

Welcome to Dance Expressions!
Our mission is to inspire
a life-long love of dance in a nurturing environment.

www.danceexpressionsinc.com

dance@danceexpressionsinc.com

Dance Expressions provides our dancers with a complete dance education emphasizing technique and artistry, not just choreography. Students will learn body awareness, correct alignment, quality of movement, and classical dance terminology. Classes will always include proper warm-ups and progression of movement, thus promoting a healthy dancer and protecting them from injury.

Studio Vision

We believe dance will not only teach your child movement and music appreciation, but will also help them develop poise, confidence, and discipline. We strive to instill the values of hard work and commitment through the art of dance. Our hope is that these life-long principles will shine in our students' dancing as well as in their everyday lives.

PROGRAMS & PLACEMENT

Dancers deserve a proper dance education regardless of their future intentions.

All of our classes are professionally designed from a unified curriculum to be age and level appropriate, ensuring dancers learn proper technique in all disciplines with their long-term goals in mind.

We have structured our program and teach in a manner so that all of our dancers will be equipped with a quality education they can use however they desire in the future. Dancers progress through program levels according to their age, ability, experience, technical proficiency, and work ethic. Our goal is to place students in the most appropriate class for their needs. Based on the goals of the individual student we will tailor a schedule of training that is most appropriate. Teachers continually evaluate their dancers' progress and placement. If changes need to be made to your dancer's program, you will be notified. The more serious dancer should take as many technique classes as possible, including lower level classes as they give the dancer an opportunity to practice the basics and strengthen their foundation. It can be detrimental to a dancer's training to be in a class above their ability level. Dancers need to be able to physically execute movements properly to avoid creating bad habits, or worse, causing injury. To ensure every dancer receives a quality dance education, all of our classes teach the proper technique for each discipline, whether the dancer's intentions are recreational, or if they have professional goals. Some dancers may start out with a recreational mindset; then, as they mature, they may become more passionate about their dance training.

PROGRAM DETAILS

We offer classes in ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, modern, and hip hop. *Details regarding our class offerings, levels and how dancers progress through our curriculum can be found on our website.*

Our ballet program is based in the foundations of the Cecchetti Method. We offer Cecchetti syllabus classes as well as non-syllabus classes. Non-syllabus classes incorporate material from additional ballet methods. Our syllabus and non-syllabus classes compliment and support each other to give the dancers a well-rounded ballet education. Ballet students are invited by their teachers to dance on pointe once they have met our pointe requirements. *Pointe requirements are posted in our lobby and are available upon request.*

Our performing company is designed to provide passionate and highly committed dancers with more performing and training opportunities. Our company dancers perform in community events, benefit concerts, and competitions. Company dancers enhance their training by attending several workshops each year with professional dancers and master teachers. As our students grow in their dance training and demonstrate mastery in their technique, they are either invited to participate, or given the opportunity to audition for our performing company. Company members maintain a rigorous schedule of classes in addition to company rehearsals. Dancers must be dedicated to their core classes, disciplined in their training, and willing to make the additional commitments. All of these experiences not only add to their training, but will also create memories to last a lifetime. *Details regarding specific company requirements are posted in our lobby and are available upon request.*

ATTENDANCE & TRAINING

Prompt and regular attendance is essential to a student's dance progress and training. Parents can help their dancer be successful by bringing them to class regularly and ten minutes prior to the start time. As in any physical activity, repetition and consistency are key components to safe training. Missing class or arriving late means missing important warm-ups, technique work, and choreography.

Please call or email the studio if your child is going to miss a class. If your child has to miss class for illness, they may attend a comparable class to make it up. Make-up classes must be taken prior to May 1st during our regular season. If you encounter scheduling conflicts during the year, please alert us, so we may offer class alternatives for you.

Dancers who miss classes consecutively prior to a performance may be excluded from the performance.

DRESS CODE

Class requirements are posted on our website: www.danceexpressionsinc.com.

Dressing properly and appropriately for class is part of the discipline required for dance.

Specific requirements per class are addressed in our program guide on our website.

Leotards, tights, & shoes can be purchased through the studio's online store.

