

The Studio, LDG Enrollment Tips/Guidelines

***At the Studio we work to place our kids in the best learning environment for their age, skill set and ability to focus and advance. Many studios will put 30 kids in a class because they all fall in the same age range of 8-10. The problem is there is an 8 year old in there that can land a triple turn, has all her splits, and can learn and retain choreography faster than most. She is standing next to a 10 year old girl who is in her first dance class, has little to no flexibility yet, doesn't know what a triple turn is and feels insecure standing next to someone far above her experience. So we split our classes based on more than just age...it is our starting place for new students but we don't want to hold our advanced kiddos back or overwhelm our new students or those that need a little slower instruction to get to where they want to be. This makes class so much better....but enrollment so much more difficult :)

You will see some classes that say beg/intermed---please understand a beginner can be any student in their first 3+ years of dance still. Or you might have been intermediate in a 5-7 class and we think you can handle moving up an age bracket but would start you at beginner with the older girls, etc. You will also see classes that say "comp level" or "Invite"..this is for our competition level students. These are very advanced groupings and you have to have Ms. Kim's approval to move into these classes (not EVERY comp kid is qualified to be in here and some advanced dancers who are NOT on comp team CAN be in these). You will also see classes that say "need approval" these are typically because these are "leveled" classes (contemporary, lyrical, musical theater, acro). We use ages as a guideline for these but you have to attain certain skill sets to move onto the next level of these classes. The easiest way to figure this out is email/facebook message Ms. Kim and tell her what your child is wanting to take and she will make the recommendations based on last years evaluations and their current skill sets on where they would fall. All last year's students that were in hip hop or musical theater or acro, etc have already been "slated" for what class they would fall in this year. New students would go to the beginner level at their age and be evaluated the first month of classes.

Here are a couple of class specific prequalifications or rules...

***All Ballroom and Musical theater students also have to be enrolled in a ballet or technique class. This can be a combo class, ballet technique, leaps/turns, lyrical, or contemporary. We work on specific skill sets in these classes and they need to be working on basic dance "technique" which they will get in their ballet class.

***all acro, ballet tech, pointe students MUST be in a leotard for class.

***All contemporary or lyrical students MUST have had a prior ballet class. These are considered specialty ballet classes and are more advanced than a ballet combo class.

***Ballroom...this is for ages 7 up but is based on available partners. At enrollment, we will enroll all boys interested. For the girls, you will be placed on a wait list and once enrollment closes we will partner kids based on size and let you know if we were able to find a spot for you. This class involves strong partnership skills (they must be willing to dance with a boy/girl and touch them---every year we have a little one that panics realizing they have to dance with a boy); boys must have a minimum upper body strength to start learning basic skills (need to be able to do push ups; hold their own body weight...). We many times have 13 year old girls who are 5'3 who want to do this class but the tallest boy is 11 and 4'10...simple basic turns don't work with these height differences. Also, previous partners that still work and competition ballroom partners will remain partners first before determining what boys are open for placement.

*Ballet tech, acro, and flex and stretch are NON PERFORMANCE classes...they do not do a recital dance. These are simply more serious skill based classes that really focus on technique, skills, flexibility.

*Colors are how we designate a combo class through the year for pictures/show splits/recital tickets/costumes. It is important that you know your child's color. There is no rhyme or reason and they change every year...lavendar might have been for 3-4 year olds last year, and maybe it's for 12-15 year olds this year. That is done on purpose to not make certain colors "mean" something they don't. Again, you don't have to be in competition to be in these but must be approved to be in this level.

*If you see something that says "Comp" these are times/rooms we have designated for our staff to work with groups on comp routines- these will be scheduled out with groups after tryouts.

*Some classes (copper, bronze, emerald, sapphire, platinum, diamond)...you will not see ages next to these as they are advanced level/competition level combo classes. If your child is ready for this, Ms. Kim will invite them at enrollment!

*Adults... We will start NORMAL weekly classes for both Adult classes and Dancing Dads in January.

***Finally, we spend the first month observing all of our students. We start back out with basics and make sure we catch the whole class up to the same level. If we find that we have placed someone in a class that is either too easy or too difficult, we will make the recommendation to move them. Ms. Kim meets with all the teachers after the first 4 weeks to evaluate all of the students to ensure they are in the right spot!**