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STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK 2023-24

Welcome to Dance U! We are thrilled to have your dancer with us. We are dedicated to building happy, confident, talented dancers one dancer at a time. We believe dance is for everyone and offer classes for all ages and levels in many different genres. Please use this handbook for policies, dates, and information you need. For updated information and details, visit our website.

Important Dates:

September 5 (Tuesday): Classes begin

October 15: First costume payment due (**\$90 per costume**. Half due at this time.)

November 15: Final costume payment due.

Nov. 20-24: Thanksgiving Break; No Classes

Dec. 18-Jan. 5: Winter Break; No Classes

Jan. 15: MLK Day; No Classes

March 15: Recital Fee due; \$60 (\$120 max per family)

Apr. 1-5: Spring Break; No Classes

April 26: Last Regular Class

April 29-May 2: Recital Class Picture Week

May 10-11: Recital Days

****Dates are tentative and subject to change****

****If there are other days the studio will be closed dancers will be notified****

****Inclement weather: Please check email and social media for studio closings. We may not close the studio based on school closings due to weather.****

Tuition and Payments

- Tuition is due the first of each month. This can be paid via cash, check, credit card, or debit card and can be paid online through your parent portal. Please use the payment box in the lobby for checks and cash.
- You may sign up for AutoPay through your parent portal.
- There is no additional charge when there are 5 lessons in a month, and no discount when there are three. Tuition is an annual charge divided by eight, not by the lesson or number of lessons in a month. We do not have make-up classes for studio closings.
- Tuition is not prorated for absences, and dancers are encouraged to make up any missed classes in appropriate age, genre, and level classes within TWO WEEKS of missed class based on availability. Make up classes are not available within two months of recital, due to choreography differences in each class.
- Sibling discount is 10% off tuition for the child with the least studio hours per week. Three or more siblings receive additional discounts.
- **LATE FEE:** A **\$15 late fee** will automatically be added to each overdue account on the 10th of each month.
- **DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS:** **Accounts must be up to date before the recital, and any dancer with a delinquent account will be unable to participate until payments are up to date. Costumes will also be withheld until balances are paid. If tuition becomes two months overdue, dancers will be asked to sit out of class. Costumes will not be ordered for dancers two months delinquent.**
- **DROPPING CLASS:** If dropping a class, please notify through email. You must pay in full for any month you are registered for a class. We also must receive a 30 day notice so we can fill your dancer's spot. Simply discontinuing attendance does not constitute withdrawal.
- **REGISTRATION FEE:** Registration fee is \$35 for our regular season or \$50 per family. Summer registration is \$10 per dancer per session. This is non-refundable.
- **COSTUME FEE:** Costumes are **\$90 each, non refundable**. Costumes will not go home with dancers who owe money.
- **RECITAL FEE:** A recital fee is due March 15. \$60 per student, max \$120 per family. This covers the cost of stage rental, programs, sets, trophies, production, etc. We do not charge additional fees for tickets, and all are welcome to our shows!
- **RETURNED CHECKS:** \$45 returned check fee and applicable late fee will be applied.

30 minutes	\$45
45 minutes	\$55
1 hour	\$65
1.5 hour	\$85
2 hours	\$110
3 hours	\$155
4 hours	\$210
5 hours	\$265
6 hours	\$315
7 hours	\$365

8 hours	\$410
9 hours	\$455

Classes

Please find the full schedule at our website or through your parent portal.

Class Description:

Acro and Tiny Tumble: Ages 3-18. This style teaches flexibility, agility, conditioning, and tumbling. All acro students must register for the appropriate skill level or class changes will be made as needed and/or available. Levels:

- Tiny Tumble: Ages 3-5 (not yet in kindergarten) 30 MINUTE CLASS
- Pink (beginner)
- Silver (must have fall-to-bridge, solid cartwheel and round-off)
- Platinum: (must have both front and back walkovers)
- Diamond: (working aerial and backhandspring)
- Cheer Acro: All DU Cheerleaders will have their own team acro class this year.

Acro Teens is a mixed level class ages 12-18. All Acro classes are 45 minutes. No recital or costume fees. No shoes; barefeet.