- **Combo classes:** leotard and tights / Capezio or Revolution Daisy pink ballet shoes & Capezio or Revolution Mary Jane tap shoes in Caramel. Dancers must all have the same shoes for the recital.
- **Ballet:** black leotards and pink tights – hair in bun / pink leather or canvas ballet shoes (not slippers) **or** black leotard and flesh tone ballet shoes and tights. Tights should match the shoe color.
- **Pointe:** Pointe shoes should only be purchased and worn with teacher recommendation. Do not purchase pointe shoes without prior consent from a ballet teacher. Do not sew pointe shoes prior to teacher approval.
- **Modern:** leotard and footless/convertible tights – hair pulled up / bare feet
- **Jazz:** leotard and tights – stretch black jazz shorts are acceptable / slip on jazz shoes
- **Tap:** leotard and tights: combination classes – caramel, Mary Jane style, teen classes – hard sole oxfords
- **Hip Hop:** stretch dance clothing (no jeans or zippers) / sneakers that are only used for class
- Hair should always be secured up and away from the face for all classes.
- **Boys** should wear a fitted white t-shirt and long black shorts or fitted black dance pants.

Absolutely no baggy shirts or pants are allowed to be worn in class. Students who do not comply with our



dress code will be given a warning. **If a student continually dresses inappropriately they will be asked to sit out or will need to borrow a studio issued leotard and pair of tights.** Parents are responsible for making sure their dancer is prepared with the proper attire for class.

While not endorsing any merchant, we do recommend getting pointe shoes from the following companies.

Dance Supplies, Etc Severna Park, MD / **Footlights** - Silver Spring, MD

CONFERENCES

If at any time you have questions or wish to talk with any of us regarding your child please call the studio (301-249-7430) or email us at dance@danceexpressionsinc.com. We will be happy to talk with you. *Our classes run back-to-back; therefore, teachers are not available for discussion during class or between classes.*

FEES & PAYMENTS

Program fees are broken into convenient monthly payments – monthly fees remain the same whether the month is 3 weeks long or 5 weeks long. Tuition payments are due by the first class of each month. There are only two additional fees charged through the year: Costume fees & Recital fees as detailed in later sections.

- Pay by check: Make it payable to Dance Expressions and include your child's name on the check. **(This is especially important if your last name differs from your child's).**
- Pay by cash: We will provide you with a receipt.
- We also accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover & Apple Pay.
- Payments can be made online through your dancer's account or in the studio. Automatic payments can be easily set up to avoid late fees.
- Or mail payments to **507 Commerce Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774.**
- If you have any billing questions you may email the studio at dance@danceexpressionsinc.com, or speak with anyone in our office.

LATE FEES

Any invoice 30 days past due will incur a \$ 30 late fee. Late fees will continue to accrue until the bill is paid or payment arrangements have been made with our office. It is essential to the operation of the studio that payments are made on time. Payment arrangement forms are available at our reception desk.

- ***Tuition/Fees are the same September through June and are based on a yearly program.***
- ***Any payment arrangements other than those outlined above must be made by contacting the office. A payment agreement form must be filed with our office.***
- ***Late fees will accrue if alternate arrangements are not made.***

Registration fees are non – refundable

ALL FEES INCLUDING JUNE TUITION MUST BE PAID TO DATE BEFORE THE RECITAL.

Delinquent accounts will be charged additional late fees.

If a dancer's account becomes 45 days delinquent without a payment plan in place, they will not be permitted to participate in class until a payment or an agreed upon payment plan has been made.

Failure to make payments may result in the account being sent to collections.

There will be no refunds made: If your child misses a class, they may make up the class (the office or your child's teacher will assist in this). If we cancel a class due to teacher illness, we will arrange a make-up time. All make-up classes must be taken no later than May 1st.

RETURNED CHECKS

There will be a \$30 charge for returned checks. (This fee is based on MD State Law 3-512). Anyone having two or more checks returned for insufficient funds will be asked to pay in cash or by money order.

Checks cannot be re-deposited.

CLASS CANCELLATION

The directors and/or teachers reserve the right to cancel any class due to insufficient enrollment. We will do all we can to conveniently reschedule your child.

DROPPING A CLASS

This MUST be communicated in writing and sent to our office (not the teachers). Billing will continue until notification is received. Please remember that class space has been reserved for your child. Accounts are due in full upon unenrolling in the studio.

