



GRACE DANCE COMPANY
STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

MISSION STATEMENT

Grace Dance Company is a studio with set values in Christ. We want to teach our students to love, respect, and have empathy towards others. We welcome and accept people into our studio from all walks of life. We promise to love and care for our students as God loves us. Dance is a way of uniting people together, it brings people of every lifestyle together. Dance is a form of self expression, it moves people, it gives others the confidence to be themselves, and it can make a statement. Our statement that we wish to make is to show God's love by leading by example.

CLASSES OFFERED

- Tiny Dancers I (ages 3-4)

- Tiny Dancers II (ages 5-6)

- Core Class (ages 7-18) (placement based on skill level and commitment)

*combination of tap, jazz/contemporary, and ballet technique

- Add On Class: Pom (ages 7-18) (placement based on skill level and commitment)

- Add On Class: Hip Hop (ages 7-18) (placement based on skill level and commitment)

- Add On Class: Clogging (ages 7-18) (placement based on skill level and commitment)

- Private Lessons (ages 3-18)

DRESS CODE

There are many reasons why dance studios have a dress code. It helps to eliminate distractions, allows the dancers to move properly, creates cohesiveness, and increases the students focus. Enforcing a dress code also helps the teachers to see their vision of a routine when all of the dancers look similar. It makes the entire routine look sharper and cleaner if the students are uniform. It is also very helpful for teachers to see things that the dancer could be doing wrong and needs to be fixed. All students will be expected to follow the studio dress code for all classes. Following dress code is REQUIRED, if a child comes not in dress code the parent will be contacted.

BASIC DRESS CODE

- tops: black/white/light pink shirt (**no graphics or t-shirts or sweatshirts**)
- bottoms: black leggings/black spandex with tan tights (girls)
black joggers/black shorts (boys)
- black/white/light pink leotard and skirt with tights
- black/white socks
- hair pulled back
- assigned shoes for each class

(tights are necessary for the students to avoid floor burns, splinters, etc...)

CLASS SPECIFIC

- form fitting shirts for ballet and technique classes
- half sole shoes for ballet, pom, jazz, and contemporary classes
- tan jazz shoes for pom, jazz classes
- sneakers for hip hop
- ballet slippers for ballet and contemporary classes
- tap shoes for tap classes
- clogging shoes for clogging classes

*Shoes can be purchased at several different retailers! This includes Bobby's Dancewear in Omaha, Amazon, Discount Dance, Capezio, etc...! There are lots of options!

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Tiny Dancers I

1 class per week (30 min.), \$30 per month

1 costume & 1 dance for Holiday Production

1 costume & 2 dances for Spring Company Recital

This class introduces your child to ballet technique, jazz, tumbling, and tap. We will be learning to move with the music and move together.

Tiny Dancers II

1 class per week (45 min.), \$40 per month

1 costume & 1 dance for Holiday Production

1 costume & 2 dances for Spring Company Recital

This class focuses more on ballet technique, jazz, tumbling, and tap. We will focus on learning proper technique and moving together as a group.

Core Class

Ages 7-18

Classes will be determined based on skill level and commitment, not age or grade.

1 class per week (1 hour, 15 min) \$50 per month

1 costume & 1 dance for Holiday Production

3 dances & costumes for Spring Company Recital

This class will consist of proper ballet technique, contemporary, jazz, tumbling, and tap. Students are REQUIRED to practice their dance combinations they learn in class at home and be ready to move on the next week. This affects the productivity of the whole class. Stretching at home is also required at this level. Dancers should be committed to their own personal growth and be an active participant in their class. Competition will be offered, but not be required at this level.

Add On Classes (POM, HIP HOP, and CLOGGING)

Available for ages 7-18

One class per week (45 min) \$30 per month

1 costume & 1 dance for Spring Company Recital

Classes will be determined based on skill level and commitment, not age or grade.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are always available for all ages. Lessons are \$25 per hour. If you notice your child is struggling to remember combinations learned in class or has trouble with technique, one on one instruction is a great way to get caught up or even to improve on your personal growth as a dancer, if you are just looking for more time in the studio to work on your skills. These can be scheduled anytime with Miss Mackenna.

