



PARENT & DANCER Handbook

Dance • Grow • Belong

Welcome to our dance family!

This guide is designed to help dancers and families understand studio expectations, class dress codes, communication, attendance, performance etiquette, and the positive culture we work hard to protect.

Contact Information

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Welcome to Molalla Dance Company

We are so happy to have your family with us. Molalla Dance Company is committed to creating a loving, positive, encouraging environment where dancers of all ages and skill levels can learn, grow, build confidence, make friendships, and feel like they belong.

Dance education is a partnership between dancers, parents, teachers, and studio leadership. When we communicate respectfully and work together, dancers are able to have the best possible experience.

Our Studio Culture

Kindness comes first. Dancers, parents, teachers, and staff are expected to treat one another with respect.

We celebrate progress, not perfection. Every dancer grows at a different pace.

We encourage teamwork and good sportsmanship. Another dancer's success does not take away from your own.

We keep our studio welcoming. Bullying, exclusion, gossip, cruel comments, or intentionally disrespectful behavior are not acceptable.

Corrections are part of dance education. Teachers give age-appropriate feedback to help dancers improve safely and confidently.

We want dancers to work hard while still loving dance.

Parent & Family Guidelines

Support the teacher: Please allow instructors to teach and correct dancers without coaching from the lobby or sidelines.

Keep communication respectful: Questions and concerns are welcome. Please address them privately with studio staff rather than discussing them in front of dancers or other families.

Encourage without comparing: Please avoid comparing your dancer's placement, progress, skills, or opportunities with another dancer.

Protect our positive culture: Concerns about another dancer or family should be brought directly to studio leadership.

Give dancers room to grow: Mistakes, corrections, difficult classes, and challenging choreography are normal & important parts of becoming a strong dancer. Trust the process and always encourage them.

Studio Rules & Expectations

Arrival: Dancers should arrive 5-10 minutes before class so they have time to use the restroom, change shoes, secure hair, and be ready when class begins.

Pickup: Please pick dancers up promptly at the end of class.

Attendance: Consistent attendance is important. Please notify the studio when your dancer will miss class. Frequent absences may affect progress, choreography, formations, and performance readiness.

Tardiness: Late arrivals interrupt warm-up and can create a safety concern. Dancers arriving significantly late may be asked to observe portions of class if they missed necessary warm-up.

Food & Drinks: Water is encouraged. Unless approved for a camp, event, or medical need, food and sugary drinks should remain outside dance rooms.

Phones & Devices: Phones should be silenced and stored during class.

Personal Belongings: Please label shoes, bags, jackets, and water bottles. The studio cannot guarantee replacement of lost or misplaced items. We do have a lost and found bin where we will hold items for a limited time.

Respect for the Facility: Please help us keep the studio clean. Dancers should clean up after themselves and treat studio equipment, mirrors, floors, props, and furniture with care.

Illness: Dancers who are actively ill, feverish, vomiting, or unable to safely participate should remain home until they are well enough to return.

Safety: Running, roughhousing, climbing on equipment, or attempting tricks without instructor permission is not allowed.

Classroom Expectations for Dancers

- Enter class ready to learn with the correct shoes, clothing, and hair.
- Use the restroom before class
- Avoid walking through active classes
- Listen while the teacher is speaking and avoid side conversations.
- Be respectful of classmates personal space and belongings.
- Use encouraging language toward yourself and others.
- Ask before leaving the dance room.
- Do not practice lifts, acrobatics, tumbling, or advanced tricks without teacher supervision.
- Accept corrections respectfully and make an effort to apply them.
- Applaud and support classmates.
- Leave the room cleaner than you found it.

Lobby & Viewing Etiquette

To help dancers focus, parents should avoid interrupting class or entering the dance room unless invited. Viewing opportunities may be limited at the teacher's discretion. Drop offs are encouraged as many dancers focus better without parents in the lobby. If you choose to stay, please keep lobby conversations at a reasonable volume and supervise siblings. Studio spaces should remain positive and appropriate for children.

