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2025-26

STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK

Building Happy, Talented, Strong, Confident Dancers –one dancer at a time!

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 8: Classes begin
- October 15: First costume payment due (**\$95 per costume**. \$50 due at this time.)
- October 31: No classes
- November 15: Final costume payment due
- Nov. 24-28: Thanksgiving Break; No Classes
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2: Winter Break; No Classes
- Jan. 19: MLK Day; No Classes
- March 15: Recital Fee due; \$85 (includes recital t-shirt)
- April 6-10: Spring Break; No Classes
- April 13-17: Parent Watch Week (Recital classes only; costumes go home)
- April 20-24: Acro Ribbon Week (parents invited to all Acro and Tiny Tumble; last week of regular classes and Acro)
- April 27-30: Recital Pictures and Recital Rehearsal and Trophy Week
- May 5, 6, and 7: 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 and late on the 10th. A \$15 late fee will be added on overdue accounts on the 10th.
- 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 may not be available after January, 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.
- **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.
- **COSTUMES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE IF CLASSES ARE DROPPED, AND COSTUMES WILL NOT BE GIVEN TO DANCERS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE RECITAL.**
- **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 **\$95 each, non-refundable**. Costumes will not go home with dancers who owe money or be sent home with dancers not participating in the recital.
- **RECITAL FEE**: A recital fee is due March 15. \$85 per student. This covers the cost of stage rental, programs, sets, trophies, production, etc. and a recital t-shirt for each student. 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.
- Tuition is charged at the first of each month September-April based on hours in the studio per week.

CLASSES

Please find the full live 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. Find full details on levels under each class while registering. 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)

Classes by Age:

Ages 3-4: Tiny Ballet and Tiny Tumble

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

Level 1: Ages 5-7 (Includes K-2nd Grade, K1 and K2 classes)

Level 2: Ages 7-9

Level 3: Ages 9-11

Level 4: 6th-8th grade

Level 5: High School

Ballet/Jazz Combo (Tiny Ballet, 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. Tiny Ballet(formerly 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 (boys wear black).

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 or skin tone Capezio Ballet Shoes (boys in black)..

Ballet/Jazz/Tap (Homeschool): Ages 5-13. Morning Classes designed for Homeschool Students. We will explore many types of dance in this class, including Tap, Musical Theater, Lyrical, Technique and Conditioning, Hip Hop, and Pom, with the focus on ballet, jazz and Tap. One recital costume. Tan jazz shoes, Pink ballet shoes, and Black tap shoes, and any dance-wear with hair pulled back is required for class. We will decide as a class, which type of dance we will learn for the recital.

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. Experience in ballet or technique is preferred. One recital dance and costume. Bare feet.

Dance Team Prep and Technique: Two classes for middle school and high school. New This Year! Technique in all dance team styles and fundamentals. Class will perform in community events during the season but will NOT be a recital class, as we will use the winter and spring to prepare for school team tryouts and audition preparation. 45 minutes.

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 (Boys in black).

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. Bare feet.

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.

Pom: Ages 5-11. Pom is a dance style that involves jazz and hip hop moves with strong arm movements with pom poms. Introductory tumbling, jumps, dance team prep, and flexibility will be taught. 45 minutes. One recital dance and costume. Tan jazz shoes. Additional \$30 pom and bag fee.

Tap: Ages 4-18. 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. Pre-K Tap will have **one** combo costume fee with the **Pre-K** Combo Class following tap if taking both classes.

Technique: Ages 7-18. Technique Class; leaps, turns, jumps, flexibility, conditioning, and improv instruction; no recital or additional fees. Jazz shoes, turn shoes or bare feet.

Teams (by audition and/or application):

Dance U Company. By audition, ages 7-18. DUC Classes are 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 and rehearsals are required.

Dance U Performance Company. By Application and Acceptance, ages 5-18. Team and class for motivated dancers with multiple performance opportunities. Technique, conditioning, choreography and more. One hour team class each week. Additional fees will apply for costume, team t-shirt, and other performance expenses.

DU Hip Hop Sr. Crew, DU Lil' Crew and DU Mini Crew: By audition, ages 5-18. Three Teams. Class prepares DU Crew members for choreography in performances and skills. Multiple performance opportunities and competitions. Additional fees will apply for **shoes**, costumes, music and choreography, competitions, and other essentials. Class length depends on level.

DRESS CODE

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

HAIR should be pulled back in all classes. Please carefully adhere to the dress code.

Shoes:

Where to Purchase:

Lebo's (Pineville Matthews Road): Mention Dance U for our dress code and discount.

Discountdance.com Use Code 52437 for discount and dress code list.

Hip Hop Shoes can be purchased where black Converse low or high top can be found. Younger dancers do better with the no-tie, low-top Converse shoes.

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

Needed in Classes: Tiny Ballet, Pre-K Combo, K Combo, 1st Grade Combo, K2 Combo, 2nd Grade Combo, Ballet, and Ballet/Jazz/Tap Homeschool Classes, Company

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

Needed in Classes: Jazz, Pom, Musical Theater, Performance Company, Company

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

Tap shoes: Capezio 3800C or Theatricals T9050 (or any similar style or brand) for Pre-K, K, K1, K2 and 2nd grade (black Mary Jane style) in black.

T9500 from Discount dance (oxford style) **or** Bloch or Capezio in black that laces for Tap classes 3rd grade and up, and **all boys**.

Needed in Classes: all Tap classes

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

Needed in Classes: All Hip Hop (with exception of Crew): Purchase at any 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 or velcro.

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

Dress:

Tiny Ballet, 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, Technique: 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.
- 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. Dancers will be in the lobby if a parent is running late at pick-up.
- 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.**
- **Bullying or dancers being unkind or disrespectful to any dancer or teacher will have a 3 strike rule.** 1-Dancer will be warned. 2-Parent meeting. 3-Dancer will be dismissed from the studio and will forfeit costume and recital participation.
- Dancers are expected to attend class so they do not fall behind. In case of illness or injury, makeup classes are possible. Each recital class has different choreography and makeup classes may not be available in the same type of class; however, Technique and Acro are suitable classes for makeups and can be scheduled by parent email.
- Be on time to class.
- Do not bring toys or other distracting items to dance class.
- No gum or food.

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, strong, 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.