

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you're just starting out on your search to select the best dance school for your child or fitness classes for you, we know you have a lot of questions. We've compiled a list of common questions we have been asked by parents and students over the years for your convenience.

WHAT MAKES DANCE WORKS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER DANCE AND FITNESS STUDIOS?

We strive to offer the highest quality of training available for a variety of dance styles and associated fitness classes. We have a diverse range of student population with an affordable program designed to expose as many children and adults as possible to the world of dance and fitness.

WHEN DOES THE SEASON BEGIN AND END?

Our annual season begins in September. We have performances in December and March (and student choreography performance for those interested in January) . April – June is our Spring Workshop session, and we hold Winter Break, Spring Break and Summer Dance & Craft Mini Camps and Classes.

HOW IS TUITION HANDLED?

Our regular season tuition is paid in full with registration. To secure your child's spot in class. We accept payments via Venmo, Zelle, Check or PayPal. Those paying with PayPal will incur an additional 3.5% processing fee. We offer multiclass, sibling & referral discounts. Tuition is non-refundable. All workshops and mini camps are also paid in full with registration.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO CLASS?

For information about attire, see downloadable document that includes Class Description, Attire and Other Policies. For your convenience, you may visit our discount dance supply page for our studio discount:

<https://www.discountdance.com/search/teacherid:127830?ListID=159491>

Please note, dance shoe sizes are usually different from street shoe sizes. Should you wish to purchase at a retail store we can recommend one in your area.

WHAT IS THE REQUIRED HAIR STYLE? DO I HAVE TO WEAR MY HAIR IN A BUN?

For further information about hairstyles required, please see the downloadable document that includes Class Description, Attire and Other Policies. For ballet, securing the dancer's hair in a bun is an important part of ballet's beauty and discipline. A secure bun gives the student freedom to concentrate on technique rather than fussing with her hair. As long as it is secure, you may choose to braid, twist or other techniques. Secure ponytail can be used for jazz, hip hop, theater dance and modern dance. Should you need help with a bun, see YouTube instructions here for long hair:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yG7Hcozrf8> and for short hair: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBS-DfU-LFU>

MY CHILD IS 13 YEARS OLD AND HAVE NEVER TAKEN A DANCE CLASS. CAN HE/SHE STILL TAKE CLASS?

It is never too late to start taking dance classes – this include the adult community. There should be no hesitation. Come in and try a class! Many professional dancers didn't begin dancing until they were in their teens (Dance Works Founder included!).

WHAT IS YOUR POLICY ON ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS?

In order for students to advance, we ask that students attend all classes and make-up any classes that may have been missed due to illness. We offer a careful syllabus of classes that evolve with each week of learning to help facilitate technical, artistic and general knowledge, growth and confidence. If your student is injured she should come to class anyway as you can learn so much from observation!

It is important to be on time in life and in your Dance Works classes. We advise arriving with plenty of time for your child to use the restroom and get settled, generally 5 -15 minutes before class. Extra time can be used to warm up the mind and body for class. This is important to minimize the disruption to the teacher and the other students. If this is unavoidable on rare occasion, students should be fully ready to enter the class so as not to distract the class. It is important to warm up while observing along the sides of the room and then slip into the back of the room. Dancers who arrive late may be asked to sit and watch class. There is much that can be learned from observation.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT MISSES A CLASS?

We encourage consistency and dedication to maximize your child's learning experience. However, sometimes it happens, and students miss a class. We offer an option to make up the missed class in another class appropriate for that student.

I TRIED TO GET MY CHILD IN A CLASS ON A SPECIFIC DAY/TIME, BUT THE CLASS WAS ALREADY FULL. WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

For the benefit of all students we do limit our class sizes to ensure proper attention. Some classes fill up faster than others. We recommend early registration and if this is not possible, we can discuss other possibilities. There may be others that we are aware of and we may be able to create a class that works for all.

CAN MY CHILD/I TAKE A FREE TRIAL CLASS BEFORE REGISTERING?

Yes! We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this offer. It is important to you and to us that we find the best fit for each student and that the student wants to participate. Speak with our Director about how to take a trial class.

DO YOU HAVE A SPRING RECITAL AND OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES?

Absolutely! Dance Works stages our annual recital, community children's hospital and senior home performances and final annual fundraiser in March. Here your child can showcase his/her hard work, progress and talents! We have performances in December and March (and student choreography performance for those interested in January) .

WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPRING RECITAL?

Our dancers generally rehearse during their normally scheduled class time and rely on one another for proper placement. However, we believe that as dancers progress and mature recital preparation must not detract from their progress and thus there may be some supplemental rehearsals required, depending on their piece and role in it. This is usually the case with the more advanced dancers. We create versatile, strong dancers who can go on to study at any top program. Therefore, in general, once a dancer enters 6th grade, we may find times to supplement. Not every dancer is asked to participate in the supplemental rehearsals. Tech/dress rehearsal(s) are mandatory.

DO YOU STAGE A NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE?

Yes, Dance Works stages an abbreviated *Nutcracker Excerpts* production. Students wishing to perform in this production audition for parts in September. All dancers wishing to perform will be cast. The performance will take place in early-mid December venue and date TBA. Further details will be posted on the website.

IS MY CHILD REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PERFORMANCES?

You don't need to decide whether your dancer can participate in the recital upon enrollment. You can let us know in mid-late November as costumes are ordered. Participation in our recital is optional, with over 98% of our students participating. Nutcracker and community-based performances are also optional. We do highly recommend that your student participates to make the most out of her dance education experience and gaining confidence, poise and life skills. That said, we recommend not pressuring your child at home to practice, particularly if they may have some concerns about performing in front of a group. Allow the instructors to prepare the students and make suggestions. We find plenty of opportunities in class to perform for one another. If you believe your child has serious issue with stage freight come talk with us about it privately and we will work something out.

WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATEED PERFORMANCE COSTUME FEES?

Fees for end of season performance costumes range from \$30-\$85, with the majority ranging in the \$50 range. On occasion we utilize rental costuming or home-made costumes. Nutcracker costume fees will be posted at time of audition/registration and will vary from part to part. Rental options may be available.

DO YOU ALLOW OBSERVATION OF YOUR CLASSES?

We encourage you to observe your child to witness your child's progress through studio doors and windows. You can peak without interrupting the flow and concentration of the class. Observers are not allowed in the studio while class is in session. For our youngest 6mo-3 years the parent or guardian will stay in the class. Once a child is 3 1/2 and/or ready as determined by the instructor, parents and caregivers will be asked to observe from outside the classroom, Dance Works offers an "Observation

Week” in the fall for parents, siblings and friends to come into the studio and watch the class. Photos and videos are allowed only at that time. During Covid-19 pandemic, parents are not allowed into the studio and only outdoor classes may be observed. Depending on the studio location you may be permitted to observe from the doors/windows.

HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED OF BUILDING CLOSURES & INCLEMENT WEATHER

Holiday closings for dance & fitness classes are included in the [schools holiday closings calendars](#) on our website. In the event of inclement weather, classes may be cancelled or alternatively Livestreamed via Zoom. Our class cancellations may differ from schools in your area. You will receive an email or text regarding closings so please make sure your contact information with us is current. We will post announcements and closures on our closed group Facebook page as well.

HOW EARLY SHOULD WE ARRIVE TO CLASS AND PICK UP?

Please arrive early enough for students to use the restroom and be prepared to begin class in the appropriate attire including dance shoes before entering the studio (5-15 minutes). If a student arrives late, parents should make sure the student is ready before entering the studio as to minimize disruption for the class. Parents and siblings may not enter the studio while the class is in session. For safety, all students up to 5th grade must be picked up inside the building on time when class ends, and if class ends at dusk or later, students must be picked up inside the building unless they will be driving themselves home. During Covid-19 pandemic students are permitted to enter at the class start time only.

ARE FOOD & DRINKS ALLOWED IN THE STUDIO?

No food, drinks or gum are allowed unless we have it set up for a party. Bottled water may be kept in designated areas for instructor led water breaks. The only exception to this is when Dance Works hosts our Dance & Craft Mini Camps where we will designate an area for a healthy snack.

WHAT IS THE AGE RANGE OF YOUR STUDENTS?

Our students range in age from 6 months to 106 years!

DO YOU HOLD CLASSES FOR BOYS?

Absolutely! Boys are welcome to take all classes. One of our first Dance Works’ boys went on to become the Nutcracker in a professional ballet company’s production. All classes for boys and girls focus on athleticism, jumps and fast footwork. Dance training will improve all aspects of athletic performance, including coordination, strength, balance and mental focus, and can supplement other sports commitments. Boys can take boys-only classes as well mixed gender class. Partnering is encouraged.

CAN MY CHILD TAKE MORE THAN ONE CLASS PER WEEK?

Absolutely! We love when dancers are excited about dance and want to take more classes! We do in fact encourage this if the dancers intend to maximize their development. Ask about adding classes to your child's schedule! Our program is designed for all dancers whether serious or recreational.

WILL MY CHILD MOVE UP A LEVEL EACH YEAR?

Your child’s instructor will be able to tell the readiness of a student by assessing their level of focus during class, attendance, dedication, execution and application of corrections. She/he will understand how to give students who are ready for more advanced challenges, whether they have moved up a level or not. This is one of the unique values of Dance Works. We are focused on each child’s development holistically.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JAZZ AND HIP HOP?

Jazz and Hip Hop have many similarities. Both genres evolved from American and African American culture. These genres are also quite different. Jazz is a style of dance best exemplified in popular stage shows such as Broadway or Hollywood musicals. “A Chorus Line”, “CATS”, “Chicago” and “Singin’ in the Rain” are examples of this jazz, to name a few. You’ll notice straighter postures and pointed feet in jazz while Hip Hop is a more modern, urban and improvisational style of dance inspired by street funk and break dancing. Michael Jackson, Justin Timberlake and other pop entertainers feature this style in music videos and in live concerts. You can find other examples of Hip-Hop Dance in movies such as “Step Up”.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MODERN & CONTEMPORARY DANCE?

Contemporary dance evolved from modern dance, which is historically founded by a wide variety of dance innovators to establish their own modern dance technique. Choreographers famous for their modern dance techniques include Martha Graham, Lester Horton, Isadora Duncan, Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor, and Merce Cunningham, to name a few. Thus, Contemporary Dance is a derivative of modern dance, which has an emotional “storytelling” component created from the choreographer’s unique perspective and interpretation using fundamental dance techniques. Modern dance also fuses other forms of dance such as jazz, hip hop and modern.

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR THE CURRENT OR UPCOMING YEAR OR FOR WORKSHOPS, SUMMER PROGRAMS, ETC.

If you are an existing student, simply download the registration form. Complete and return the completed registration form along with payment in full. If you are a new student, a parent must speak with the Director for an introductory conversation. Please call or email with particulars including your / your child’s name, age, interest and goals and we can take it from there.

WHEN DO I NEED TO REGISTER FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON, WORKSHOP OR PROGRAM?

We strongly recommend registering as early as possible as our most popular classes fill up fast! Our sought-after program provides high quality dance education at more affordable prices.

IS THERE A MEMBERSHIP FEE?

No, there is no membership fee, like a gym. There is an annual registration fee.