

Amy's School of Dance

2026 Recital Handbook

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Amy's School of Dance presents
Shadows in the Spotlight
2026 Annual Recital

Recital #1: Fri, June 5 @ 6 pm
Duet/Solo Showcase: Sat, June 6 @ 10 am
Recital #2: Sat, June 6 @ 2 pm

WELCOME

Our ASOD Annual Recital is scheduled for Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6, 2026. This year we are also adding a solo/duet Showcase for all soloists/duets (except seniors) on Saturday morning between Recital performances.

Recital weekend is the biggest performance of the year, and we work very hard to rehearse and prepare for this event to showcase what our students have learned over the past 12 months. We aim to make the Recital experience organized and exciting for everyone, but it's a team effort and we need help from every family to pull off this successful event.

We will send reminders closer to the scheduled dates, but it is crucial for each parent to review all the information provided. This will help reduce questions throughout the busiest few weeks of the year. For your convenience, all Recital-related documents will be available on the parent portal, our website and will also be distributed via email.

New This Year: Optional Parent Information Meetings

ASOD realizes that the recital can seem overwhelming - especially for families new to dance. As a result, there will be two optional meetings for parents to attend. During the meeting, we will cover recital details including timeline, costume tips, and hair/make-up demo. This is a great time to talk through any questions that you have. Reminder emails will be sent as these dates get closer.

Thursday, April 23, at 7 pm (tentative) OR Friday, April 24, at 5:30 pm
(at the studio)

RECITAL TICKETS

Tickets for these events will be sold exclusively online starting Saturday, April 18, 2026. Ticket links will be sent via email. Senior parents get priority in ordering tickets each year. For the 2026 season, tickets will be \$10/each for either Recital, and the morning Showcase will be free of charge.

RECITAL PHOTO DAY

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Class photos will be taken on Saturday, May 16, and we will issue a schedule in advance for Photo Day. While there is no obligation to purchase photos, we kindly request all students to attend so we can have complete class portraits. It's also an excellent opportunity to do the first run-through of costumes, tights, hair, make-up, and so on.

Order forms for purchasing photos will be available for pick-up before Photo Day. For photos, students can wear light make-up, and their hair can be styled as they wish.

- Hair may be worn up or down. (Buns are not mandatory for Photo Day.)
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled photo time. We do our absolute best to stick to the schedule but sometimes delays or running ahead are unpredictable.
- Make-up is optional.
- We will provide a detailed schedule for Photo-Day by mid-April each year.

COSTUMES

Ordering costumes for our Recital is a significant job behind-the-scenes; our team plans diligently between October and February each year to determine the right costumes for each class and choreography, which are age-appropriate and of the highest quality. To avoid any costume issues during performances, we request that students refrain from wearing their costumes, accessories, or tights before the photo session, dress rehearsal, or the actual performance.

- For any performance, students should not wear underwear under tights. Some students prefer to wear a skin-toned camisole under costumes to allow for privacy while changing. This may also help reduce itchiness, especially for those with tulle or sequins around the neckline or arms.

- There should be no visible jewelry, except for rhinestone earrings, or fingernail/toenail polish.
- Dancers should not eat or drink while wearing their costumes, unless they are covered by a bathrobe, shirt, blanket, jacket, or similar cover-up.
- Parents should check the Parent Portal for specific costuming instructions.

Sizing

Starting in November, we measure each child for their costumes during class time. We order costumes based on the manufacturer's recommended sizing, always choosing a size up if a child falls between two sizes. Some costumes may need adjustments to fit properly.

Deposits

Costume orders begin in October for timely delivery for Recital Picture Day. The studio charges a \$30 deposit for every class/costume, billed in November.

ASOD aims to keep costs low, knowing it's an expensive sport. The estimated cost per costume is \$125 or less. We prioritize combination costumes for younger children when possible. Special orders, including extra-large sizes, may incur additional charges, which are the parent's responsibility. Accessories like headpieces or gloves are included, but tights and shoes are not.

Payments

Payments for costumes should be finalized by January 15 to avoid delays. Costumes will NOT be ordered for dancers if their balance is not paid. Late orders will incur additional charges - a minimum of \$25 per costume and may result in costumes being out of stock or requiring a different size. ASOD is not responsible for late orders resulting in costumes not being delivered in time for photos or Recital. In addition, if a costume becomes sold out due to late payment, the dancer may not be able to perform in that specific number. Thank you for your cooperation.

