

The Dance Arts Parent Handbook

2025-2026

CLASS INFORMATION

Enrollment

The studio reserves the right to

1. Refuse applicant to limit enrollment (class minimum is 5 students & maximum 15).
2. Require audition before enrollment for proper placement.
3. Dismiss a student.

Preparation

As the guardian or adult responsible for my dancer I will

1. Pay the 1st month's tuition before classes begin

Payments only are in cash, check or debit/credit AUTO PAY on your parent portal.

2. Pay tuition by the 5th of every month, October through April. (8 payments for 36 weeks of classes-April/May combined payment)
3. Make sure all dancewear has been purchased from Dance Arts that is needed for class
4. Make sure all dancewear has the dancer's name in it

Tuition

There are a total of 36 classes during the year, breaking into 8 payments. Payments for tuition will be at Registration, then monthly from October–March. April & May payments will be paid together. Our session goes for the length of the school year, September 8, 2025–June 6th, 2026.

Payment is due by the 5th of each month.

Cash/check is preferred. You may also sign up for auto-pay or make online payments through the parent portal on our website.

There will be a credit card processing fee if payment is made online.

A \$20.00 late fee will be added to unpaid accounts after the 15th of each month.

Tuition is non-refundable. Any classes missed, are to be made up in another class within 6 weeks. To change your method of enrollment, you must drop the class online and notify the office by the 1st of the month.

Classes under 5 students fall to semi-private tuition.

Class changes after the 1st 6 weeks - \$10.00 charge.

The tuition ladder is as follows:

45 minutes	\$45
1 hour	\$55
1 hour 15 minutes	\$69

1 hour 30 minutes	\$82
2 hours	\$105
2 hours 15 minutes	\$119
2 hours 30 minutes	\$132
3 hours	\$150
3 hours 15 minutes	\$164
3 hours 30 minutes	\$177
4 hours	\$195
4 hours 15 minutes	\$209
4 hours 30 minutes	\$222
5 hours	\$240
5 hours 15 minutes	\$254
5 hours 30 minutes	\$267
6 hours	\$285
6 hours 15 minutes	\$299
6 hours 30 minutes	\$312
7 hours	\$330
7 hours 15 minutes	\$344
7 hours 30 minutes	\$357
8 hours	\$375

>We highly encourage as dancers get older, to dance more hours in a week. To achieve this prices include a 10% discount for 2nd class or additional family member and beyond.

Registration Fee

There is a registration fee of \$36 per family due at registration in August (for the year long classes) and a \$10 registration fee per family due at registration in April (for summer classes/camps).

Liability

I understand that all caution will be taken for the safety of students during classes and programs. I waive any right to claim against Dance Arts staff and teachers and agree to assume liability for any accident,

injury, illness or loss of personal items which occurs to my child or myself. I give permission for staff to see proper medical attention if necessary.

Photo Privilege

My dancer's photo/video or my photo/video may be used on promotional materials, press media, & possible publication on social media sites (Facebook & Instagram for Dance Arts).

Attendance

Attendance must be taken seriously as the dancer can only move forward when present for each class. We do offer make up classes for any missed classes. Classes MUST be made up within 6 weeks of being missed. Please call or email if you are doing a make up class. Make up classes can be anytime except for Visiting Weeks & the last month before recital. Attendance is celebrated each year with certificates and praise is given for perfect attendance.

Levels

Our classes start with the title Beginner (ie: Beginning Jazz) then progress to a numbered level for ballet (ie: Ballet II) or an Elementary title for other genres (ie: Elem. Tumbling). The progression continues with the title of Intermediate, sometimes being in subcategories by increasing number (ie: Inter Ballet I then Inter Ballet II etc). The highest level is the Advanced level.

Placements & Evaluations

A student can be in any level for up to 3 years.

Each year students are evaluated at the end of the year on what they have accomplished in the curriculum and their behavior.

Every year placement forms will be filled out and emailed to you to be able to prepare for the next season. Placements are where the Dance Arts faculty has evaluated them to be. Recommendations are options to add. We value the process & progression and we believe firmly in ballet being the foundation for all dance. We strongly suggest each dancer start in ballet and then add tumbling at age 5, tap at age 6, jazz at age 7, and hip hop and contemporary at age 8.

Dancewear

For your convenience, all equipment may be ordered & purchased at the studio at a reasonable cost. We want to match at performing time! We appreciate your cooperation in having your dancer matching their classmates.

All Pre-Dance, Beginning, Elementary, and Intermediate students of ballet
are required to wear short sleeved or tank, scooped neck leotard (see color chart below)

Pink tights and Pink ballet slippers.

Tiny Tots, Pre-Dance, and Beginning....Royal Blue

Elementary.....Royal Blue

Inter. I & II.....Sky Blue

Inter III & IV.....Light Pink

AdvancedBlack



Legwarmers, wrap sweaters, elastics, and knee pads for jazz or hip hop are optional equipment and may be used, but not abused!

Skirts are only allowed on visiting weeks or in pointe classes.

T-Shirts are not acceptable dancewear. Socks for dance class (in the place of shoes) are prohibited on our floors.

NO crop tops are allowed.

All required clothing will be their costume base for Informal Arts Concerts & Mini-Recitals. ALL required clothing is available at registration.

****We prefer everyone purchase their dancewear with us so that we can assure it matches each person for their uniform for classes & performances.**

Jazz —

Black leotard and black shorts

Tan jazz shoes

Tap—

Black leotard and black shorts

Black tap shoes

Tumbling—

Black leotard and black shorts

Contemporary—

Black leotard and black shorts

Tan 1/2 Soles

Hip Hop—

Tight fitting tank top (any solid color)

Black pants

Black hip hop shoes

All other classes may wear any color leotard, but should check with their instructor for tights, pants & shoes.

