



≡ THE DANCE CONNECTION ≡

RECREATIONAL

DANCE  
LIFE



A Handbook for Students and Parents

190 Main St, East Haven, CT | Celebrating Close to 70 Years of Dance Excellence

# *A Message from Our Directors*

## **Welcome to The Dance Connection Family**

Welcome to The Dance Connection in East Haven, CT!  
For close to 70 years, our studio has been a trusted cornerstone for families across New Haven County and the Connecticut Shoreline. From Branford and North Haven to Guilford, Hamden, and Madison, we have dedicated ourselves to providing the highest level of dance education in a positive, family-focused environment. At The Dance Connection, we love children, and we love dance. Whether your child is taking their very first steps in a toddler creative movement class or starting out as a teenager looking for a fun, stress-free creative outlet, we welcome recreational dancers of every single age. It is never too late to start your dance journey!



**Linda &  
Sandee Juliano**

# Our Philosophy

## Commitment to Excellence and Growth



### Elite Training That Focuses on “Better”

We believe every child deserves the absolute best technical foundation from day one. While we are home to multi-time National Champions, **all students start together in our beginner classes and receive identical, elite-level training.**

Our prestigious faculty is comprised of highly qualified, certified professionals who absolutely love children. Holding advanced credentials from **Dance Masters of America** and **Dance Educators of America**, our pedagogy experts guarantee your child is taught correctly at every single stage, level, and age.



### No-Comparison Zone

You see cute, we see promise! Every child grows, learns, and develops at their own unique pace. To foster a safe, positive space, we practice a strict **no-comparison culture** in our classrooms. We celebrate individual milestones rather than measuring dancers against their peers. Your child's only true competition is who they were yesterday!





# Partners in Dance

## SUPPORTING OUR YOUNG DANCERS

Together, we create a positive and inspiring experience where every dancer can **shine!**



### Be Supportive

As parents, your encouragement is vital. Celebrate achievements, no matter how small, and foster a positive atmosphere that motivates dancers to pursue their passion and improve continually. Be their biggest Cheerleader, support and trust their teachers, and watch them find their “Better”!



### Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is crucial for progress. Consistent participation ensures dancers develop their skills effectively and fosters teamwork, enhancing the overall studio experience for everyone involved.

=Remember to:

**CALL** in any absences

**ALWAYS TRY TO ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY**

***CHECK with the Front Desk for any Updates***



# Tuition & Rules

## Important Payment Information and Guidelines



### Payment Schedule

All tuition payments are due by the 5th of each month to maintain your child's enrollment, ensuring smooth operation and commitment to our studio's activities and events.



### Late Fees

A late fee of \$10 will be applied if payment is not received by the due date, emphasizing the importance of timely payments for the continuity of classes.



### Dress Code

Adherence to the **dress code** is mandatory for all students, as it fosters a professional environment and promotes discipline, enhancing the overall experience for everyone involved.



*Thank you for being part of our dance family!*

# STUDIO POLICIES

## 1. Attendance & Punctuality

- Consistency Wins: Regular attendance builds physical muscle memory and cognitive confidence.
- Be On Time: Please arrive **15 minutes** prior to class time to prepare.
- Absences: **Report** any **student absences** ahead of time by **Calling or Messaging the Front Desk**.

## 2. Dress Code by Genre

- **Ballet:** (Female) Black leotard, pink tights, pink leather or canvas ballet slippers. Hair in a neat bun.  
(Male) White T-Shirt or Leotard. Black Lycra Tights, Black fitted Jazz Pant or Black fitted Shorts.  
Black or White Ballet Shoes
- **Tap & Jazz:** Form-fitting dancewear (leggings, shorts, or leotards) with appropriate tap/jazz shoes. Hair tied securely back.
- **Lyrical & Contemporary:** Leotard, Stirrup tights, Foot Undies or Turner shoes
- **Hip Hop:** Loose, comfortable athletic clothing. Clean sneakers (strictly for indoor studio use)
- **Acrobatics:** Leotard or Unitard, Convertible, stirrup or no tights, bare feet, hair secured back in a bun.
- **Safety First:** No jewelry may be worn in class.