Refunds

No refunds will be made if a parent/guardian withdraws a child from dance after costumes have been ordered and prior to the Recital. In this scenario, those purchased costumes may be picked up from the studio at the time of general

costume distribution thru up to 15 days after the performance. Costumes not picked up after 15 days will be donated to charity or become property of ASOD.

Alterations

If alterations are needed after the costumes have been distributed, parents/guardians hold sole responsibility to alter the costume(s). Pinning costumes is an acceptable option if it doesn't alter the look and cannot be seen on the outside of the costume.

Distribution

Kids will try on costumes during class as they are received from the manufacturers (mid-late spring). Check the parent portal for specific instructions on costumes, accessories, shoes, tights, and alterations. Please contact the instructor with any questions.

Please note that costumes will only be distributed to those students who have paid all outstanding Recital balances in full. **It is important to remember that students who have not paid the outstanding balances, including tuition, will not be allowed to participate in the Recital.** The deadline for all balances is May 6, and after this date, only cash or online payment will be accepted.

Please also note, costume manufacturers do not accept cancellations or offer refunds, so the studio does not refund costume deposits.

Costume Care

- Label child's name in all costumes, shoes, accessories, and tights.
- Place costumes in a garment bag with your child's name on the outside.
- Pack accessories in a clear plastic bag with your child's name on the bag and on each item. Hats should be stored in a hatbox or similar container to prevent damage.
- Press all costumes prior to Photo Day, dress rehearsal, and the performances, and ensure all alterations are completed by Recital Week.
- Please do not wash costumes in a washing machine; dry-clean them only (after Recital).

Clothing Rack

If your child has several costumes, a clothing rack is a smart investment (but not required). It keeps the costumes organized, prevents wrinkles, and provides some privacy during costume changes. It's helpful for dancers to hang their costumes on the rack in the order they will be needed in the show.

Tights

Students are required to have the following tights for their classes. Please be sure to purchase the correct brand, color and style of tights. Please purchase new tights for the Recital, and do not wear or wash them before the dress rehearsal or performance. Tights are needed, not panty hose. (Note: Having a second pair of tights offers students and parents a great sense of security.)

BRAND: Capezio seamless footed or transition tights.

Ballet Pink for Tiny Tots and all Ballet classes

Skin Tone for all other classes AND COMBO (tap, jazz & ballet)

***Students in tumbling will need transition tights

Shoes

Please make sure to carefully review the costume notes to get the required information about shoes. For female dancers, we usually suggest **pink** ballet shoes, **black** tap shoes, **tan** lyrical shoes, and **tan** jazz shoes. Boys are advised to wear **black** ballet, tap, and jazz shoes.

Our experienced dancers highly recommend Capezio or Bloch brands. We recommend you purchase the shoes and tights from Mark's Dancewear in Johnston.

HAIR & MAKE-UP

Make-Up

Dancers perform on stage under bright lights. To ensure that their faces are not washed out, it is necessary for our cast to wear makeup. The goal is to highlight the facial features with strong lines around the eyes and mouth, while also enhancing

the cheeks. All female students are required to wear makeup for dress rehearsal and Recital. For the boys, a little blush works well but is optional.

Please do NOT send additional makeup with your child. All hair and makeup needs should be done at home before arriving to the school. Any application of make-up, hairspray or glitter at the school must be done in the restroom or outside. Any individual not complying with this policy may be issued a \$100 fine by ASOD. We are renting the space we are using, and we do not want to jeopardize our use in the future.

Blush: pink shades

Lips: bright pink or red shade (please avoid dark or purple tones)

Eyeliner (optional): black or brown

Eye Shadow: gray, purple, blue, brown or silver shades

Mascara: black

Hair

All female students' hair should be worn in a bun with a left side part, unless otherwise noted in the Parent Portal. Gel/spray is strongly recommended because fly-aways are easily seen on stage under the lights. Especially with the lights and black curtain backdrop, fly-aways are VERY visible from the audience. Hairnets for buns are encouraged as all hair can be contained in the bun, and the bun is more likely to stay intact. (Hair nets can be purchased on Amazon, Sally's and most department stores). Dancers with short hair must pull their hair away from their face and slicked down. All male students must have hair combed neatly or pulled back if length is long enough to hang in the face.