Class Dress Code

Class	What to Wear	Shoes / Hair
Creative Movement	- Leotard, dance dress or comfortable fitted dancewear - Tights, leggings or dance shorts Please have them wear something comfortable and ready to move.	- Dance shoes or clean street shoes - Hair pulled back out of their face.
Tiny Tap	- Leotard or fitted dance top - Tights, leggings, dance shorts or dance pants	Black Tap Shoes
Pre-Dance- Ballet/Lyrical/Jazz	- Leotard or fitted dance top - Tights, leggings, dance shorts or dance top	- Appropriate dance shoes- Ballet or Jazz shoes - Hair pulled back and away from their face
Lyrical / Contemporary	- Leotard, fitted tank top, sports top or fitted t-shirt - Dance shorts or fitted dance pants	- Half Soles, Paws, bare feet or approved dance socks - Hair pulled back away from face
Hip Hop	- Athletic/dance clothing that allows movement. - Joggers, leggings, fitted or appropriate tops are welcome.	- Clean indoor-only sneakers designated for dance. - No Hair Requirements - If Hair is distracting please have it pulled back out of their face
Tumbling / Acro	- Leotard or fitted athletic/dancewear. - Shorts or leggings should be fitted. - No skirts, dresses, denim, belts, or loose clothing.	- Bare feet - Hair tightly secured. - Remove dangling jewelry.
Train & Transform	- Leotard, tight fitted tank or sports bras. No Baggy shirts or sweatshirts - Tights, bike shorts, leggings, dance pants, no baggy pants	- Bare feet, paws or approved dance socks - Hair pulled back into ponytail or bun
Musical Theatre	- Dance wear or comfortable, moveable, breathable clothing - Lightweight clothing tends to be best	- Dance shoes or clean street shoes - Hair pulled back out of their face
Adult Dance / Fitness	Comfortable athletic clothing that allows unrestricted movement.	Clean supportive athletic shoes
Company: Competitive/Stage Team	- All Black - Leotard, fitted tank, crop or dance top - Shorts or dance skirt, No pants or leggings for Small groups	- Knee Pads - Paws (Sausage toes) - Hair pulled back out of face

Recitals, Performances & Events

Performance participation may require additional rehearsals and additional cost for costumes, tights, shoes, hair, and makeup.

Recitals are optional and we check with all families to see if they would like to participate before costumes are ordered. We also like to know ahead of time to position your dancer in a place we won't have to change later.

Families are responsible for reviewing performance information and arriving by the assigned call time.

Costumes should be kept clean, complete, and performance-ready.

Label costume pieces and accessories whenever possible.

Dancers should not eat messy foods while in costume.

Please do not make unapproved alterations to costumes.

Backstage areas may be restricted to dancers and authorized volunteers/staff for safety and organization.

Good sportsmanship and respectful behavior are expected at all studio events, competitions, and community performances.

Stage Team / Competitive Dancers

Competitive dance requires an additional level of commitment. Team placement, choreography, routines, formations, solos/duos/trios, and performance opportunities are determined by studio leadership and instructors based on factors including age, technique, attendance, work ethic, readiness, team needs, and choreography. Attendance at required classes, rehearsals, competitions, and performances is essential.

Team members are representatives of Molalla Dance Company and are expected to demonstrate kindness and sportsmanship.

Parents should support all team dancers and avoid negative discussion about placements, scores, awards, choreography, or other dancers.

Competition results are one form of feedback; they do not define a dancer's worth or growth.

Questions about placement or choreography should be addressed privately with studio leadership.

Communication

Please make sure the studio has current contact information and that you regularly review studio announcements. Important information may include schedule changes, costume details, rehearsal times, performance instructions, payment reminders, and closures.

Questions: Contact the studio when you are unsure rather than relying on information passed between families.

Concerns: For sensitive concerns, request a private conversation rather than addressing the issue immediately before or after class.

Social Media: Please be thoughtful when posting studio-related content. Never post something that embarrasses, targets, or negatively identifies another dancer or the studio. Dancers must represent themselves and the studio in a respectful way on social media. We encourage parents to stay involved and aware of their dancers social media activity.

Tuition, Registration & Financial Policies

Tuition, registration fees, costumes, competition fees, camps, intensives, private lessons, and other programs may have different payment schedules. Families are responsible for reviewing the terms provided at registration and keeping accounts current.

Class tuition reserves your dancer's place in the class and is generally based on enrollment rather than individual attendance.

Missed classes do not create a credit or refund.

Costume and competition-related payments may become non-refundable once orders or registrations have been submitted.

Please communicate with studio leadership promptly if you have a billing question or believe an account charge is incorrect.

Monthly Tuition is billed on the 25th of each month, Auto Pay is ran on the 1st of each month. If you choose to pay with cash or check you can bring payment to the office or fill out a payment envelope and put payment in the drop box in either studio room. Cash & Check payments are due by the 1st.

Weather, Closures & Schedule Changes

Dance schedules may occasionally change because of weather, instructor illness, performances, school/facility conflicts, or other circumstances. The studio will communicate closures and schedule changes as soon as reasonably possible. Please check studio communication channels before traveling in questionable weather. When a class is cancelled due to weather or staff sickness and we are unable to get a sub, we will offer a makeup class. Makeup class times do vary depending on studio and staff availability.

A Note to Our Dance Parents

Thank you for trusting us with your dancer. We know that dropping your child off at a dance studio means trusting us with something incredibly important. Our goal is not only to teach steps and technique, but to help dancers become confident, kind, resilient people who know they have a place here.

We are excited to provide your child a wonderful place to dance, grow, and belong.

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