

# DaySpring Arts & Education

## Dance Department - Classical Program & Electives, 23-24

### *Orientation Letter, Policies and Calendar*



### **Welcome DaySpring Dance Department Families!**

Whether this is your first or fifteenth year as a student in the Dance Department, we are thrilled to have you as part of the DaySpring family. Our goal for our dance students at every age and level is to create a safe learning environment where the students can develop confidence, cooperation, discipline, and their pursuit of excellence- skills that will serve them not just as artists, but in all areas of their lives. Whether through our Young Dancers Program, the Classical Ballet Program, or our classes in other dance styles, we hope to give all students a chance to explore their love for dance! Please read through this information along with the dance policies, dress code, and department calendar included with this letter.

Our website provides a list of general policies for the building along with a calendar showing all days we are not in session due to holidays and breaks. There is also a calendar on the last page of this document with days and events specific to dance classes.

### **Class Orientation**

If you have any questions about your students' class, please feel free to reach out to the Department Head or your students' teacher. Classes meeting on Enrichment Fridays will have an orientation day on Friday, September 1, 2023. All other dance classes, Parents are invited to have a meet and greet with instructors for the first 5 minutes of class on the first day. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions! Department policies, class welcome letters, and other class specific information can be found attached to your classes resources in the parent registration portal.

### **Performances**

All Dance Department students have the opportunity to participate in the end-of-year *Finale* performance in June. Because *Finale* performance preparation is an important part of our students' dance training, it will take place during a portion of class time. We expect students to be fully engaged and ready to work for the duration of every class period.

- *Finale* rehearsal will take place **within the required class** for each Ballet level.
- There are costume fees for dancers in classes that perform in *Finale*. Costume fees are charged in February and must be paid in full before costumes are picked up.
- Tickets are available for purchase online as the performance date draws closer.
- There is a mandatory dress rehearsal at the theater during the week of *Finale*.

Students who miss dress rehearsal will not be permitted to participate in *Finale*.

Dancers ages 8 and up can audition to participate in our Winter Ballet Production. Rehearsals for this production are outside of class time, generally on Fridays and Saturdays. This year our ballet production will be a new work, *Through the Wardrobe*, based on the stories and characters of the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Audition announcements will be coming out soon!

### **Production Help**

Without our volunteers, we would not be able to produce the quality performances that DaySpring is known for. We need your help with painting, sewing, crafting, building, marketing, ushering and more. Anyone who wishes to help out during production time is warmly welcomed, and we will be sure to let you know what needs as they arise!

### **Contact Us**

If you ever have any questions or concerns, we are here to help! Your teachers can be reached through their DaySpring email, the office is readily available to answer questions, and I am happy to speak with you via email, phone call, or in person during my office hours. We greatly appreciate you choosing DaySpring and we look forward to working with your children.

### **Anjali Kroon**

Dance Department Head

anjulikroon@dayspringarts.org

## Policies Specific to Upper Level/ Older Dancers

These policies and standards have been agreed upon by the dance teachers of DaySpring based on their experience in the professional field of performance and instruction. With these elements in place, teachers can confidently work toward the most professional atmosphere and create an intensely productive class period. These standards are meant to be upheld by both the teachers and the students, thereby aiding each individual to work to their fullest capacity for the entirety of class.

### Communication

- We use email as a main form of communication. Be sure to check your inboxes for important info regarding classes, performances, etc. Your teachers are also available through email, all emails are teacher's first and last name followed by @dayspringarts.org. (ex: anjulikroon@dayspringarts.org)
- Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Instagram! Find our pages: *DaySpring Arts & Education*. We post pictures and videos and all kinds of fun links and updates.
- Don't forget about our website, [www.dayspringarts.org](http://www.dayspringarts.org), and the online parent portal. Most information sent via email is also posted there.

### Classical Ballet Program Expectations

The Classical Ballet Program is a pre-professional track program for serious ballet students which requires multiple ballet technique classes per week, as well as Conditioning for Dancers and other dance styles for the upper levels. Dancers in our Classical Ballet Program participate in dance conferences in the late fall, annual exams in the spring to evaluate their progress, and the *Finale* performance in June.

### Attendance Policy (Updated August 2023)

#### Applies to all Ballet 2+ and Contemporary/Jazz/Tap 2+ Students

- Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences during the year.
- Excused absences are
  - Illness or Injury - must have a doctor's note if missing more than one day of classes
  - Practiced Religious and Cultural Holidays - please notify the department head that you will be absent
  - DaySpring Events - Please notify department head of planned absence for DaySpring events
- Tardy - please call to notify the office that you are running late, they will let the teacher know.
  - 3 tardies constitutes 1 unexcused absence
- Students with more than 3 unexcused absences will need to meet with the department head and teachers to discuss options for remaining in their class/level.
- Injury - any student needing to sit out for an injury more than two consecutive days, must have a doctor's note.
  - A doctor's note is also required to return to dancing after a prolonged injury, and must detail any physical restrictions or limitations
  - If needed, please contact the Department Head for Physical Therapist or Orthopedist recommendations