Classes by age:

Ages 3-4: Baby Ballerinas and Tiny Tumble

Ages 4-5: Pre-K Combo, Mini Hip Hop, and Tiny Tumble

Level 1: Ages 5-7 (Includes K-2nd Grade, and K2 classes)

Level 2: Ages 7-9

Level 3: Ages 9-11

Level 4: 6th-8th grade

Level 5: High School

Level 6: Advanced and Performance Company Level Ages 12+

Ballet/Jazz Combo (Baby Ballerinas, Pre-K Combo, K Combo, 1st Grade Combo, 2nd Grade Combo and K2 Combo): Ages 3-8 (through 2nd Grade). Ballet/Jazz combination, with the focus on building strong ballet technique and a love for dance. Jazz, lyrical, and improv will also be introduced when age appropriate. Baby Ballerinas and younger dancers will focus on the joy of music and movement while developing a foundation of ballet and jazz. 45 minute class. One recital dance and one costume. Pink Capezio Ballet Shoes.

Ballet: Ages 8-18. Ballet technique both at the barre and center floor, as well as ballet choreography. 45 minute ballet class. One recital costume. Pink Capezio Ballet Shoes.

Ballet/Lyrical: Ages 10+ Morning Class designed for homeschool students. Ballet fundamentals, stretching, extended barre work, leaps and turns, and lyrical instruction and exploration. One recital dance and costume and performance opportunities in addition to the recital. Pink Capezio Ballet shoes AND tan turn shoes.

Contemporary: Ages 9-18. A style of expressive dance combining elements of modern, jazz, lyrical, and ballet. The goal is to connect the mind and body through fluid dance movements. One recital dance and costume. Bare feet.

Hip Hop and Mini Hip Hop: Ages 4-18. This fun-filled co-ed class focuses on improving coordination, strength, and flexibility in a high energy class learning the latest hip hop curriculum. Ages 4 and up and placed by age, not experience. 45 minutes. One recital dance and costume. Black Converse-type Shoes (low or high top).

Jazz: Ages 8-18. Jazz technique, flexibility, turns, leaps, and kicks. 45 minute jazz class. One recital costume. Tan jazz shoes.

Leaps, Jumps, and Turns: Ages 9-18. Technique Class; no recital or additional fees. Jazz or turn shoes.

Lyrical: Ages 8-18. A beautiful dance genre engaging students in both ballet and jazz technique while focusing on the musicality in movement. One recital dance and costume. Tan turn shoes.

Musical Theater: Ages 5-18. This class combines technique and show performance focusing on multiple Broadway styles and music combining singing, acting, and dancing. This will introduce dancers to both classical and current musicals. One costume and one recital dance. Tan jazz shoes.

Pointe 1, 2: Ages 12+. Teacher evaluation required. At least 4 years of ballet experience as well as teacher placement and evaluation. One recital dance and one costume. Pointe shoes and ballet shoes.

Pom: Ages 5-18. Pom is a dance style that involves jazz and hip hop moves with strong arm movements with pom poms. **Middle School and High School pom dancers will prepare for school and college dance teams in this class.** Introductory tumbling, jumps, and flexibility will be taught. 45 minutes. One recital dance and costume. Tan jazz shoes.

Tap: Ages 5-18. Lace those tap shoes and come enjoy the fun of rhythm while building coordination, musicality, and tap fundamentals. 30 minutes. One recital dance and one costume. Black tap shoes..

Teams (by audition and/or teacher placement):

Dance U Cheer Teams. By audition, ages 5-14. Two separate teams: PINK (45 minutes per week) and SILVER (one hour per week). This class by audition prepares the team in choreography for performances. A 45-minute Cheer Acro is required for DU cheerleaders. Additional fees will apply for shoes, costumes, pom poms, music, choreography, and other cheer essentials.

Dance U Company. By audition, ages 7-18. Class is required for company dancers. Competition dances including solos, duets, trios and groups will be decided within the class. Additional fees will apply for competitions, choreography, costumes, performance trips, etc. Some competition dances will be performed in the recital. Most classes are 60-90 minutes and additional classes are required.

Dance U Performance Company. By teacher invitation, ages 9-18. Team and classes for motivated dancers with multiple performance opportunities but no competition. Technique, conditioning, choreography and more will be learned in the Level 6 classes on the schedule in ballet, tap, and jazz. Pink Capezio ballet shoes, black tap shoes, and tan jazz shoes.

Dance U Pre-Company. By teacher invitation, ages 5-7. Team for motivated dancers with an interest in future Company. Multiple performance opportunities but no competition. Technique in ballet, tap, and

jazz, conditioning, choreography and more. One hour team class each week. Additional fees will apply for costume, team t-shirt, and other performance expenses. Pink Capezio ballet shoes, tan jazz shoes, and black tap shoes.

