



Radiate

DANCE COMPANY

**Studio Handbook
2023-2024 Season**

A Guide for Students and Parents

As a condition of enrollment at Radiate Dance Company, students and their parents or guardians agree to abide by all the policies set forth by Radiate Dance Company, its director, faculty, and staff. Radiate Dance Company reserves the right to terminate any student's enrollment at any time for misconduct or inappropriate actions by either the student or their parent(s).

Welcome to *Radiate Dance Company*!

This handbook will serve as your guide to *Radiate Dance Company* and its philosophy of dance education.

We take our roles as mentors and teachers in your child's life very seriously. It is our objective to inspire a passion for the art of dance in every child who passes through our doors. In the process, we strive to set the right example and help your child (and you) create memories that will last a lifetime.

Philosophy

Radiate Dance Company seeks to nurture a love of dance while supporting the development of social skills, confidence, self-discipline and respect in a supportive, nurturing and inspiring environment.

Our vision is to radiate positivity and creativity throughout our community by sharing our love of dance.

We believe that dance training encourages young people to develop a positive self-image as they increase awareness of their physical being. Along with improving coordination skills and developing muscular awareness, dance classes give children the freedom to express themselves through movement.

The highest educational standards are expected from all *Radiate Dance Company* faculty members. They are lifelong learners who continue to educate themselves through teacher training schools, certification, conferences, and other learning opportunities.

ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

FOR MORE THAN 40 years our school has been a leader in dance education. We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service, as well as our underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this handbook to offer our students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the school.

Dates and/or expenses listed in this handbook are subject to change. Please check Band, email, the website and Facebook for updates.

Contact information for Radiate Dance Company:

4120 E. State Route 54

Springfield, Il. 62707

Studio Line: (217) 522-1200

Email: admin@radiatedance.com or missabby@radiatedance.com

Website: www.radiatedance.com

Closure Dates:

Halloween: Thursday, October 31, 2024

Thanksgiving: November 25 - 30, 2024

Christmas: December 23, 2024 - January 5, 2025

Spring Break: April 19-25, 2025

Memorial Day: May 26, 2025

FOR OUR STUDENTS

The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Respect for the teachers is essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed at you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

FOR THE PARENTS: "WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER"

We believe that children's success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child's dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty and students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the faculty—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child's presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school's educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect among our faculty and our students' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Special Information for Parents of Preschool Students

Our purpose is to provide the highest-quality preschool education in a secure, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Radiate Dance Company serves the physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of the preschool students. We meet these goals with our age-appropriate curriculum and ongoing communication with parents.

The first few weeks of classes serve as an introductory phase to help students become comfortable with the overall dance experience, the classroom, their teacher, and their classmates.

Right from the beginning we focus on your child's coordination, listening skills, musical awareness, and developing imagination. We accomplish this through age-appropriate music and song, simple stretching exercises, tap, ballet and tumbling basics, and games in an environment of creativity.

Preschool dance is about helping children learn to tap into their imaginations and express themselves creatively, not necessarily about learning steps (although they do get introduced to some basic steps). So don't be disappointed if your child doesn't pirouette around the house or look like a budding ballerina right away.

Preschool students perform one dance routine in our annual recital.

Separation from the Parent

The process of separating from the parent as the child attends dance class is an important accomplishment of preschool children.

As children mature, they begin to identify themselves as independent personalities. In separating from you, the parent, your child is learning

- to develop an interest in the activities of the dance class;
- to feel comfortable with other children in the class;
- to understand that his/her parent will come back and pick him/her up;
- to understand that all parents leave their children and come back for them.

It is important to know that at times young children will explore the limits of attending dance class and say they don't want to go. This period may occur anytime, but it is usually short-lived. Here are some suggestions that might help you handle the situation:

- Emphasize what the child is doing at the dance class rather than what you do while he/she is in class.
- Before you leave, see that the child is involved in an activity or is in the hands of a teacher.
- Avoid prolonged good-byes.
- Ask the teacher for help in separation. We expect the crying (and usually the tears are for the parent's benefit).

