Dance Academy Class Information

Thank you for choosing the Glen Ellyn Park District Dance Academy for your child’s dance programming. We are looking forward to a great session of class! We hope that you will find the following information helpful to ensure your child enjoys his/her time in their classes ahead.

Class Procedure

- Students should arrive for class a least five minutes early and wait for the instructor to open the door and call their name.
- Parents are to wait outside of the classroom while their student dances. Assure them that you are right outside watching through the window and/or waiting for them. **(This does not apply to Parent/Tot classes.)**
- Parents should take their child to the restroom before each class. If your child needs to go during class, the teacher will come out and tell you, then you will need to take them to the washroom and return them to class.
- At the end of class, the instructor will open the door and release the students to their parents.

Classroom Discipline Procedure

Occasionally we may have a disciplinary problem with a dancer. Almost always a word or two from the instructors corrects the behavior. However, when verbal comments have not stopped the misbehavior, the following disciplinary actions are in place to provide the framework for the instructors to deal with the inappropriate behavior.

A positive approach will be used regarding discipline. Staff will periodically review the rules with participants. The Park District reserves the right to dismiss a participant whose behavior endangers the safety of the instructor or participants or negatively impacts the recreation experience of the other participants.

Basic disciplinary action includes:

- Instructor will give a verbal warning.
- Instructor will give dancer three chances to correct the behavior.
- Once the 3rd change has been given, the dancer will sit in a time out and will not receive a stamp or sticker at the end of class. The parent will be notified by the instructor of the behavior.
- If the inappropriate behavior continues, the child may be asked to leave the class.

Parent Observation Week

The last week of every session will be Parent Observation Week. Parents and family are welcome to sit and watch the last class of the session. We ask that you refrain from being disruptive or calling out to your students, as this may distract the other dancers.
Emergency Cancellations & Announcements
In the event that your instructor is sick and a sub is unable to fill in, participants will be contacted via e-mail and by phone to notify them of the class cancellation. Whenever possible a make-up date will be assigned. If a make-up class is unable to be scheduled, participants will be refunded for the missed week of class.

Tiny Tot & Creative Movement Classes
It is normal for a child to be hesitant when entering a new environment. Your child will be fine once class begins. If you experience difficulty bringing your child to class or into the classroom after two or more classes it is encouraged that you speak to your child’s instructor to work on what may help them feel more comfortable. If this continues for more that 3-4 weeks, you may want to consider withdrawing from the current session and trying again in a later session. It is best not to force a young dancer to participate.

- Be prepared to assist in correcting your child’s behavior if it is an unreasonable distraction to the class and the teacher needs help. Do not step in unless the teacher requests you do so.
- Keep in mind that each day will be different for the young dancer. Be patient with your child and don’t have unrealistic expectations for them. Let them enjoy!
- It may be difficult for some students to separate from their parents before the class, but this should be an easier process as the session progresses.

Grooming/Dancewear Attire
Dancers are expected to come to class in appropriate dance attire. No jeans, dresses, sandals or street shoes are allowed. All dancers must wear dance shoes to class. Black jazz shoes are required for jazz/hip hop. Black tap shoes are required for all tap and combination classes. Pink ballet shoes are required for all ballet, lyrical and pre-ballet classes. Long hair should be pulled back away from the face.

Dance attire and shoes can be purchased through the park district or found at a local store such as Target. If interested, please speak with your dance instructor.

Please make sure your dancer’s laces are tied and either double knotted, tucked into their shoes, or trimmed of the excess laces before they begin class. Girls should have their hair pulled back and out of their face.

Teaching Staff
Our teachers come from all different backgrounds and training within the dance world, but they all share a common desire to teach dance and to teach it well. They are happy to discuss any problems or concerns and answer questions for you before or after class. You can also contact the Recreation Supervisor, Taylor Stirmell, at (630) 942-7264 or via e-mail at tstirmell@gepark.org.