DU Hip Hop Crew, DU Lil' Crew and DU Mini Crew: By audition, ages 5-18. Three Teams. Class prepares DU Crew members for choreography in performances. Non-competitive, multiple performance opportunities. Additional fees will apply for shoes, costumes, music and choreography, and other essentials. Class is 60 minutes, 45 minutes for Mini Crew.

Dress Code

When dancers come dressed appropriately to class, they are ready to learn and can move more freely.

Please carefully adhere to the dress code.

SHOES:

Dance shoes should not be worn outside and street shoes should not be worn in the studio.

Please note that dance shoes do not always fit the same as regular street shoes, especially when ordering online. You may access the Dance U dress code and purchase shoes at **Discountdance.com** using the studio code **52437** for our “dress list” and a studio discount. Shoes can also be fitted and purchased at **Lebo's** (Pineville-Matthews Road). Mention Dance U for specific help on shoes and a discount.

Ballet shoes: Younger Dancers: Capezio in pink leather (full or split sole and prefer the non-draw string type). Older Dancers: Capezio split sole in pink (leather or canvas). Boys' ballet shoes in black.

Needed in Classes: Baby Ballerinas, Pre-K Combo, K Combo, 1st Combo, K2 Combo, 2nd grade Combo, Pre-Company, Ballet, and Ballet/Lyrical AM, Company

Jazz shoes: Bloch Super Jazz 20401 (or any similar style) in tan, or from Discount Dance Theatrical T7902 in tan.

Needed in Classes: Jazz, Pom, Musical Theater, Pre-Company, Company

*1st Grade Combo, 2nd grade Combo, K2, K Ballet/Jazz Combo, Pre-K and Baby Ballerinas do **NOT** need jazz shoes.*

Tap shoes: Capezio 3800C or Theatricals T9050 (or any similar style or brand) for K and K2 Tap, Pre-Company, and 2nd grade (black Mary Jane style).

T9500 from Discount dance (oxford style) **or** Bloch or Capezio that laces for Tap classes 3rd grade and up. **BLACK TAP SHOES. NO SPLIT-SOLE TAP SHOES!**

Needed in Classes: Tap 1-3, Teen Tap, and PK, K, 1st, K1, K2 and 2nd grade Tap, Pre-Company

Black Converse: Black low top or high top Converse (or any style that looks similar)

Needed in Classes: Mini Hip Hop and Hip Hop: Purchase at Target or any shoe store that carries Converse, or ANY similar style (not picky about these shoes, but make sure they are **ONLY** worn in the studio). Make sure younger dancers choose a style that they can take on and off easily and consider the low top style with laces that do not need to be tied.

Turn Shoes (Half-Soles): Any tan or skin-tone half sole/lyrical shoe. Capezio Hanami Pirouette or So Danca makes turn shoes in your choice of color that matches your skin tone.

Needed in Classes: Lyrical, Ballet/Lyrical AM

Pointe 1-2: Pointe shoes; do not purchase without discussing with instructor. All shoes need to be approved and professionally fit.

All Acro and Tiny Tumble and Contemporary classes wear bare feet.

HAIR:

Hair should be pulled back in a bun or high ponytail, pigtails or braids in all classes at all times.

DRESS:

Baby Ballerinas, Pre-K Combo, Ballet, Lyrical: any color leotard and tights; skirts or shorts are optional but leotards and tights are mandatory in ballet classes.

Tap, Pom, Tiny Tumble, Acro, Musical Theater, Contemporary, Hip Hop: any comfortable dance clothing

Studio Policies

LOBBY RULES

- Our lobby has very little space. Parents are encouraged to drop off dancers so the lobby can be used for dancers waiting for classes.
- Dancers can be dropped off 15 minutes before class begins.
- Use the payment box for all payments not made with a credit or debit card. DO NOT HAND TO DANCE U STAFF or put on the front desk.
- Be on time to pick up dancers. We are not responsible for dancers outside of class time. Pick up at the door of the studio in which class is held.
- Clean up after yourself and dispose of garbage properly.

CLASS RULES

- Dancers are expected to be respectful at all times with a proper work ethic to ensure that all dancers are in a positive learning environment.
- Dancers are expected to attend class so they do not fall behind. In case of illness or injury, makeup classes will be discussed.
- Be on time to class.
- Do not bring toys or other distracting items to dance class.
- No gum.

Rules are in place to ensure that your dancer is receiving the best dance education possible. It is our goal at Dance U to build happy, confident, talented dancers, and adherence to these policies is expected. We are thrilled you have chosen Dance U and are excited to share our passion and love of dance with your child.