It May Not Be the Right Time

If your child cries or does not want to take class, don't panic. If we push children and create more stress than they are already experiencing, they may come to perceive dance class as a bad experience. That kind of negativity could make them apprehensive about dance for a long time, which isn't good for anyone involved. Never force your child into the classroom.

We recommend that children be encouraged to practice at home but not forced to do so.

Repetition is one of the key elements for success with preschool dance students; the more they practice, the more confident they will feel. Practicing with your child allows you to join in the dance experience.

FOR ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Understanding Dance Education

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your student financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that they can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that's comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Not all children will develop into professional dancers. One of the primary goals of our faculty is to teach life lessons and skills that offer children the best chance for success. Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

You play an important role in supporting your student financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value.

Class Placement

The school faculty meets regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child.

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident, in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some students who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with students who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex.

Classroom Observation

Certain weeks throughout the season will be designated as class observation weeks where one parent may sit in and observe class. We also have cameras so you can view classes each week from our waiting room.

If you are observing class (or at any time if the door to the classroom is open), please refrain from shouting instructions or distracting your child in any way.

Medical Information

Parents must notify the director/and or teachers regarding children who use an inhaler or who may require medications during their time at Radiate Dance Company. It is also important to inform the director and/or teachers about your child's existing medical conditions or learning disabilities at the time of registration and throughout the school year. Our teachers are trained professionals who are excited to work with all children and personalities, and the more we know about your child, the better the dance experience will be for all involved. All information about our students is confidential.

Dos and Don'ts

Some parents may compare their child's progress or class placement to another child's. Watch for this behavior in your children as well and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments.

Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow students, or other parents in front of your child— —or other students— —could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will imitate a parent's behavior with other adults or authority figures.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring behavior patterns through their example. Our school's faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully toward their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education (such as progress or class placement), please discuss them with your child's teacher or the director. Talking only to other parents can lead to misinformation and confusion. Please contact the school office to set up an appointment; do not approach your child's teacher or the director between or during classes or make contact outside of the school.

If you do request a conference, please listen carefully to what your child's teachers have to say. They spend a significant amount of time with your child and offer expertise in the field of dance education.

Class placement of students is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex.

STAYING INFORMED

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Important updates are emailed, posted on band and posted on our social media.

Please read all handouts and other school information.

If you have any questions regarding the information distributed, we encourage you to contact the office at (217) 522-1200 during open Studio hours or email questions to admin@radiatedance.com.

Band App

All classes will have a designated Band App page where teachers will share information, post practice videos and can message you directly. Please ensure you download the app by the first week of class.

Website: www.radiatedance.com

We are constantly updating our website. News, important parent and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/radiatedance

“Like” the Radiate Dance Company page on Facebook to make sure you are up to date as to studio happenings and exciting events. Please invite your family and friends to “like” the school.

Please do not post questions on the school’s Facebook page. Instead, please email them directly to admin@radiatedance.com otherwise they might not be responded to in a timely manner.

Weather Cancellations

If the studio must cancel classes due to extreme weather or events beyond our control, such as power outages, the missed lessons will not be made up unless they become excessive.

Notifications of weather cancellations will be emailed, posted on Band and posted on the website and the Facebook page.

Dress Code Requirements

Radiate Dance Company maintains a dress code to encourage concentration and a sense of inclusiveness (variations in attire can be distracting and contribute to feelings of inequality). Uniformity in dancewear allows the teachers to assess how well the students are implementing the technique being taught, problems with alignment, and other important aspects of dance training.

- Please make sure to mark their name on all belongings.
- Dancewear is to be kept in good repair and laundered on a regular basis.
- Watches, jewelry, and safety pins should not be worn to class.
- Dance shoes should never be worn outside.
- Female identifying students should wear their hair tightly secured and styled away from the face, in a neat bun.
- Students are expected to observe good personal hygiene habits.
- Radiate Dance Company offers dancewear and shoes for individual purchase.
- If your dancer identifies as non-binary or gender neutral, please contact a staff member so we can make a plan that allows your dancer to feel safe and comfortable.

