana Ferrari has been a dancer for 14 years and in the dance program for 4 years. She dances competitively and enjoys learning multiple styles of dance, including ballet, tap, lyrical, jazz, and musical theatre. She is also a part of Select Ensemble and the NHSDA. She wants to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Kuranishi for everything she has done for all of us over the years. Giuliana is honored to be standing by the side of her fellow seniors today, and she can't wait to see all that everyone accomplishes in their futures!



Sylvia Gao is a senior and has been in the dance program for 4 years. She is currently the president of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts and has choreographed dances for past symposiums and musicals. She would like to thank her family and teachers for always supporting her. She would also like to thank her friends for always being there for her and making the dance program a memorable experience.