### Student Expectations

- **Attendance:** Consistent attendance is necessary to gain skills in the artistic disciplines--please make it a priority. Attendance and promptness of each student will be monitored and recorded by the teacher. **A student's commitment level is one of the deciding factors in the placement for the following year and casting in our productions.**
- **Tardiness:** We understand that situations can cause a student to be late for class. This is the exception and cannot be accepted as the norm. If a student arrives late, the teacher will determine if they may safely join the class or if they must take notes. All notes will be turned in to the teacher at the end of class. **When possible, please notify the teacher or office if your student will be late or absent.**
- **Missed Classes:** If a student must miss a class, they may attend any other class at or one level below their current level to make up the absence. Be sure to speak with your teacher(s) or Ms. Anjali to arrange permission.
- All phones will be turned off and put away in the dancers' bag during class.
- No student is allowed to leave the class at any time without permission from the teacher.
- All students should bring a water bottle into the studio so as to not disturb the class with exiting and entering for water. There is a water bottle refill station in the dance hallway.
- It is a tradition passed down from many generations to applaud and thank the teacher clearly at the end of each class. Please, respect the art of ballet and the time your teacher has given by carrying on with this tradition.

## Building use for Upper Level Dancers

- Personal belongings and dance bags may be neatly stowed in the cubbies. If you prefer to keep your belongings with you in the studio, they must be contained in a small bag and placed out of the way for the duration of class.
- DO use any free studio to warm up before class or rehearsal. However, the studios are specifically for warming up, not for simply “hanging out” (warming up is a quiet, focused activity).
- DO ask the office or contact the Dance Department Head if you would like to use a studio for a prolonged period of time (30 minutes or more) to work on choreography or some other piece you are presenting at DaySpring or elsewhere. We are happy to accommodate these requests if the space is available.
- DO NOT wander throughout the building before or after class/rehearsal. Remain in the dance wing or the main lobby (there should never be dancers going back into the shop without an adult). This ensures everyone is safe.

## Dress Code

The dress code leotard for ballet is available in the office. It is Capezio CC202 (black) for Ballet 1 and above. Dancers in Ballet 4 and up may wear any solid black leotard for class (however, you must still have the dress code leotard for use during exams, observation days, and for use during performances).

**Hair** - Should be pulled back in a tidy bun, twist, or braids for ballet. In a secure ponytail for jazz, tap, and contemporary modern. Shorter hair should be secured out of the eyes/face.

- Hair accessories and jewelry should be minimal. Teachers have the authority to ask a student to remove any accessory that they deem distracting to dance training.
- Please make sure all watch alarms/notifications are off during class.
- Warm-ups are allowed only with the teacher's permission.
- Dancers may (but are not required to) choose flesh-tone tights and ballet shoes in place of pink. Ballet, tap, and jazz shoes, tights and other dancewear may be purchased at any dance supply store (we recommend St. Louis Dancewear, 9644 Olive Blvd, Olivette, MO 63132, (314) 733-5678)
- We do have a limited number of dancewear items and used shoes for sale at DaySpring's Front Desk

## Ballet Classes

- **Option 1:** Black leotard, pink or flesh-tone seamed tights worn under the leotard and over the feet. Pink or flesh-tone ballet shoes with elastics properly sewn, pointe shoes properly sewn and tied.
  - Undergarments: A flesh-tone camisole leotard may be worn under the black leotard if desired
- **Option 2:** Opaque black ballet tights (footed or footless with black socks), white fitted shirt, black ballet shoes.
  - Undergarments: Males age 10 and older should wear a dance belt under their black tights.
- **Pointe** - A short dance skirt if permitted by the instructor.

## Jazz, Tap, Contemporary Modern Classes

- Any style solid color leotard or fitted top
- Black tights, leggings, jazz pants, or above-knee shorts, optional solid colored socks
- Shoes
  - Jazz: black jazz shoes
  - Tap: Black tap shoes with full sole and hard shank
  - Contemporary Modern: barefoot

**\*\*Please see Calendar of Dance Department events/dates on the following page\*\***

## DaySpring Dance Department

*Important Dates, 2023-24 Season \*all dates subject to change*

Month	Date	Event
September	1st	Enrichment Orientation
	5th	Classes Begin, start of 1st quarter
	TBA	Winter Ballet Auditions
October	26th	Ballet conferences (for Ballet 2+ Dancers)
November	21st-26th	Fall Break - No Classes
December	21st-Jan 3rd	Winter Break - No Classes
January	4th	Classes Resume
	15th	No Classes - MLK Day
	22nd-25th	Winter Ballet Tech Week - Evening class schedule may be adjusted
	26th-28th	Winter Ballet Production
February	1st	Finale Costume Fees Due
	12th-17th	Observation Week
March	25th-31st	Spring Break - No Classes
April	15th	Ballet 2 and Ballet 3 Exams - No Monday Classes
	18th	Ballet 4 and 5 Exams - No Thursday Classes
May	TBA	Finale Pictures
	25th	Last Day of Classes
June	31st	Finale Dress Rehearsals
	1st	Finale Performances