Class	Male Identifying	Female Identifying
Ballet	Black sweatpants (or tights for ages 10 and up), white T-shirt, black ballet shoes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class leotard and tights • Pink ballet shoes with elastic straps sewn in.
Jazz & Tap	Sweatpants or shorts, T-shirt, black jazz shoes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leotard with tights, dance shorts or leggings • Modest crop top with long bike shorts or leggings • Required shoes based on class
Lyrical/Contemporary	Sweatpants or shorts, T-shirt, turning shoes or bare feet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leotard with tights, dance shorts or leggings • Modest crop top with long bike shorts or leggings • Lyrical half shoe, dance socks or barefoot
Hip-hop	Comfortable clothes (not jeans) and clean sneakers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comfortable clothes (not jeans) • Clean sneakers
Creative Movement	Sweatpants or shorts and t-shirt, black ballet shoes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class leotard • Black patent (Mary Jane style) tap shoes • Pink leather ballet shoes.
Combination	Sweatpants or shorts and t-shirt, black tie tap shoes & black ballet shoes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class leotard • Black patent (Mary Jane style) tap shoes • Pink leather ballet shoes.

Registration Fee

An annual registration fee of \$25 per family is charged. Registration fees are non-refundable, with the exception of a student who is determined by us to be unready for dance and may receive a credit for the following season.

Your registration fee covers the costs of processing the paperwork and computer time required to set up your student in the attendance and tuition billing system. It also covers your dancer's insurance, music license fees, and studio communication costs. These are separate expenses from class tuition.

Tuition and Expense Policy

Full monthly tuition is due by the 1st of the month except for September which is due at the first class. We will accept cash, checks, money orders, credit card, or portal payments for tuition payments. If you would like the studio to automatically process your tuition payment each month, you can set-up an ACH through your bank or contact Miss Abby for automatic payment processing.

- The season will consist of (34) thirty-four weekly class sessions from Sept – Recital
- Monthly tuition is based on the average of 4 classes per month.
- Some months have as few as (2) two weeks others have as many as (5) five.
- You are not paying for scheduled school vacations and holidays.
- Credit will not be given for missed classes due to illness, snow days, or personal commitments.
 - Since COVID, the studio has had the ability to implement virtual classes. We will strive to offer this for snow days, when possible.
 - In the event of a COVID resurgence, we will move to virtual training, if directed.
- You are welcome to make-up any class missed by contacting your teacher within two weeks of the missed class. NOTE – in the early spring, classes begin working on their recital dances and makeup classes are often not beneficial to your dancer.
- Tuition fees are non-refundable, with the exception of a student who is determined by us to be unready for dance and may receive a credit for the following season.

All students in group classes are assumed to participate in the recital unless they have given advance notice stating otherwise before December 1st or a late fee of \$60 will apply.

Discipline Policy

In order to maintain a happy, healthy, professional environment, students are taught the importance of being a part of the group. We encourage students to have respect for other students, the teachers and staff, and studio property, and we foster the development of good habits and compliance with rules of conduct.

Our staff and faculty are trained to use constructive techniques of discipline to maintain class control and handle individual misbehavior.

- Children who exhibit unacceptable behavior or attitudes are told what is wrong and directed to a positive alternative approach or behavior.
- If a child strikes another child, the two are respectfully separated and each is asked to explain what happened. They are then asked to help solve the problem, talk to each other, and reconcile with one another.
- Children who are disruptive will be respectfully asked to stop the behavior. If the behavior is repeated, they will be reminded of it and told how it affects others. If the disruption continues, the children involved will be asked to sit down for a short period of time (usually three to five minutes) before rejoining the class.
- If a child's misbehavior continues to disrupt the class, the parent or guardian will be called to pick up the child.

