



## WELCOME TO *The Dance Centre's* 2020-2021 SEASON!

**THE DANCE CENTRE** was founded in 1996 to provide exceptional education in the art of dance. We welcome both the student who works toward a professional career in dance as well as the student who dances purely for the joy of movement and the benefits that transfer to everyday life. Dance education encompasses far more than technique. 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. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training.

### COMMUNICATION

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your student. ***Please help us maintain an open line of communication by reading emails and consulting the website for important information.*** Newsletters, general information, special events, performance information, etc. will always be communicated via email. Ensure we have an updated and accurate email address that is regularly monitored. We also regularly update our social media pages. Please take advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with the wonderful things happening at your studio! PLEASE do not text/call any teachers or office staff on their personal phone numbers or message teachers or staff via their personal social media pages (*it is a violation of contract for any staff member to communicate studio business via social media platform*).

#### **ALL TDC COMMUNICATION MUST BE MADE VIA THE FOLLOWING METHODS:**

**The Dance Centre office phone:** 610.584.5665

**The Dance Centre email:** [thedancecentre1@gmail.com](mailto:thedancecentre1@gmail.com)

**The Dance Centre website:** [www.thedancecentre.com](http://www.thedancecentre.com)

**2020-2021 SEASON UPDATE:** At this time all administrative business must be done online or over the phone. Appointments are required (while no classes are in the studio) for any in-person communication.

### CLASS PLACEMENT

The director and teachers of The Dance Centre place students in the level that will challenge the student technically while building and maintaining self-confidence. An appropriate class will be recommended for each student, and the student will then be evaluated during the first few weeks of class. It is common for a student over the age of 8 years to remain in the same class level for more than one year. Please remember that each child is most successful when they progress to a new level at their own pace and not the pace of their friends.

#### **CLASS PREREQUISITES**

- **Intensive Classes:** Intensive level classes (marked with a \* on the class schedule) require that students must concurrently attend at least 2 ballet classes per week.
- **Modern Classes:** Students must have completed at least one year of a full-hour ballet class (level 1-7) and be currently enrolled in at least one weekly ballet class.
- **Pointe Classes:** Training en pointe is by **invitation only**. Pointe class is held immediately after a ballet class (twice weekly). Students who desire to study pointe must be enrolled in a minimum of two ballet classes per week.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

As in any pursuit of physical excellence, consistency and frequency in training are vital. Students are encouraged to make up absences as close to the missed class as possible in another class designated by their teacher. There are no refunds for missed classes.

**2020-2021 SEASON UPDATE:** Parents are expected to screen their own dancer for COVID-19 symptoms. Please do not send your dancer to class if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing, fever over 100.4°). Dancers must be symptom-free for 72 hours before returning to TDC. Please do not send your dancer to class if they have been in contact with a COVID-19 positive person in the last 14 days. ***Students are encouraged to participate in their class virtually when unable to attend in-person for any reason.***

## DRESS CODE

The dress code will be enforced in order for the teacher to be able to correct alignment and body placement and to promote self discipline required for dance. Hair must be securely pulled back off the face (in a bun for all ballet classes). Jewelry must be removed before class. Check our website for dress code details.

### 2020-2021 SEASON UPDATE:

- **In-Studio Classes:** Students must arrive fully dressed for dance class. There is no changing of clothes allowed anywhere in the facility and the Homework Room is closed during during social distancing.
- **Virtual Classes:** Students participating in virtual classes are required to follow class dress code just as they would for in-studio class.

## SPRING DANCE CONCERT

The Dance Centre focuses on the growth of the student in the art of dance. Though participation is not required, we believe that students should appear in an annual performance to sharpen their performance skills, an integral part of dance training. We do not, however, place a heavy emphasis on this production during class time. Class time spent rehearsing is kept to a minimum, as our teaching curriculum spans all ten months of the school year. In following with this philosophy, all classes perform one dance in the Annual Spring Concert. Complete information about our recitals will be available on the website and will be given out via e-mail and in class.

## SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF ELEMENTARY DANCE (ages 3-5) STUDENTS

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, tap and tumbling basics, and games in an environment of creativity. Elementary dance is about helping children learn to tap into their imaginations and express themselves creatively.

## THE DANCE CENTRE EXPECTATIONS

We expect that students of all ages treat their fellow dancers with respect. We want every student to feel safe and loved at The Dance Centre. Bullying will not be tolerated in any form. We expect that all TDC members treat their teachers with respect. At TDC, we are proud to have wonderful teachers and assistants. They have been trained to teach children in a positive healthy manner and they know their profession. We hope that, while communication lines are always open, teachers are approached with respect.

## LOBBY ETIQUETTE

We are happy to provide you with a comfortable place to wait for your child during class, however, this is an educational facility and a certain degree of order must be maintained. Please keep siblings out of the hallway and as quiet as possible. For your convenience, WiFi is provided - please ask the office staff for the passwords.

**2020-2021 SEASON UPDATE:** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the lobby/waiting areas of our facility will be closed. Families will not be permitted into the lobby until we are able to operate our facility at 100% capacity, without social distancing restrictions. No dance bags or personal belongings are permitted in the lobby.

