

Dear Parents and Students:

The members of the ballet faculty are very excited about the upcoming year and the exciting developments in the ballet program. For us to provide the best training possible, we would like to take a moment to review some of the requirements and etiquette expected from all of our students and parents.

We have struggled with many students not following dress code in the past and we want to explain its value. A properly dressed dancer allows the teacher to see correct lines and placement of the body. It also promotes unity throughout the class and teaches discipline. Please have the appropriate style and color leotard and skirt (if allowed) for class level. Bra straps must be concealed within the lines of the leotard. A selection of bras that fit the dress code leotards are available in The Spotlight Shop. Hair needs to be in a secure and neat bun and ballet slippers must be properly fitted. If a slipper is too loose or too tight it can affect the correct use of the foot while dancing and cause injury. Please have all ballet slippers approved by your teacher before cutting or sewing them, so an exchange may be possible. Elastics may not be criss-crossed and knotted under the shoe. They must be sewn in to the slipper. **Dress code is extremely important and will be strictly enforced. Please ask if you need help with making a bun.**

Attendance is also essential to any dancer's progress. If a dancer must be absent, however, we do request a call from a parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence. This is for the safety of every student, as well as a courtesy to the teacher. We also ask that every effort is made to be on time for lessons. It is important to warm up muscles gradually to prevent injury and the beginning of class does just that. If a student is late, please wait quietly by the door until the exercise has finished and the teacher invites you to join the others. This is a show of respect to your teacher and will also be less of a disruption to the class.

We feel by following these guidelines at all levels, we can concentrate on the curriculum and each child's learning. We will be sending home notices to inform parents if their child's dress code is not being followed. If after multiple notices a student's dress code has not improved, we will have to ask that student to observe the class instead of participate. We certainly don't want this to occur, however, a professional look and attitude is a key ingredient to the training of a dancer and to the integrity of our program.

Thank you for your attention to this memo; we would appreciate your full support and cooperation. We hope to nurture every student's love of dance within a professional and productive environment.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Madeux Abbott, Ballet Mistress

IMPORTANT: Parents: if you have any concerns about your child's progress we would be happy to discuss this with you at a time convenient for both parent and teacher. Please contact the office and a phone call or meeting can be arranged. There is no time between classes and speaking at that time makes the next class tardy. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parents and Students of younger students: Please wait by the door of your dance studio before class begins and do not allow your child to enter until the teacher calls them. This is for their personal safety. We do not want the younger students in the studios by themselves. Thank you!