Termination of Enrollment

In certain circumstances, when it is in the best interest of one or more students, it may be necessary for the school owner or director to terminate a student's enrollment. Every effort will be made to correct a problematic situation before terminating enrollment. Reasons for termination of enrollment include the following:

- Disruptive or dangerous behavior by students or their parents
- Abuse of other children, staff, or property
- Inability of Radiate Dance Company to meet the child's needs
- Talking negatively about the dance studio on a public forum

Arrival and Departure

We encourage students to arrive 15 minutes before class starts so that they can use the restroom and get settled before class begins.

Please pick up your children promptly when class is finished. If you will be late picking your dancer up, please let us know so we have someone available to wait with them.

A parent or guardian should come into the studio to pick up dancers. Please do not ask your child to navigate the parking lot alone.

Attendance

All students are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes. Each class offers a step forward in the educational process. A missed class could leave a child one step behind the other students. During the months of February through May, choreography for the recital will be taught and rehearsed. It is important for children to feel completely confident with the choreography at the year-end performance. Missing class during this period could result in frustration for the students and their teachers and classmates.

Tardiness

Dance is a physical activity that requires the body to be warmed up in order to execute movement safely. Late students miss the proper warm-up and/or barre and therefore may sustain injury.

Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late may be asked to observe class for reasons of personal safety.

Class Visitors

Safety issues and legal responsibilities make it impossible for us to allow students to bring visitors into the classroom. Students should not invite siblings, other relatives, or friends to their classes with the exception of special events such as "Bring a Friend Week" and in-school performances. We will have scheduled observations occasionally thru out the year for the parent to observe their child's progress in class.

Lost and Found

Please mark all dancewear, shoes, and personal items with your child's name. We will make every effort to locate and return lost items; however, we cannot be responsible for any items that your child brings to class.

Lost and Found bins will be cleaned out quarterly. Any remaining items will be donated to a local charity.

Illness

Colds, flu, and other contagious diseases occur frequently and spread easily among children. To help protect your own child's health and to minimize the possibility of contagion at school, please keep your child at home if you observe any of the following symptoms:

- Nasal discharge that is green or yellow
- Complaints of ear pain
- Consistent cough
- Severe sore throat
- Eyes that are pink, burning, itching, or producing discharge
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Fever
- Any COVID symptoms

If these symptoms or other conditions deemed contagious are observed in your child during a class, you will be called to pick up your child immediately.

When your child has a fever, please keep him/her at home until the temperature returns to normal. If there are any lingering signs of illness, such as glassy or watery eyes, listlessness, and drowsiness, please keep your child at home. This will help to ensure that the illness has passed and that your child will be well enough to resume class activities the following week.

Emergency Evacuation

Although we have never experienced an emergency evacuation at the school, we are prepared for such a circumstance. All staff is aware that if severe weather is eminent, they will take all children to the lower level in the building and remain there until the severe weather has passed.

Parking Lot Safety

The school is home to children of all ages. Please enter and exit our parking lot with extreme caution. Please park efficiently to utilize all of our parking space. Please come in to pick up young children. We will not let them go out in the parking lot unattended. Please do not allow siblings to play in the parking lot.

Radiate Dance Company is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen property.

Student and Parent Use of Social Media

Use of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, blogging, and other online social-media vehicles is commonplace. This policy is intended to provide Radiate Dance Company students and parents with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- You DO NOT have permission to reveal any information that compromises Radiate Dance Company. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the staff, other students or their families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to Radiate.
- Students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of Radiate.
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend Radiate Dance Company.
- If you post videos of class or rehearsals, please don't post any choreography in its entirety until after the season is completed; Radiate Dance Company owns the copyright to all choreography taught at the school.
- Respect the law, including those laws governing defamation, discrimination, harassment, and copyright and fair use. As stated in this handbook, parents and students should never post negative comments about other schools or teachers. Also, please do not post negative comments about school activities such as competitions, conventions, and performances or about the directors of those events.
- Ensure that your social networking conduct is consistent with all of the policies contained in this handbook.

