

the Dance Factory

November 2018 Newsletter

~~ Please keep this newsletter in a safe place. It contains important information. ~~

Dear Dance Factory Dancers,

We are excited to share our love of dance and performing for the 17th year in Montgomery Township and we are so happy you are part of The Dance Factory family! Our students are doing a wonderful job and it is great to see so many smiling faces in our classes and our studios.

This newsletter contains important information about upcoming events this year. Please be sure to read and hold on to this packet as we have many events coming up.



Theme Reveal Event 11/17/18

Important Recital Dates (Dress Rehearsal and Recital are held at the Patriots Theater, Trenton War Memorial. Information and Schedule will be posted in April.):

**~Dress Rehearsal Week: June 4th thru 7th
~2019 Recital (Saturday): June 8th**

Dance Factory Calendar 2018-2019

Holiday Observation:	Thursday Dec. 13 th – Wednesday Dec. 19 th (During regular class time)
STUDIO CLOSED:	Dec. 20 th – Jan. 1 st Happy Holidays!! (Classes resume January 2 nd)
Showstopper Auditions*:	January 6 th 3pm (Details will be available in mid-December)
Tour Team Auditions:	January 6 th 3pm (Details will be available in mid-December)
Dancer Progress Reports	For Dancers in 1 st grade & older (Tap, Ballet, Jazz only) – Spring 2019
STUDIO CLOSED:	April 19 th – April 23 rd Happy Spring!! (Classes resume April 24 th)
Picture Day:	Sunday, May 19 th
STUDIO CLOSED:	Monday, May 27 th for Memorial Day (no regular classes)
Dress Rehearsal (at Patriots Theater):	June 4 th – June 7 th (no regular classes at the studio this week)
Recital:	Saturday, June 8 th
Last week of classes:	June 10 th – 15 th
Placement Recommendations:	Friday, June 14 th
Registration for 2019-2020:	Monday, June 17 th 8am-11am and 5-7pm - Returning Students Only!

~Any missed classes can be made up at your convenience in any comparable class~

~~Holiday Observation~~ At the Studio during regular class time - December 13th – 19th

Parents are invited into the classroom to view their dancer's progress. The dancers work very hard to prepare for this day, please be generous with your applause and don't forget your camera! This will be a fun day for everyone so please try to attend. **Please bring toiletry items for donation to the Montgomery Township Food Pantry to the studio this week: Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Deodorant, Hand Lotion, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, etc.... Thank you.**

NO MAKE-UP CLASSES ARE ALLOWED DURING OBSERVATION WEEK!!!

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~~Studio and Waiting Room Reminders~~

Please respect our rules to ensure all dancers receive the attention and instruction our teachers and assistants strive to provide.

Drop off/Pickup

- **Children under the age of 12 years old must always be accompanied by a parent in the waiting room.**
- Children should not be left unattended in the waiting room area. Parents should come in to the waiting room to pick up dancers.
- Please do not drop off a child under 12 years old to enter the studio alone.
- Please be prompt when picking your dancer up from class.
- Dancers must wait inside the studio. Dancers may not wait on the sidewalks outside of the studio.
- **Please do not park in the handicap spaces or the handicap zone.**

Dance Class

- Please do not open the dance room door while class is in progress. If you are late, please send your child into class fully dressed wearing the appropriate shoes. Do not change in the doorway of the studio.
- **Please do not try to talk to our teachers during class time.** If you need to talk with an instructor, please call the studio to set up a time, send an email, or have your dancer give the teacher a written note with the best time to contact you.
- Dancers should ALWAYS follow the class attire requirements.

Waiting Room

- Please store all dance bags, shoes, and coats on or below the hooks provided on the waiting room wall.
- Please do not clutter the chairs or tables. The tables are provided for children to do homework or to color or read quietly.
- Please respect the belongings of others.
- **No food or drink in the waiting room or the studio except water bottles.** (We have dancers with food allergies.)

Studio Cameras & Waiting Room Monitors

- **The studio camera is only turned on for select parts of dance class at the instructor's discretion. Please do not interrupt class to ask that the camera be turned on.** This is disruptive for the teacher and a distraction for the dancers in the class.
[Note: Some teachers of younger students keep the camera on for the entire time during the first week or two of class in September. After that the camera is only turned on to provide parents in the waiting room a sneak peek.]

Health & Safety

Please help us promote a healthy dance atmosphere and keep everyone healthy.

- Please keep your child at home if they are sick. This includes colds and flu or any other communicable illness such as strep, chicken pox or head lice.
- Please—no running, climbing, tumbling, hiding on or under the chairs, tables, walls, racks or furniture in the studio or waiting room.

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Social Media & Dance Factory Logo/Graphic Use

We encourage our dancers and parents to visit our official Dance Factory Facebook and Instagram (@thedancefactoryinsta) pages often and to like our posts, photos and videos. We know our dancers like to post photos and short videos on their personal Instagram and/or Facebook pages. We love to see photos of our students dancing or out with dance friends and we enjoy reading the posts.

However, creating pages using the Dance Factory name, logo, or graphics in any way is not permitted and is very misleading. Use of the Dance Factory name, or any logo or graphic design, on anything (attire, phone cases, dance bags, social media, websites, etc.), is strictly prohibited. We ask that if you are hosting an account or if you know someone hosting an account that looks like "The Dance Factory", please take it down. If you are using the Dance Factory name or any DF logo or DF graphic design element, please discontinue use immediately. This is very important to us. We don't want to report use of our name, logo or graphics and we don't want to contact Instagram, Facebook, or other social media outlets, but we must protect our brand and we will report use if permission was not explicitly granted.