****Hair Exception: Tiny Tots may wear hair down and curled, if preferred.*

DRESS REHEARSAL

Dress rehearsal is mandatory for dancers to prepare for performances. It helps to work out lighting, music cues, set changes and other logistics needed to pull off a great Recital. Dancers will be stage-ready in fully-style hair, make-up and costumes. This allows students to feel comfortable with their performance and

surroundings. Participation is a must, and students will be assigned to a designated area and required to stay there throughout the show.

We do our very best to run an organized and timely dress rehearsal. Your help with the process will guarantee a professional production. Despite our best efforts, this evening runs long. Please send a sack lunch for your dancers to eat in the hallway when they have a break.

The biggest factor that makes this night longer is due to combining staging and dress rehearsal into one evening. Especially for the youngest students, we need to ensure they know exactly where to stand, help with spacing, knowing which side of the stage they enter and exit, etc. There are a lot of starts and stops this evening, especially while running the first half.

Finale

There will be bows after the end of the first act and then a finale at the end of the Recital. During dress rehearsal we will run through the bows/finale at the beginning so your child can leave once his/her last dance is finished.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Please note that each family is required to volunteer at least once during dress rehearsal or recital performances. Volunteer sign-ups are always issued mid-April via email. If someone in your family is available to fill in more than once, it would be greatly appreciated. Our goal is to ensure that every volunteer gets to sit and watch a full performance from beginning to end. If you are unable or unwilling to volunteer, or if you do not show up for your shift, please be aware that you will be charged a \$100 fee.

Set Up and Tear Down

The set-up crew will assist with laying the Marley floor and transporting props and other necessities for Recital from the studio to the high school. Tear-down includes clean-up and taking all necessities back to the studio after the final performance. The teardown crew will also walk to the auditorium and make sure we are leaving it as clean as we find it.

Front of the House

Front-of-the-house volunteers are responsible for the set-up of the ticket table, selling tickets, verifying ticket purchases, and running errands as necessary.

Stage Crew and Runners

Runners are needed to gather groups when they are near their performance time in the show. The stage crew are individuals with headsets on either side of the stage, managing stage left and stage right. These tasks are reserved for ASOD teachers, staff, or veteran parents.

Cookies/Lemonade

We will not be providing cookies and lemonade this year.

Dress Rehearsal Meal

Volunteers may sign up to bring part of a meal (potluck style) specifically for teachers and staff so they can eat on the run and break only briefly for supper. One lead volunteer will be identified and will coordinate with others signed up.

Saturday Lunch

New this year will be the option to volunteer to lead, serve and provide a catered meal for staff and all students dancing in both shows on Saturday.

Dressing Room

Most of the volunteers needed for the Recital are to assist in the dressing rooms. These volunteers are available to keep all dancers safe, accounted for, and prepared for their next performance. We also have dressing room “floaters” and a leader to assist you and other volunteers, as needed.

If there are too many volunteers for one class, some may be asked to work with children from another class. We kindly ask that dressing room volunteers do not enter the stage area. There will be live microphones backstage; only dance teachers and staff will be allowed in the wings.

The responsibilities of dressing room volunteers are to:

- Ensure each child is safe and accounted for.
- Ensure each child is in the proper costume, has the proper accessories and shoes, and is backstage at the appropriate time.

- Ensure all children return to their appointed dressing rooms after their performance.
- Assist students performing in multiple dances (quick changes) with hanging up or organizing their costumes.
- Always keep students in the dressing rooms unless they need to use the restroom or are out in the hall eating.
- Ensure students do not eat food in the dressing rooms and that students eat in the hall with something covering costumes.
- Clean up the room after each performance so everything is ready for the next show.
- Stay in the room until all performers are finished and their parents have picked them up. If your child is finished after the first half of the show but there are students in the room who perform in the second half of the show, you are required to remain in the room to assist.

The order of the show will be provided in each dressing room. Feel free to take notes on the order of show sheets in the dressing room to help the volunteers during the next show. Some students in the rooms take other dance classes than the group you're assigned, so room parents need to take special notes to make sure those students are dressed and ready to go for their other group numbers.