## 3. Lobby & Facility Safety

- **Keep It Calm:** Keep noise levels in our main lobby low to prevent classroom distractions.
- **Stay Inside:** For safety, students are not permitted to wait outside the building.
- **Prompt Pickup:** Parents must pick up dancers promptly when class ends.
- Check Front desk for Updates and Notices at drop off or pick up.
- Please keep our Lobby and surrounding areas including classrooms clean. No Food in the Dance rooms. Remove & dispose of all water bottles, and trash. (Parents of our youngest dancers, please do not leave lollipop sticks on ground or in parking lot.)

## 4. Respect Faculty & Staff

- Trust our teachers, they always have each child's best interest at heart.
- No parent shall approach a Teacher or interrupt class, unless it is an emergency. If there is a concern please call the front desk and set up a phone call or meeting at the teacher's convenience. Never assume, be open minded and be respectful. Do not bad mouth any Faculty member, staff member or student. Please No Gossip.



# The Big Events: Costume Logistics & Picture Day



We're here to help make these special milestones **smooth**, simple, and **stress-free**!



## Costume Logistics



Costumes will be provided and fitted prior to events. We handle all ordering and sizing, with tights included in the package. Minor adjustments may be needed / alterations will be handled by studio.



## Picture Day



Schedule will be distributed ahead of time for planning.

On-site in full costume and makeup. Attendance is necessary for group photos. A sitting fee which covers Photographer, Scheduling and Group Pictures will be charged. Individual pictures will also be available to all.



# The Stage Experience

We're here to support your dancer every step of the way—on stage and beyond.



## Dress Rehearsal

Our stage dress rehearsal is essential for preparing dancers to perform. It ensures a seamless transition on the big day. Dancers will arrive early and be required to wear full costume and make up. A list of Facility Rules, time schedule and Family information will be distributed prior to event

## Annual Recital

The annual recital showcases our dancers' hard work and dedication throughout the year, celebrating their growth and achievements.

## FAQ Start

We encourage parents to ask questions and engage with our staff to enhance their child's dance experience and address concerns.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

## What if my child misses a recreational dance class?

We do not offer cash refunds or tuition credits for missed classes without written medical note. However, dancers can schedule a makeup session in an equivalent class level within 30 days of the absence.

## Can I sit in the classroom to watch my child dance?

With the exception of Mommy & Me, to ensure our certified teachers maintain full class focus and eliminate student distraction, our classroom doors remain closed during normal instruction. We encourage parents to use our viewing window, occasionally invite parents in for the last 5 minutes & proudly host designated Parent Observation Weeks twice per year where you can view progress live!

## How do we purchase annual recital tickets?

Recital tickets go on sale approximately one month or two before the show. Parents are given a date in which they can pick up a number which determines the order in which they pick up their tickets. Every audience member requires a ticket; however, performing dancers staying backstage do not need one.

## Is my teenager too old to start beginner ballet or hip hop?

Absolutely not! We proudly offer an inclusive, stress-free environment for older youth. Our recreational teen program is perfect for middle and high school students who want to build fitness, rhythm, and confidence without the heavy pressure of a competitive timeline.

# Contact Us

We're here to support your dance journey and answer your questions.



**Phone:** 203-469-8177



**Email:** [thedanceconnection@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thedanceconnection@sbcglobal.net)



**Website:** <https://www.thedanceconnectioneh.com>

*We can't wait to welcome you!*

NO MORE  
STANDING IN  
THE WINGS. STEP  
INTO THE  
SPOTLIGHT AND  
LET YOUR  
BRILLIANCE  
SHINE!

THE  
DANCE  
CONNECTION