Thank you for your support.

~~Class Attire~~

All dancers are expected to adhere to the dress code (**found on our website**). **This includes hair, shoes and attire.**

Young Dancer Program (up to Kindergarten):

Hair: Hair must be worn in a ponytail or bun and off the face.

Girls Attire: Solid light pink leotard and tights, pink leather ballet shoes for ballet, jazz and tumbling, black patent tap shoes for tap. Solid light pink skirt or tutu is permitted.

Boys Attire: Black shorts, sweatpants, bike shorts, solid white T-shirt or turtleneck, black leather ballet shoes, black tap shoes or black jazz shoes.

Beginner Dancer and Up (1st Grade & up):

Ballet Hair: Hair must be worn in a bun and off the face. (Ballet Bun instructions are on website.)

Ballet Attire: Solid black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes. For Barre, no skirts or booty shorts.

Hair (non-Ballet): Hair should be worn in a high ponytail or bun and off the face.

Jazz: Solid black leotard, unitard, or bike unitard; tan, black or pink tights; tan split-sole jazz shoes. Black leggings or jazz pants are permitted.

Tap: Same as jazz attire; Dolly Character tan tap shoe. Some advanced tap classes may require flat black, split sole tap shoes.

Funk*: Comfortable pants/sweatpants, T-shirts, shorts, sneakers. Add a funky hat or accessory.

**Special sneakers may be required for the recital.*

Modern: Same as jazz attire, bare feet.

Lyrical: Same as jazz attire, bare feet.

Contemporary: Same as jazz attire, bare feet.

Boys Only Classes

Comfortable pants, sweatpants, shorts, T-shirts, sneakers or jazz shoes.

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~~The Dance Factory Online Store~~ is open for business!

Order many specialty Dance Factory Apparel items for your favorite dancer or family member. Personalization available for many items!

Store Link: <http://teamstore.gtmsportswear.com/dancef> or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.



~~Auditions~~ For the Showstopper Dance Company* and Summer Tour Teams

Auditions will be held on Sunday, January 6th. Auditions will start at 3pm. More details and Signup information will be provided before the December break.

*Dancers must be, in good standing, in the Intensive Dance Program to audition for the Showstopper Dance Company.

~~Performance Opportunities~~

Our dance programs are performance-based rather than competition-based. In addition to our holiday observation programs in December and our recital in June, we continue to offer many additional opportunities for our dancers to perform including The Dance Factory Summer Tour Team and Montgomery Township Fireworks. The Showstopper Dance Company teams will perform in the Annual Recital.

The Dance Factory Tour Team is group of Jazz dancers in 4th grade and up that rehearses and performs during the summer months and in December for the holidays. We offer two summer opportunities and one December opportunity. Our Summer Teams rehearse for one week and perform at local Nursing Homes, the VA Hospital, and at a Somerset Patriots Game! In December we perform at local Nursing homes and the VA hospital. Dancers must audition or be recommended by an instructor.

The Showstopper Dance Company is a team of high-caliber, well-respected performers from the Dance Factory Intensive Program. Showstoppers perform in all recital shows! We will hold auditions on the afternoon of January 6, 2019. Dancers may audition for more than 1 team. If after the audition a dancer is invited, they may participate in more than 1 team.

~~Progress Reports~~ For 1st grade and older -- Jazz, Tap, & Ballet only

At the Dance Factory, each class is based on an age and level appropriate curriculum. In April, our instructors will complete an evaluation of all students based on each dancer's mastery of the skills. A personalized progress report will be prepared and provided to students in early May. We believe this tool will help dancers better understand their progress in class while identifying areas that need more focus and improvement.

Note: Pre-School and Kindergarten Classes are not evaluated.

~~Dedication Awards~~

Congratulations to all of our dancers that have been dancing with us for three or more years! Dancers who have been with us for 5 years receive a trophy! Dancers who have been with us for three years will receive a medal this year! Keep on dancing! Additionally, when you have been dancing with us for 8, 10, 12 and 15 years you receive a dedication award!

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~~The Dance Factory Recital 2019~~

The finale for our dance season will culminate with our end of the year recital. Dance is a performing art and the recital gives the dancer the opportunity to show off their year of hard work. The Recital will be held on Saturday, June 8th at the Trenton War Memorial Patriots Theater. Dress Rehearsal at the Theater is June 4th – June 7th. Preparations are underway and details on the Recital, Rehearsals and the upcoming schedule of events will be available soon.

~~Costume/Recital Fee~~

We want to keep the costs of this program as straight forward as possible. **The costume/recital fee is \$150 per dance class.** The costume/recital fee includes a costume with accessories, five (5) recital tickets and the show programs. It also covers your portion of the stage rental, insurance, sound and light effects, scenery, backstage help, props and music. *If you will not be participating in the recital, you must let us know, in writing, by Dec. 20th.*

HALF OF THE RECITAL FEE IS DUE NOW. This is non-refundable. The costume companies will not allow us to cancel orders after they have been placed and processed. The second half of the Recital Fee is due by February 1st.

All accounts are automatically charged a Recital Fee per class, unless you notify us in writing prior to December 20th that your dancer is not participating.

Other than appropriate recital tights and dance shoes, you should not have any other expenses. Each class will perform one dance and need only one costume. For Pre-school and Kindergarten classes the teacher will decide which style is performed based on class ability. All accounts must be paid in full to receive your costume.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Keep Dancing!

Love,

Miss Kelly