

CENTRAL JERSEY SCHOOL OF
MUSIC AND DANCE
EDISON · CRANFORD

Dance student handbook

Dance Program Policies and Procedures

Dance

A non-refundable fee of \$30 per student is required yearly at time of registration.

Tuition must be paid by automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account or automatic debit from a credit or debit card. The withdrawal transactions must be set up at time of registration to confirm class time. No times will be confirmed without checking/savings or credit/debit account information. All NSF's will be charged a \$25 NSF fee.

Costume fees will be paid in full by post dated check, dated November 1st. No costume fees will be refunded after this time even if a student withdraws from the school.

The School of Music and Dance is not responsible for providing before or after care for students. Parents with children 5 years of age and under must remain in the school during the classes. Students are not to be left at the school for excessive amounts of time before or after their lessons.

Parents, legal guardians of minors, students, and adult students waive the right to any legal action for any injury sustained on school property resulting from normal dance class activity or any other activity conducted by the students before, during or after class time.

There is a two month minimum for all lessons. One month notice from the first of the month is required to discontinue any classes. Withdrawal must be done in person, and will not be accepted over the phone. Withdrawal must be done at the school office and not with the teacher. Withdrawal must occur within the first 7 days of the month. No withdrawals will be accepted after April 7th. To withdraw from classes, a parent or adult student must inform school administration in person, and complete and sign a withdrawal form provided by the school office. Automatic transactions for one month after the withdrawal date will be discontinued. No refunds for costumes will be given. The School of Music and Dance reserves the right to terminate lessons for any students without notice. In such a case, a refund for unused lessons will be given.

Only students that have been present for each of their regularly scheduled classes will be considered to have perfect attendance. Make-up classes are only for the benefit of learning what one might have missed in his/her regularly scheduled class, and will not be counted toward perfect attendance.

Parents, legal guardians of minors, students and adult students hereby give Edison School of Music and Dance the right to use their image (photo, video, etc.) for website and any other promotional purposes.

Private Dance students can take a group dance lesson to make up for missed lessons.

Fall Dance Class Required attire

(Long hair must be tied back at all times. No jewelry.)

Song & Dance 21/2-4 years (45 minutes) – Comfortable clothing for boys, leotard and tights for girls, ballet and tap shoes for both (tan tap, pink ballet for girls and black for

boys)

Pre Ballet 4 1/2-7 years (30 minutes) - leotard, tights, pink ballet shoes

Pre Tap 4 1/2-7 years (30 minutes) - leotard, tights, tan tap shoes

Pre Acro-Gymnastics 4 1/2-7 years (30 minutes) – leotard, bare legged or footless tights

Ballet 6 + years (1 hour) - leotard, tights, pink ballet shoes

Tap 6+ years (1 hour) - leotard, tights, tan tap shoes

Hip-Hop & Jazz 6 + years (1 hour) - leotard, tights, black jazz sneakers

Acro-Gymnastics 6+ years (1 hour) – leotard, bare legged or footless tights

Lyrical 11+ years (1 hour) – leotard, footless tights

Boys' Attire

T-shirt

Shorts

Shoes - Black Ballet, Black Jazz, Black Tap, Black Hip-Hop sneakers

4 Things Every Parent Should Know Before Choosing a Dance Studio

1. Who are the teachers?

Many studios go to great lengths to publicize instructors with college degrees in dance. College degrees are an asset but are not necessarily the only important thing for a parent to look for. You can take advantage of a special situation when a studio hires alumni as teachers on their staff. There are many students who studied for years at one studio. If those students decide to pursue a career in the arts, and then are drawn back to the teacher with whom they grew up, you then have a valuable situation for students to take advantage of. These teachers are unique because they are now passing on their knowledge in the very same manner in which it was given to them by the director/teachers. Consequently, the cycle continues from teacher to student in the same setting. Look for studios that hire alumni and/or university trained instructors. If your child can't take class directly from the owner, you will be getting instruction that is equally as good.

2. What is the size of the class?

If the dance class has fewer students in it, each child will receive more personalized attention, learn more and have more fun. With younger students, it is easier for a teacher to maintain control over the class and make sure each student understands the concepts and instructions. Our smaller class sizes make sure that no fundamental concepts are being missed. A smaller class size also allows our teachers to ensure that students are not developing bad habits or improper technique. Our studio limits all of our classes (ages 6 - 13) to maximum of just 14 students per class. With our pre-school classes (ages 2 - 4), we limit all of our classes to a maximum of just 10 students per class.

Our advanced classes, however, have larger numbers. The students in these classes have developed proper technique and will have the experience of taking a "master class". Master classes are found in universities and in New York City. You can experience the professionalism of a university or Manhattan school without the commute or expense.

3. What are the "extras" required for the year end show?

Most studios put on a year end show in a professional theatre. Students that perform in the show must have a costume for their dance number. Some studios may require parents to sew their child's costumes, pay extra for alterations, and/or find their own tailor to do the sewing. This can be inconvenient and frustrating for parents who are busy or can't sew. Our studio uses our own professional seamstress to sew and alter the costumes, so parents do not have to worry about costume hassles.

Most studios also require parents to purchase tickets for the show's dress rehearsal, which is an added expense. The dress rehearsal is also another long day at the theatre and an inconvenience. Our studio has our dress rehearsal right at the studio the week before the show, during regular class times. This way you as the parent will not be faced with any additional work or expenses. The students simply arrive at their regularly scheduled class with their costumes, change at the studio, and perform their routine a number of times. Parents are free to attend this rehearsal at no cost to them.

4. Can I get immediate assistance and customer service?

In many studios, the teacher or the studio owner conducts classes and does administration. By trying to do two jobs at once, the classes may suffer as the teacher has to use class time for customer service issues. Or the studio may have no customer service available at all if the teacher is in a class. To have a good experience, it is important to choose a studio that can assist you with details like costumes or schedules, even if a teacher is occupied in class. Our studio has office staff on hand during regular class time, so you can get immediate assistance.

Why take ballet?

Ballet gives you what you need to become a “well-rounded” dancer.

It teaches your body how to make connections between the choreographical highlights.

It teaches you how to leap, turn, and jump without injuring yourself.

Through ballet training, your body learns how to take off and leap properly. Sudden transfers from one direction to another become effortless. Falling off balance rarely becomes an issue.

Double turns become solid. It not only gives you ease of movement, but it also contributes to your ability to pick up and retain choreography. The muscle memory becomes instinctive.

Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, and Hip-Hop work benefit greatly from ballet training. This training not only gives substance to your movement, but liberates it. You are able to deliver what any choreographer asks of you.

You don't have to enjoy ballet, just accept the good that comes from it.

Ultimately, if you choose to study ballet, get the best training you can afford. Find a teacher who explains the value of plies, relevés, and rond de jambe. Ask him or her to help you understand why your muscles need to repeat these movements over and over. At The School of Music and Dance, you'll find instructors who will show you exactly how ballet contributes to performances of Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, and Hip-Hop.