



## **Student/Parent Handbook**

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

Welcome to our dance family! We are NURTURING teachers EMPOWERING kids!!

This handbook will serve as your guide to Dawn's Dance Connection 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**

Dawn's Dance Connection is committed to providing high-quality dance and tumbling classes to enhance the overall development of the child. We provide a safe and child-centered environment to encourage our students to explore dance/tumbling with qualified, nurturing teachers.

We believe that dance/tumbling 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/tumbling classes give children the freedom to express themselves through movement.

Our specific goals are:

- To perform with body, mind, and soul
- To increase coordination, poise, and grace to ultimately increase self-confidence
- To develop technique
- To appreciate the art of dance
- To have fun!!!

The highest educational standards are expected from all Dawn's Dance Connection faculty members. They are lifelong learners who continue to educate themselves through certification programs, teacher-training schools, conferences, and other learning opportunities.

## ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

For 30 years our school has been the #1 dance studio in Northwest Iowa, bringing quality dance and tumbling education to the Iowa Great Lakes and now also, Jackson, Minnesota! 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 the website and your newsletters for updates.

### Key contact information for Dawn's Dance Connection:

Address: Hwy 9 West behind KUOO and Plumb Supply in Spirit Lake  
Phone: 712-330-4591 (Dawn) / 712-339-1152 (Maddie)  
Email: dawnsdanceconnection@gmail.com  
Website: www.dawnsdanceconnection.net  
Owner: Dawn Fisher  
Studio Administrator: Maddie Nabuco

### 2023-2024 Holiday Breaks (no class):

Classes Begin: Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>  
Halloween: Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>  
Thanksgiving Break: Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>-Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Break: Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>-Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>  
Last week of classes: Spirit Lake- April 29th-May 3rd  
Jackson- April 8th-11th

### 2023-2024 Recital Info:

Spirit Lake Picture Day: March 24th (Times TBD)  
Spirit Lake Spacing Day: April 28th (Times TBD)  
Spirit Lake Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm (Sami Center)  
Spirit Lake Performances: Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm; Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm

Jackson Spacing Day: April 7th (Times TBD)  
Jackson Dress Rehearsal: April 16th 5:00pm  
Jackson Performances: April 17th-19th 7:00pm

## **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 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 Pre-Dance Students (3-4 years, not yet in TK/K)**

Our purpose is to provide the highest-quality pre-dance education in a secure, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Dawn's Dance Connection 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, ballet and tumbling basics, and games in an environment of creativity.

Pre-Dance 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 and tumbling skills). So don't be disappointed if your child doesn't pirouette around the house or look like a budding ballerina right away.

Pre-Dance 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 pre-dance children. **It is particularly important at the beginning of the season for parents to drop them off and leave immediately.** The children need to become accustomed to the class structure and devote their entire attention to the instructor so classes can run as smoothly as possible. 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 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.

### **It May Not Be the Right Time**

If your child cries or does not want to take class, don't panic. Some kids need a little more time than others to adapt to a new class or teacher. Class drop-off should get a little easier for them each week as they feel more secure at the studio. However, by the end of the second month of classes you shouldn't be "forcing" your child into the classroom. 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. In that case, we encourage you to have your child try again next year. One year can make all the difference in the world!

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 he or she 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.

### **Class Placement**

Students are organized into classes by **ability**, not age. Once the season begins, whether or not a student will be moved into a different class will be determined by 2 factors: class **performance** and class **attendance**.

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**

There are no specific weeks set aside for observation. You may stop in and observe periodically through the observatory windows as you choose. In order to avoid interruptions and distractions, no persons are allowed inside the dance or gym rooms except for the students having class.)

Never disrupt class. While 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 teachers regarding children who use an inhaler or who may require medications during their time at Dawn's Dance Connection. It is also important to inform the 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 anxious 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 Dawn to set up an appointment; do not approach your child's teacher between or during classes.

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.

## **STAYING INFORMED**

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all newsletters and other school information.

Newsletters and important updates are emailed to you and posted on the Dawn's Dance Connection website.