General Policies

- Parent and students should not feel free to enter file cabinets or desks without permission or direction from a teacher.
- Use of the school telephone is limited to emergencies only.
- Parents and students should never interrupt a class in session.
- Only water is allowed in the studios. Please keep food and drinks in the waiting room.
- We love babies and young children and appreciate the chance to meet our students' siblings. However, our priority is the safety of every child on the school premises. Children must be supervised at all times and are not free to run around the waiting rooms or classrooms.
- Please do not dispose of dirty diapers inside the school.
- Students are not allowed to use cell phones or computers during class time. (This means no emailing, internet use, or text messaging.)
- Never speak negatively about teachers, students, or parents from other schools.
- Never recruit students from other schools.
- All students must show respect for their teachers at all times. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the school.

Annual Recital

When registering your child at Radiate Dance Company you commit yourself and/or your child to the following dates and events. We have a tentative hold at Williamsville School for Saturday, May 31.

Date	Activity	Location
TBD	Recital Photo Shoot	Dance Studio
TBD	Opening Number Rehearsals	Dance Studio
May 19 – 22, 2025	Dress Rehearsals (During normal dance night)	Dance Studio
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	Technical Rehearsal – Show 1, Act 1	Williamsville Auditorium
Wednesday, May 28, 2025	Technical Rehearsal – Show 1, Act 2	Williamsville Auditorium
Thursday, May 29, 2025	Technical Rehearsal – Show 2, Act 1	Williamsville Auditorium
Friday, May 30, 2025	Technical Rehearsal – Show 2, Act 2	Williamsville Auditorium
Saturday, May 31, 2025	Recital	Williamsville Auditorium

All registered students participate in our annual recital. Please note that all students must participate in the dress rehearsal in order to perform in the recital. The recital offers our students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to their families and friends the results of a year's hard work, dedication, and progress.

A big part of dance training includes learning through performance. Although performance opportunities can help prepare some students for a possible career in dance, they also contribute to children's success in non-dance activities. The experience helps build self-esteem and confidence, which can result in better in-school presentations, improved social skills, and strong college and job interview skills. The rehearsal process is a tremendous learning experience as well. It helps the children develop retention skills, and by working with their classmates on a group performance, they learn the positive aspects of working as a team to create the best end result.

The Opening Number is open to all dancers Level 1 and up. Rehearsals for this dance will be scheduled in April and May.

Recital Handbook

In the Spring of each year we distribute a recital handbook with all the information parents and students need to know to make the recital experience enjoyable for all. Please make sure to read this thoroughly once received.

Costumes

We spend many hours determining the correct costumes for each class. They are always age appropriate and of the highest quality possible.

In an effort to ensure that costumes are delivered in time for school photographs and an organized distribution to our students, costume orders are placed in December. Plan on \$80.00 to \$100.00 cost per costume and that will be due by November 17th. We order 2-in-1 or 3-in-1 costumes whenever possible; these may run \$20-\$30 more than a regular costume. You can make payments on your costume(s) in September and October, should you choose.

Students are measured in December with room to grow taken into account. We try our best to select the most appropriate size costume for your dancer, however, in some instances, minor alterations are required (hemming, taking in at the bust or waist). You are responsible for scheduling and paying for alterations. If a costume size is completely off-base, the studio will facilitate an exchange at no cost to you. All costumes are non-refundable. If you unenroll after costume fees are paid, you will still receive your costume once it comes it.

Recital Photos

Class photos are typically taken mid-April at the studio. Dates and times are to be announced. As a courtesy to the other dancers in your class, please plan on attending the photo session regardless of your intention to purchase photographs.

There is no obligation to purchase photos, however we try to accommodate all budgets. Please arrive early for your child's scheduled time since photo shoots tend to run ahead of schedule.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

Summer Program and Camps

Each summer Radiate Dance Company offers summer programs and camps for both current and new students. Summer activities are for children ages 3 to Adult. A complete listing of all summer programs will be distributed in the Spring. We suggest early registration as these programs do sell out, especially the camps.

A FINAL NOTE

WELCOME to Radiate Dance Company! We look forward to an exciting, rewarding season!