OTHER INFORMATION

Dressing Room Etiquette

Students must respect other students' space and property in the dressing rooms. Do not touch other students' props or costumes. The students will spend more time in the dressing rooms than on stage or in the auditorium, so please do your best to keep them organized and clean. Absolutely no food or drink, except water, is allowed in the dressing rooms. If your child needs to eat, he/she should be outside the dressing room, have him/her wear a cover up or bathrobe, or take off their costume entirely. Students are encouraged to bring items for entertainment while they are in the dressing room. Please plan ahead and do not send items that will stain or ruin costumes should there be an accident (i.e. markers, slime, etc.).

Recital Order

We issue the Recital order in advance (usually early April), so parents can plan accordingly. They can choose which performance to buy tickets for and which day to volunteer. NEW THIS YEAR: All private lessons – soloists, duets & trios – will be performed in the Solo/Duet Showcase. The exception is twofold – 1) soloists in the ballet will continue to perform in Recital because they are characters in the story, and 2) seniors. Seniors will continue to perform senior solos and performances in Recital. Please see the attached FAQs that were issued in February regarding the new Showcase we are trying in 2026.

Recital Fee

We charge a \$50 Performance fee for each performer to cover the costs of the venue (i.e. music, lighting, sound, rental fee) as well as all the behind-the-scenes work (ordering costumes, admin pre/planning, etc). This fee is added to accounts in March and due in April.

Flowers & Gifts

It is a long-standing tradition in the performance industry to present flowers or small gifts to dancers at curtain call. While this custom is commonly observed in ballet, this is completely optional. However, for those who are still interested in carrying on this tradition, we have partnered with The Chicken Shed to offer pre-sale arrangements and small gifts that will be available for pickup during the Recital. The Chicken Shed will have a limited variety of flowers available for purchase on the day of the event.

Videos & Pictures

Parents or guardians are permitted to record their children's performances during the dress rehearsal but should avoid using flash photography for the safety of our performers. Please note that there won't be any professional photographer available during the Recital this year. If you'd like to purchase a DVD of either performance, Amy's School of Dance will offer a pre-order option around Recital time.

Quick Changes

Creating the Recital order is a complex task, and our staff works diligently to ensure a smooth experience for every student. We intentionally place the youngest dancers in the first act so they can be done by intermission and do not have to wait backstage for the entire show. The final order heavily depends on the amount of time each dancer needs to change costumes between routines. While we aim to complete at least two routines between each student's performances, this is not always feasible. In such cases, we have designated backstage areas for quick changes.

Props

A prop table will be located backstage, and dancers will be responsible to gather props prior to performances and return props back to the table after the performance.

Backstage

Family members and friends are not allowed backstage or in the dressing rooms during rehearsals or the Recital.

The same applies during intermission and after the show. There is a lot of activity backstage in a limited space, and dressing rooms are a private area. Please remind your family and guests to be respectful of these areas and wait for your child to exit the dressing rooms before greeting them. Those who wish to greet a performer after the show or present flowers should do so in the lobby areas or onstage once the show is finished.

Pre-Planning

To ensure a successful Recital, it is important to plan ahead. Days before the event, gather all costumes, accessories, shoes, and makeup and label them properly. Create a checklist of your child's routines, including their costume, tights, shoes, and any accessories, and double-check to ensure you have all the necessary supplies before leaving for the auditorium. After dress rehearsal, double-check your child's costumes and accessories to ensure they are all accounted for and ready for the next show. Planning ahead and being organized will help make Recital Day stress-free and enjoyable.

Emergency Kit Suggestions

- Extra pair of tights
- Hair gel and hair spray
- Bobby pins
- Hair nets
- Baby powder (for itchy costumes)
- Activities or things to do while waiting to perform (books, crayons, card games, Barbies, etc)
- Baby wipes/Shout wipes (to fix makeup or clean hands)
- Safety pins (for emergency costume repairs)
- Clear nail polish (to repair minor holes or runs in tights when there isn't time to change them)
- Your pain reliever of choice
- Band-Aids (the "invisible" kind are best)
- Bathrobe, jacket or shirt (to wear over costumes while eating)

ASOD is not responsible for lost or damaged items.

Questions?

Please contact Katie Princehouse or Chelsey Aisenbrey with questions regarding Recital. ALL important recital documents will be added to the website below for quick reference at any time by April 15, 2026.

TEXT Katie: 515-205-8250 | TEXT Chelsey: 605-201-9100

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