If you have any questions regarding the information, we encourage you to email us at [dawnsdanceconnection@gmail.com](mailto:dawnsdanceconnection@gmail.com), Dawn or Maddie will respond to your inquiry within 24 hours or call us at 712-330-4591.

**Website: [www.dawnsdanceconnection.net](http://www.dawnsdanceconnection.net)**

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

“Like” the Dawn’s Dance Connection page on Facebook to receive updates on studio 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 [dawnsdanceconnection@gmail.com](mailto:dawnsdanceconnection@gmail.com).

## Weather Cancellations

Studio closures due to severe weather conditions follow the Spirit Lake School District. If school is canceled or let out early due to severe weather, classes for that night are also canceled. Notifications of weather cancellations will be emailed and posted on the Facebook page as time allows.

## Dress Code Requirements

Dawn’s Dance Connection 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.

- Students should carry their dancewear, shoes, and other belongings in a dance bag. Please print your child’s name on the bag as well as on all of its contents.
- 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 students should wear their hair tightly secured and styled away from the face; a neat bun is preferred for ballet and pointe classes.
- Students are expected to observe good personal hygiene habits. Deodorant is required for students age 10 and older.

If a student comes to class not dressed accordingly, he/she will receive a warning. If it happens a second time, he/she will have to sit the class out and you will be notified. Thank you so much for complying with these policies – correct attire is critical to the atmosphere and structure of each class.

| Class     | Boys                                    | Girls   |
|-----------|---|---|
| Pre-Dance | Sweatpants/shorts, t-shirt<br>Bare feet | Leotard, bare feet. Pink convertible tights are optional. Hair pulled away from their face. |

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
|                  |   | **Please no big hair bows or clips as it impairs their ability to tumble.   |
| Tumbling         | Form fitting/flexible clothing, t-shirts must be tucked in.<br>Bare feet only | Form fitting/flexible clothing. T-shirts must be tucked in. **Hair MUST be secured in a ponytail or braid away from the face.<br>Bare feet only.  |
| Ballet           | White t-shirt, dance belt, black tights                                       | Leotard and tights ONLY. Skirts highly recommended. Hair in a ponytail or bun.<br>“Ballet-Pink” ballet shoes.<br>Boys: black tights and white t-shirt   |
| Jazz             | Sweatpants, t-shirt.<br>Black split sole jazz boots                           | Form fitting dance attire, no “gym” clothes: unitards, jazz pants, leotards, camisole tops, etc. Hair pulled away from face.<br>Tan split sole jazz boots.  |
| Tap              | Sweatpants/shorts, t-shirt<br>Black leather oxford taps                       | Form fitting dance attire, no “gym” clothes: unitards, jazz pants, leotards, camisole tops, etc. Hair pulled away from face.<br>TK-5 <sup>th</sup> need: Tan slip on tap shoes<br>6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade need: black oxford taps |
| Modern & Lyrical | Sweatpants, t-shirt.<br>Barefoot or socks                                     | Form fitting dance attire, no “gym” clothes.<br>Bare feet   |
| Hip Hop          | Sweatpants/shorts, t-shirt<br>CLEAN Tennis Shoes                              | Sweatpants/shorts, t-shirt.<br>CLEAN Tennis Shoes   |

For your convenience, dance footwear will be available for purchase at registration. If you miss this initial order, you can still come into the office to get fitted for shoes, as we will place an order once a month. All appropriate footwear must be purchased (or at least ordered) by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of classes.

Hip Hop shoes typically will be requested to be all black or all white. Parents will be notified of what shoes are requested after recital costumes are chosen. Sometimes teachers will request a specific shoe to be ordered for the routine, and families must purchase those shoes in addition to the regular costume fee.

## Registration and Fees

Online fall registration for the year will begin June 30<sup>th</sup>. An annual registration fee of \$30 per student covers the cost of mailings, insurance, handbooks, scheduling, and so on. Registration fees are not refundable with the exception of pre-dance students who are determined to be unready for dance and may receive a credit for the following season.