INVESTMENTS AND EXPENSES

It is important for families to understand what their investment will be, up front. After years of experience with several different studios in the area and carefully considering our students and families, we have put together a breakdown of costs for your entire year. Like any other activity you involve your child in, dance can be expensive. We believe it is important to know ahead, what you can expect and offer opportunities to break up your payments throughout the year, if you choose to do so. Keep in mind, many of these costs are optional and many are an estimate so please feel free to inquire about anything you see listed here.

Method of Payment Options:

- Auto Withdrawal
- Complete Semester Payment Upfront (first semester runs from Sep-Dec and second semester runs from Jan-May)

Monthly Expense Breakdown:

July-August: \$25 registration fee (charged during the registration process)

September: Tuition

October: Tuition + Christmas Show Costume Fee (\$75 per costume) (no refunds)

November: Tuition + Spring Recital Costume Fee (\$75 per costume) (no refunds)

December: Tuition + Tickets for Christmas Show (\$5 per ticket)

January: Tuition

February: Tuition

March: Tuition

April: Tuition

May: Tuition + Tickets for Spring Company Recital (\$15 per ticket)

Costume Fee Payments:

Each student will be issued a bill for their costumes for the year, when they register. You will have until November 1st to have that bill paid in full. You will be able to see your costume balance on your monthly statement each month when tuition is withdrawn or at any time on your parent portal. Payments can be made directly via your parent portal online. You can make payments for Holiday Production costumes up until October 1st. You can make payments for Spring Company costumes up until November 1st. Any remaining balance will be automatically withdrawn on November 1st.

Additional Expenses:

- Tights (required for students)
- Holiday Production Shirt (optional)
- Dance Pictures (optional)
- Spring Recital Shirt (required for students/optional for family members)
- Holiday Production and Spring Company Recital Video (optional)
- Grace Dance Company Merchandise (optional)
- Summer Intensive Classes, Student Opportunities, etc...

****We would encourage everyone to contact us with any questions or concerns, open communication is so important when it comes to your children, their learning, and your investment. We are happy to help in any way we can!!**

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY AND SEASON CALENDAR

Each class will be held 36 times throughout our 9 month season. If a class cannot take place during its normal scheduled time (due to holidays, studio competitions, etc...), it has already been rescheduled to a later date. However, we are not responsible for rescheduling classes that are canceled due to circumstances that are out of our control, such as dangerous weather conditions. Please look through the GDC Season IV calendar to make sure that you are fully aware of your dancer's rescheduled classes!

STUDENT GUIDELINES

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time every week. They are also expected to arrive on time to any other events or extra practices. This includes: pictures, spacing rehearsals, dress rehearsals, performances, etc...
- Students are expected to be wearing the proper attire when in class. Following the dress code is essential at Grace Dance Company. The studio will provide extra clothes for the student if absolutely necessary. If the student repeatedly shows up without proper attire, he/she will be asked to sit aside for the remainder of class.
- Students are expected to commit both in and out of class. This means paying attention in class, giving full effort in class, practicing throughout the week, stretching and workout outside of class, etc...
- Every student is expected to show respect toward all whom they come into contact with. Respect will remain expected before, during, and after class/performance/competition time. Respect is also expected to be given to other members of the studio in order to receive it as well. Respect toward the sport and the art will remain expected above all, because without it, there is no chance of having respect towards those involved.
- Every student is expected to hold themselves accountable. This is expected during situations both in and out of the sport. Includes attitude, effort, and physical health. Students are expected to complete all tasks that are asked of them.
- Every student is expected to show the care that they wish to receive, to others.
- Every student is expected to have an honest character.
- Every student will be expected to properly recognize what is fair. Fair is purely determined by effort, attitude, and contribution to others. If a student feels that they are being treated unfairly by either a teacher or another student, they are expected to respectfully bring up the problem to a student. It will be brought up by the student, not a parent.
- Every student is expected to follow these policies in life as well. It is expected in and out of class/performance/competition time and during in and off season. All students will be a representation of the studio, and if they wish to be given respect as an athlete and teammate, they will live their outside life as a positive and uplifting member of society.
- There will be zero tolerance for any form of bullying or misconduct done by a student! If done, there will be consequences that the student will be expected to follow through.

