



**MEDIA ADVISORY/REQUEST FOR COVERAGE**

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**“COLORS OF THE RAINBOW” TEAM MATCH OF THE DECADE:  
PITTSBURGH MERCY & DANCING CLASSROOMS PITTSBURGH  
CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF 5TH GRADERS LEARNING BALLROOM DANCE**  
*Students demonstrate social & emotional learning skills  
through the art & practice of ballroom dance*

**WHO:** [Pittsburgh Mercy](#) and fifth-grade students from 10 participating, Pittsburgh-area public and private schools who participate in [Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh](#):

- Community Day School (Squirrel Hill)
- Northside Catholic Assumption Academy (Brighton Heights)
- Pittsburgh Brookline PreK-8 (Brookline)
- Pittsburgh Colfax K-8 (Squirrel Hill)
- Pittsburgh Liberty K-5 (Shadyside)
- Pittsburgh Linden K-5 (Point Breeze)
- Pittsburgh Westwood K-5 (Westwood)
- St. Benedict the Moor School (Hill District)
- Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy (Wilkinsburg)
- Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School (Lincoln-Larimer)

**WHAT:** Teams of fifth-grade students from participating schools will compete in the **Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh “Colors of the Rainbow” Team Match**. The event is the finale in a 20-session journey which promotes social and emotional development and important life lessons through the art and practice of ballroom dance. The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. No RSVP is necessary.

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**Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh “Colors of the Rainbow” Team Match**  
**Page 2 of 3**

Mr. Terry Sweeney, former national and international Latin and ballroom dance champion and current choreographer, teaching artist, and co-owner and artistic director of Art & Style Ballroom Dance Studio in Etna, will serve as emcee.

**WHEN:** **Thursday, May 23, 2019, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** (*ending time is approximate*)

**WHERE:** **Pittsburgh Alderdice High School Auditorium**  
2407 Shady Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (Squirrel Hill)

**WHY:** The “young ladies and gentlemen” (as they are referred to by teaching artists based on the Dancing Classrooms curriculum) trained in ballroom dance twice weekly for 10 weeks. They were selected to represent their peers and schools at Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh’s “Colors of the Rainbow” Team Match, the culminating event of the school year. The participants will perform the merengue, foxtrot, rumba, tango, and swing in front of an audience of their family members, peers, school communities, and judges. Participants as well as school and Pittsburgh Mercy representatives will be available for interviews and photos, pre- and post-event.

Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh is made possible by Pittsburgh Mercy, Extra Mile Education Foundation, Jefferson Regional Foundation, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and the Global Peace Building Foundation.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** To cover this event, please contact [Linda K. Ross](mailto:Linda.K.Ross@pittsburghmercy.org) (412-578-6224) or [Zandy Dudiak](mailto:Zandy.Dudiak@pittsburghmercy.org) (412-578-6442).

***About Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh***

[Pittsburgh Mercy](http://www.pittsburghmercy.org), a member of [Trinity Health](http://www.trinityhealth.org) and serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, introduced [Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh](http://www.dancingclassroomspittsburgh.org) to 300 fifth-grade children in six [Pittsburgh Public Schools](http://www.pittsburghpublicschools.org) in September 2009. Since then, more than 7,000 young ladies and gentlemen from Pittsburgh-area public, faith-based, and charter schools have benefited from the social and emotional developmental, arts-in-education program that is designed to cultivate essential life skills in children through the art and practice of social dance. Students who participate twice weekly in the 10-week curriculum learn not only the fundamentals of ballroom dance, but also valuable life lessons like team building, cooperation, self-confidence, problem solving, creative thinking, resiliency in the face of challenge, professional courtesy, and appreciation for other cultures. Teachers and principals in participating schools have noted decreases in behavior management problems, increases in parental involvement, and positive impacts on academics, school climate, and in the way the students treat one another. For more information about [Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh](http://www.dancingclassroomspittsburgh.org), visit [www.pittsburghmercy.org](http://www.pittsburghmercy.org).

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**Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh “Colors of the Rainbow” Team Match**  
**Page 3 of 3**

***About Pittsburgh Mercy***

[Pittsburgh Mercy](#), a member of [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the [Sisters of Mercy](#), is a person-centered, population-based, trauma-informed community health and wellness provider. Pittsburgh Mercy is one of the largest employers and the only Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh Mercy includes Bethlehem Haven, McAuley Ministries, Pittsburgh Mercy Behavioral Health, Pittsburgh Mercy Community Health, Pittsburgh Mercy Intellectual Disabilities Services, Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Program, Pittsburgh Mercy’s Operation Safety Net®, and Pittsburgh Mercy Family Health Center. Together, these Pittsburgh Mercy programs and their 1,700 employees serve more than 33,000 individuals annually at more than 60 locations in Southwestern Pennsylvania. To learn more about Pittsburgh Mercy or to make a donation in support of its important work in the community, visit [www.pittsburghmercy.org](http://www.pittsburghmercy.org).

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