Male Students - Navy shorts, White T-Shirts, White Socks, and Black Shoes...or appropriate dancewear.

All Students MUST have Hair pulled neatly and securely off the face!

Buns are preferred but braids or ponytails are acceptable. If you have short hair please use a headband or pins and get your hair off your neck as much as possible.

Performing Opportunities

We love to perform at Dance Arts and we have numerous opportunities to hone those performance skills. We get to perform for parents during class every 6-8 weeks as we have a Visiting Week for the parents to observe the class. This is the dancer's chance to show what they've been working on and perform for their parents in the comfortable classroom setting.

Informal Arts Concerts- We have in-house concerts called Informal Arts Concerts twice a year. This is where the students are afforded the chance to practice performing in front of a small audience in our little theater inside the studio.

Recitals are for everyone! Everyone participates in the culmination of a completed year. We have two styles of recitals- a Mini Recital (the odd ending years ie 2027) and then we have a Production Recital (the even ending years ie 2026). Our goal is always to allow the children a chance to perform and shine on stage showing off the skills they have learned that year. The difference is our Mini Recitals are in our studio theatre and costuming is minimal. Production Recitals are done at Lakeshore Community Auditorium and are complete with the glitz and glam as costumes are purchased and yours to keep. This is where the kids all come together to tell a unified story (ie: Beauty and the Beast, Coppelia, etc). Adult classes have the option to be a part of the recital or not. There is a production fee on Production Recital years and then a costume rental fee on Mini Recital years. This is to ensure that everyone has clean costumes that fit, when borrowed for Mini Recitals and to assist with the cost of props and scenery for Production Recitals.

Studio Dance Theatre is our pre-professional company open by audition to any area dancer, 10 years of age and older, that has had at least three years of formal dance training. SDT is strictly for dancers whom are very interested in the art form, and wish to devote more time into learning how to perform. SDT does a full length show each year, alternating a Spring show or Nutcracker in the Winter. This group requires an audition and rehearsals are on the weekends.

The non profit company was founded by Rhonda Rabbers in 1975 with a three-fold purpose:

- 1) To better educate young dancers in the performing arts.
- 2) To provide the community with a dance company.
- 3) To donate monies to a local charity.

Dance Arts Performing CORE is our performance team that performs locally and competes regionally. DAPC (then City Kids) was started in 1999 and is committed to creating artists who will perform and entertain. Our goal is to create a dancer who is captivating on stage, who is technically proficient, and radiates joy of movement. We are a performance team. During the year DAPC produces a full length show and attends competitions & other community performances.

Imagine Worship is our performing group, established in 2010, that dances locally for nursing homes and churches while sharing the love of Jesus with others through movement. They rehearse in the summer and "tour" in the late summer and early fall. There is an optional convention & showcase performance at Dance Rev in Chicago in the winter.

PARENT INFORMATION

Footnotes

Our monthly newsletter, Footnotes, have all the upcoming information happening at Dance Arts. It also may include community events as well. Please make sure you read the footnotes. Footnotes will come home at the beginning of each month. Footnotes are also accessible online on our website www.dancearts-sdt.com.

Visiting Week

Every 6 weeks we have open observation of each class on a rotating schedule based on their classroom (Studio A, Studio B, Studio C). These Visiting Weeks are spelled out in the monthly Footnote newsletter and should be attended by the guardian or parent of each dancer.

Dance Camps & Workshops

Throughout the year we love to bring in guest teachers for our Movement Master Class series. These weekend workshops offer our dancers the chance to learn from other teachers besides our incredible staff. These are extra opportunities to grow and be inspired. We truly believe in the importance of being molded by lots of different teachers.

In the Summer we offer Dance Camps and Mini Camps of all kinds. These camps range from 1 day events to 5 day events. Our Summer camp and class information is available in April for registration. Summer classes and camps are a great way to try new styles of dance, hone in on skills without the stress of school, and have a blast!

Conventions

Conventions or weekend workshops are out of town, typically in Chicago or Grand Rapids. These are open to any dancer meeting the requirements for each convention (age and ability). These opportunities will be made known to you via our Footnotes newsletter.

A NOTE To Parents and Students

Dance training consists of 95% hard work and only 5% natural talent. The more you work, the faster you advance. It teaches self-awareness, individuality, and appreciation for an art form. Self discipline and physical development go hand in hand, right from the start in dance training. Although, a great deal of attention is paid to gaining a child's trust & respect for their teacher so that it is an enjoyable experience with steady progression, built on a strong foundation.

One lesson weekly is adequate for the beginning and elementary students, however, children over 9 years of age, should be taking two or more lessons weekly. Ballet is the recommended beginning form of dance. Ballet is easy to feel & understand unlike other forms, that at a beginning level, are merely imitated...not learned. The anatomy of the young growing body is best suited to benefit from this correct form of dance. Tap, jazz, modern & other genres, are excellent additional classes, but can never be, what they could be, without previous ballet training.

STUDIO INFORMATION

Office Hours

The studio is open Monday through Thursday from 3:30-9:15pm. Daytime office hours are Mondays 9-11am or by appointment. Weekend rehearsals for DAPC or SDT are seasonal and if you need to contact our staff on the weekends, email is best.

Rental Space

We love to offer our space to you to host a birthday party, bridal or baby shower or large gathering. Our space rents for \$75/hour and birthday parties are a minimum of 2 hours (\$150) with the optional add-on of a dance instructor to lead games and dancing. There is a \$25 cleaning fee. Call us today to schedule your next event.