PARENT GUIDELINES

- Parents are welcome to watch classes through the viewing windows, but not permitted to be in the dance room. We encourage parents to be involved, but also would like to recognize that students should establish independence, when it comes to class time.
- Parents are welcomed and encouraged to videotape their student's routines from viewing windows, in order to encourage their students to practice at home.
- If a parent has a question or concern, they are more than welcome to email or set up a meeting to discuss it.
- We want to encourage open and strong communication between the students and teachers. So, we ask the parents to encourage their student to contact their teachers directly first, if they have any questions, concerns, or things that they would like to discuss.
- We encourage parents to hold their student accountable outside of class, to live and practice a healthy lifestyle.
- We expect and encourage the parents to show respect to others as well. This includes: teachers, students, other parents, other studios, etc...
- Not only do students represent the studio, but the parents do as well. We want to represent ourselves as a united dance family. In doing this, parents play a big part in setting the tone.

If a parent or student refuses to follow the handbook guidelines, there will be a meeting held with both the student and parent. We believe in open communication done in a considerate manner. We want the studio to be a healthy environment for our students and dance families. We will make every effort to professionally handle any conflicts if they arise. We will require the same consideration from our parents and students. Please always feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Students at Grace Dance Company are expected to uphold a healthy lifestyle in both nutrition and exercise. Dance is a physically demanding sport that challenges the students through strength, flexibility, and stamina. Dance teaches discipline and determination. It is not only important to practice these during class and practice, but in life as well. If a student wishes to excel in the dance industry, it is essential for them to practice a healthy lifestyle both in and out of practice.

SHOWS & PERFORMANCES

Christmas Show:

- Our Christmas Show will be held on December 9th at 6pm at the West Monona Auditorium
- Our students will each be performing one holiday routine with their Core Class for the show
- Tickets will be sold for \$5 a piece
- Dress Rehearsal will take place on December 8th at 6pm at the West Monona Auditorium (required for students in order to participate in the show)

Spring Recital:

- Recital will be held on May 25th at 1pm & 6pm and May 26th at 3pm at the West Monona Auditorium
- Within the week before recital, there will be both spacing rehearsals and a dress rehearsal held at the West Monona Auditorium. Spacing rehearsals will take place during usual class times. Dress rehearsal will take place on May 24th at 3pm.
- Participation in these rehearsals are required and if the student does not attend these rehearsals, they will not be allowed to participate in the recital. Exceptions will only be made for illness, and a note from the doctor.
- Tickets will be sold at \$15 a piece

“You bring your dancer(s) once or twice (or more) every week; when you pick them up, they’re a little sweaty and need a snack. You wash the dance gear and keep track of the shoes, and smile at the other parents who are doing the same. You peek through the windows and doors during class, you spy your child practicing dance moves in the living room. And at the end of the year, you gather the dance costumes and the family, and head to the dance recital. Getting out of the car at the dance recital, your dancer’s sibling cries, “Why do they even have recitals? Why do we have to go?” And here’s your answer. A recital offers a culminating event, a chance to say, “Hey, Mom, watch this,” as your child proudly shows a new skill that has been eight or nine months in the making. The costumes, photos, and videos of the event become archives of your dancer’s childhood, memories of that time they worked so hard to achieve something incredible. Performing in a recital builds confidence in your dancer as they showcase their hard-won skills in front of an audience, all lights shining and eyes on the stage. The applause at the end is the reward for months of effort, and the dancers walk off the stage feeling satisfied with a job well done. Dance is a team sport. Dancers in a group routine must be constantly aware of the other dancers, in tune with their movements. Working to prepare a routine takes investment from everyone in the group, and by the time the recital rolls around, these dancers have learned the true meaning of teamwork. Through preparing for a dance recital, students learn what it means to be needed on a team, to have the success of the group depend on everyone’s continued best efforts. Even the youngest dancers learn through dance classes that nobody will perfect a routine or new step the first time—or the second, or the fifth. These dancers have built technique upon technique, skill upon skill in order to present their very best selves to the audience at their recital. They’ve had to listen, to focus, to make mistakes, and to get back up again when they fall. During those months of dance class, students learn so much more than a few cool moves. They learn to communicate, to be patient with others and themselves, to appreciate their bodies, and to be accountable for their learning. A dance recital brings all those elements together at one time, on one stage, and your dancers have the opportunity to experience the positive outcome of all their hard work. That’s something to celebrate. So... is it worth it? You bet it is.” - The Pointe School

ALL INFORMATION WRITTEN WITHIN THIS HANDBOOK, IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHANGES REGARDING DATES/TIMES, PRICES, ETC... ARE A POSSIBILITY. STUDIO FAMILIES WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THESE CHANGES VIA EMAIL.