**Direct Payment (EFT) will be the preferred form of payment for ALL families.** The \$30 registration fee will automatically be withdrawn from your account the Friday after registering. Monthly tuition, beginning with September, will always be taken out on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Any miscellaneous purchases (such as shoes or dancewear) will be taken out on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month you ordered it.

Monthly tuition is a flat rate and doesn't alter as long as the month contains 3, 4, or 5 lesson weeks. Spirit Lake will have a total of 36 lessons, which equals a total of **nine** payments (Sept-May). Jackson will have a



total of 32 lessons, which equals a total of **eight** payments (Sept-Apr). Spacing Day counts as one lesson, and dress rehearsal and recital performances as two. There are NO deductions for missed lessons. A service charge of \$25 will be incurred for returned checks.

Any checks written are to be made out to Dawn's Dance Connection. You may give your payment to your child to drop off to Dawn or Maddie at the studio or mail it to:

**Dawn's Dance Connection**  
**1202 Hill Ave**  
**Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360**

### **Class Offerings**

Listed below are the various levels and their corresponding price schedules and styles to choose from. All prices include tax. Before viewing these class offerings, please note the following particulars about each level:

#### **SPIRIT LAKE CLASSES/RATES**

##### **LEVEL 1: Preschool (3-5 years)**

“Pre-Class” (45 minutes): combo of dance, tumbling, and creative movement  
1 class/week = \$44/month

##### **LEVEL 2: TK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Option 1: “Combo Class” (75 minutes): combo of ballet, tap, jazz

1 class/week = \$64/month

Option 2: “Tumbling” (60 minutes)

1 class/week = \$54/month

Option 3: “Combo Class” AND “Tumbling”

2 classes/week = \$99/month

##### **LEVEL 3: 3<sup>RD</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Choose from: Ballet (60 minutes), Tap/Jazz (60 minutes), Tumbling (60 Minutes), Hip Hop (30 minutes), Modern (6<sup>th</sup> grade and older; 60 minutes), Pointe (10 years and older; 30 minutes)\* MUST be registered for ballet

1 class/week = \$54/month

2 classes/week = \$97/month

3 classes/week = \$129/month

4 classes/week = \$159/month

5 classes/week = \$189/month

6 classes /week = \$219/month

Hip Hop ONLY: 1 class/week = \$40/month

##### **LEVEL 4: 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

\*\*MUST be enrolled in Ballet to register for this level

Choose from: Ballet (75 minutes), Tap/Jazz (75 minutes), Hip Hop (30 minutes), Modern (60 minutes), Lyrical (60 minutes), Pointe (30 minutes)

1 class/week = \$64/month  
2 classes/week = \$117/month  
3 classes/week = \$159/month  
4 classes/week = \$199/month  
5 classes/week = \$234/month  
6 classes /week = \$264/month  
Hip Hop ONLY: 1 class/week = \$40/month

## **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 and he/she will be asked to leave the room.

## **Termination of Enrollment**

In certain circumstances, when it is in the best interest of one or more students, it may be necessary for the studio owner 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 Dawn's Dance Connection to meet the child's needs

## **Arrival and Departure**

We encourage students to arrive 15 minutes before class starts. For their safety, children under age 10 should be picked up immediately after class. Students ages 10 and older must be picked up no more than 15 minutes after their class is completed.

## **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 December through April, choreography for the recital will be taught and rehearsed. It is important for children to feel completely confident with the choreography and 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.

## **Makeup Classes**

Students who miss a class will have the opportunity to make it up with another similar class.

Please email Maddie to find out possible make-up times if the student misses class due to an illness, sports event, vacation, etc. Class availability depends on student's ability, class sizes, and class plans (if the proposed makeup class is working on routines, it is harder for a student to have a meaningful makeup class). Please recall that there are no refunds or credits for missed lessons – absences may be made up by attending another regularly scheduled class within 2 weeks of the missed lesson. Punctuality is important as well. If a student is ill, unable to attend class, or will be tardy, please email the studio. Obviously, good attendance is critical to learning and development. If a student is consistently late or has 3 or more unmade-up misses, he or she may be moved to a different 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. The lost and found box is located in the dressing room.

