**DaySpring Arts & Education** 

**Dance Department - Young Dancers, 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**

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!

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.

* 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*.

**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.

Anjuli Kroon

Dance Department Head

anjulikroon@dayspringarts.org

**Policies Specific to the Young Dancers’ Program**

There is so much to learn and gain from weekly lessons in dance and much fun to be had! The Young Dancers’ Program at DaySpring includes classes for students aged 3-10 years, including Creative Movement, PreBallet & Tap, Beginning Ballet, Ballet 1, Beginning Tap & Jazz, and Beginning Contemporary Modern.

**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. The personal address for each teacher is the 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.

**Friendly Reminders**

* Be sure to read over the DaySpring General Policies sheet so you are fully informed.
* We ask that you strive to ensure that your child is dressed properly (in dress code) for dance class and that hair is neatly pulled back: either in a bun, ponytail, or braids. Please, avoid distracting jewelry.
* Do not send your child into class until the teacher has opened the studio door and invited them in. If you arrive after class has started, you may open the door and send your child into the room.
* If you are not outside of the studio when the class is dismissed, your child will wait at the front desk.

**Dress Code**

Please, note the dress code for your child's level below. 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

* **Creative Movement, PreBallet & Tap, Beginning Ballet**
  + Option 1
    - Blue dance dress or leotard and skirt
    - pink or flesh-tone tights or thin white socks
    - pink or flesh-tone ballet shoes
  + Option 2
    - Black above-knee shorts and fitted white t-shirt
    - black ballet shoes and black socks
* **Ballet 1**
  + Option 1
    - Black leotard
    - pink or flesh-tone tights and matching ballet shoes
  + Option 2
    - Black above-knee shorts and fitted white t-shirt
    - black ballet shoes and black socks
* **Beginning Tap & Jazz, and Beginning Contemporary Modern**
  + Solid color leotard or fitted athletic top
  + Black fitted shorts or pants; leggings; or tights (if leotard is worn).
  + Solid color socks (optional)
  + Shoes
    - Tap: black tap shoes
    - Jazz: black jazz shoes
    - Contemporary Modern: bare feet
* **ALL DANCERS**
  + No dangling jewelry, excessive or distracting accessories, or gum
  + Hair secured away from the face. For example: bun, pony tail, or braids

**DaySpring Dance Department**

*Important Dates, 2023-24 Season*

| **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 |
|  | \*date(s) subject to change | |