## OTHER GENERAL POLICIES

- Parents are expected to be present when class is scheduled to end. The Dance Centre is not responsible for supervising students outside their class time. If an emergency arises, parents are to call the studio before class ends.
- Students who are more than 15 minutes late for class will be asked to observe on that day to protect against injury.
- No cell phones, smart watches (like Apple Watch), smart earphones (like Air Pods) are allowed in the dance rooms at any time. If they are inside a dance bag, they should be turned off. If dancers are wearing these in class, they will be asked to take to front desk staff for safekeeping until class is over.
- Visitors (adult or child) are not permitted in class at any time.
- Preschool and Kindergarten Parents: Please take your dancer to the restroom BEFORE class begins to avoid accidents and disruptions to class.
- The Dance Centre reserves the right to combine or cancel classes with less than 4 students enrolled.
- All photos and videos taken at The Dance Centre are property of The Dance Centre and may be used on our website, on our social media pages, in company advertisements, waiting room viewing and at community functions.



## FAQ

- **How young can my child start dance class?** We offer "Baby & Me" for 14 months - 24 months and an adult and "Tippy Toes" for 2 - 3 year olds. Independent dance classes begin at age 3!
- **What is the Registration/Membership Fee?** In addition to covering insurance expenses and processing fees, members receive discounts on camps and special events held at The Dance Centre. Membership fees cover each member of your family from September 1st (or date of enrollment) through August 31st. (\$35 per dancer or \$50 per family)
- **What other events can I participate in as a member of The Dance Centre?** We encourage our students to participate in all that The Dance Centre has to offer! We hold workshops with outside teachers, one day workshops with our own faculty, winter camps and summer camps. We also invite all students (within the appropriate age range) to perform with us at the Skippack Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Skippack 4th of July Parade annually.
- **How do I pay tuition?** Tuition fees are billed and are due on the first of the month (bills will not be emailed or mailed home). Tuition may be paid online by Visa or MasterCard, cash or check made out to **The Dance Centre** and either handed in to the office, placed in the tuition drop box in the lobby or mailed to **The Dance Centre / PO Box 1175 / Skippack, PA / 19474**. Monthly Tuition is auto-debited, all other non-tuition charges must be authorized separately. Accounts using the full year payment option must authorize their own payments; these will not be auto-debited.
- **What is the online system for?** With our online system, DanceWorks, you can log in at any time to check class times, make changes to your account, register for additional classes or make a payment. You should have received an account log-in and you can use that at any time. Please contact the office if you need us to send you a password reset email.
- **What is the weather cancellation policy?** The Dance Centre generally follows the Perkiomen Valley School District for weather cancellations (no school = no TDC class, delayed start = no TDC morning classes, early dismissal = no TDC afternoon classes). To find out if class has been cancelled, please call the office a half hour before your class to hear the message.
- **Why is there a dress code?** The dress code will be enforced in order for the teacher to be able to correct alignment and body placement and to promote self discipline required for dance. Check the website for specific dress code requirements for each class.
- **Can I watch class?** Classes for students ages 3 and above are independent, however we do have special "Parent Observation Weeks" for families to enjoy. Check your emails for dates!
- **Can my child's friend watch class?** We hold annual "bring a friend" days at TDC. If you have a friend interested in registering for dance class, your teacher may allow observation or even a trial class if there is space!
- **How do I withdraw from class?** A 'Withdrawal Notice' (also located in the "Document Center" on our website) must be completed and submitted electronically by the parent/guardian in order to drop a class or withdraw from The Dance Centre. Non-attendance in a class is NOT considered a cancellation notice. No class cancellations will be taken by walk-in, phone or by email. The date we receive the completed 'Withdrawal Notice' (will be time and date stamped when it is submitted) your student will be removed from the class and we will discontinue or adjust your tuition amount for the NEXT auto tuition payment. There are no adjustments or credits given for payments already made when you drop a class. Thank you for understanding that once a tuition payment is processed it is non-refundable.
- **How do I receive studio information?** All of our correspondences will go through e-mail. Please make sure we have a correct address! "Like" The Dance Centre Facebook page and follow us on instagram. We update our social media often, post weather cancellations and sometimes run specials through social media only.

# IMPORTANT DATES 2020 - 2021

## SEPTEMBER

September 14.....*Fall Classes Begin, 1st Tuition Payment due*

## OCTOBER

October 24 - 31.....*Halloween Dress Up Week (all classes)*

## NOVEMBER

November 1.....*Recital Fee Due*

November 25-28.....*Studio **CLOSED** (Thanksgiving Break)*

November 27.....*Skippack Tree Lighting Performance*

## DECEMBER

December 16 - 21.....*Holiday Spirit Week*

December 21 - January 2.....*Studio **CLOSED** (Winter Break)*

## JANUARY

January 4.....*Classes resume*

## APRIL

March 31-April 6.....*Studio **CLOSED** (Spring Break)*

April 7.....*Classes resume*

## MAY

May 28 - 31.....*Studio **CLOSED** (Memorial Day)*

## JUNE

TBA.....*Dress Rehearsal*

TBA.....*Annual Spring Dance Concert*