## **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

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.

### **Parking Lot Safety**

The school is home to children of all ages. Please enter and exit our parking lot with extreme caution. Never park your vehicle in any area that is not a designated parking space. If you park in a space that is very close to the building or its windows, please do not leave your car idling. Please do not allow siblings to play in the parking lot.

### **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 Dawn's Dance Connection 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 Dawn's Dance Connection. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the director, other students or their families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or Dawn's Dance Connection.
- Students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of Dawn's Dance Connection.
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend Dawn's Dance Connection.
- If you post videos of class or rehearsals, don't post any choreography in its entirety; Dawn's Dance Connection 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**

- Parents and students should never interrupt a class in session.
- Only water is allowed in the studios. No food, drinks, or gum.

- 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 studio premises. Children must be supervised at all times and are not free to run around the lobby or classroom areas.
- Please do not dispose of dirty diapers inside the studio.
- No cell phones, smart watches, or computers may be used during class time. (This means no emailing, Internet use, or text messaging.)
- Never speak negatively about teachers, students, or parents 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**

All students participate in our annual recital to be held at Sami Bedell Center for the Performing Arts or the JCC Auditorium. Please note that all students must participate in the dress rehearsal in order to perform in the recital. There are no exceptions to this policy.

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. Preschool-2nd grade students perform one time in the annual recital. All other students perform one time in each of the styles of dance they are registered for.

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.

### **Recital Handbook**

In February of each year we will post on our website all the information parents and students need to know to make the recital experience enjoyable for all.

### **Costumes**

We spend many hours determining the correct costumes for each class. They are always age appropriate and of the highest quality possible. Pre-dance students will need one costume; all other students will need one costume for each dance form they train in. Costumes include all accessories (hats, gloves, tights, etc.), but do not include shoes.

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 prior to the November holiday break. Costume orders will NOT be placed for any students whose tuition account isn't paid in full through November. Costume

manufacturers do not accept cancellations or offer refunds; therefore the school does not refund costume deposits.

For each style of dance/tumbling registered for, you will be required to purchase a costume for the recital routine (first year pointe girls excluded). i.e. Ballet = 1 costume; Tap & Jazz = 2 costumes.

Pre-Dance/Tumbling costumes are \$65  
TK-2nd Grade costumes are \$75  
3rd grade-5th grade costumes are \$85  
6th grade - 12th grade costumes are \$95

\$10 additional charge if we need to order CXL, \$20 extra AXL Level 2 or 3

Specific hip hop tennis shoes may be requested for a routine and will be charged in addition to the regular costume fee.

Half of your costume balance will be withdrawn on November 15th and the remaining half on February 15th.

Parents or guardians accept full responsibility for all expenses, including surcharges and postage for costumes that are ordered late. Dawn's Dance Connection is not responsible if costumes are not received in time for the recital due to late payments. Costume payments are the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian.

If the student does not finish the dance year, parents may be liable for the remaining costume fee. If the costume can be returned/canceled, a \$25 return fee will be applied to the student's dance account.

## **Tights**

Each student will automatically receive 1 pair of tights for each style they are in. (Example: If the student is taking Ballet, Tap/Jazz, and Pointe the student would receive 1 pink for Ballet, 1 tan for Tap, 1 tan for Jazz, and 1 pink for Pointe for a total of 4 pairs of tights.) Tights charges will be withdrawn from accounts on March 15<sup>th</sup>. If additional tights are needed, please email the studio by March 1<sup>st</sup> specifying which style you would like.

## **Summer Program and Camps**

Each summer Dawn's Dance Connection offers summer programs and camps for both current and new students. Summer activities are for children ages K through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Summer dance camp is a perfect time to try something new, hone your skills, and have a great time with your peers. Tracy will also offer 4 pointe classes which is IMPERATIVE to maintain ankle and arch strength over the summer. A complete brochure of all summer programs will be distributed in May. We suggest early registration as these programs do sell out.

## **A Final Note**

WELCOME to our dance family!! We look forward to an exciting, rewarding season of learning and fun with your kiddo ☺!