LATE PICK UP

It is very important that you pick up your child promptly after class, especially if it is the last class of the day. If any Dance Expressions employee must care for your child after their class, there will be a \$15.00 service fee for the first 15 minutes and a \$10 fee for every 15 minutes after that. This will be paid directly to the staff member caring for your child. You will be sent a bill for this service.

If you have an emergency and are running late for any reason please call the studio.

DANCER ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Please keep your information current – **especially phone numbers and email addresses.** We will be sending all information to you via email.

CLASS OBSERVATION: Parents are invited to observe classes via Zoom, once in the fall and again in the spring. There will be a notice emailed with the specific dates. We do not allow parents to observe weekly classes. Parents can drop off dancers and return for pick up.

LOST AND FOUND: Unclaimed clothing, shoes, etc. will be placed in a box in the lobby. At the end of the year anything that is not claimed will be given to charity. **Please note: Students should have their names on all of their clothing and especially their dance shoes. Students should carry their dance shoes, etc. in a bag to class.**

STUDIO CLOSINGS: There may be times we need to close the studio due to inclement weather. We will send email notifications of our status. We will also post on Instagram and Facebook. Call the studio (301-249-7430) if you have any doubts. There will be a message on our voice mail.

If schools close early for any reason other than the weather, call the studio for our status.

- **Morning Classes:** If Prince George's County schools are closed due to inclement weather, morning classes will be canceled. In the case of delayed openings, morning classes will also be canceled.
- **Afternoon and Evening Classes:** If schools are closed due to inclement weather, please call the studio for afternoon and evening class information. If the weather clears later in the day, we may be open. If schools cancel after-school activities due to weather, we will also be closed.
- **Saturday Classes:** If school activities are canceled due to weather, or there is a question with the weather, please call the studio for class status.

- **Please note:** Because of the number of students we have enrolled in the studio, you will not be called, but we will send emails concerning the affected classes. We will also have information on our voicemail and social media. We will offer make-up classes after the third weather closing for your class.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Labor Day

Thanksgiving Weekend: Wed. – Sun.

Winter Break: Dec. 24th – Jan. 1st

Spring Break: Easter Weekend Fri - Mon

Memorial Day

(we are open most Monday holidays)

RECITAL INFORMATION

At the end of each dance year, we have a recital mid to late June. Tentative dates – June 12 - 15 2024.

To help cover the facility rental we charge a recital fee per family.

Recital fees are due by March 15th

With your paid recital fee you will receive a coupon for 2 tickets to one of our shows.

\$120 per family with one student

\$150 per family with two or more siblings

The recital fee is non-refundable after April 1st. If your child will not be participating in the recital, please notify the office in writing as soon as possible before April 1st. It is extremely important that you let us know if your child will not be participating in the recital since it affects the choreography and, ultimately, the other students in their class.

Additional tickets can be purchased at a reasonable cost.

Each class will be assigned a performance show.

Dancers that take multiple classes may be assigned performances in multiple shows.

TECH REHEARSAL

We have a **mandatory** Technical Rehearsal to prepare students for our performances. The rehearsal gives students and parents the opportunity to become familiar with the theater and allows for lighting and stage design.

COSTUMES

We begin purchasing costumes for our annual recital in November and therefore must begin collecting fees to cover this. Tights & accessories will be included with the costume. A costume **down payment** of \$70 per costume is **due by October 15th**. Most classes will require more than one costume. Balances will be due at time of delivery (usually during April). Costume down payments for each class will be posted in the lobby before October 15th.

Example: If your child is in one class, but will need separate costumes for tap and jazz, a \$140 down payment will be needed. If your child is in a ballet class and a modern class, a \$140 down payment is



needed.

There may be times when a costume will need some alterations. There will be a minimal fee, if done by our seamstress.

Payments are non-refundable after the costume is ordered. If for some reason you wish **not** to have us order a costume for your child, **you must notify us before November 1st in writing.** If you do not notify us, you will be responsible for the full cost of the costume. Costumes cannot be cancelled once orders are processed.

ALL TUITION AND RECITAL FEES MUST BE PAID BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR COSTUME IN THE SPRING.

SPECIAL REHEARSALS

There may be times when the students will be asked to come in for an extra rehearsal for a performance or recital. There will be a small fee charged to compensate the teacher.

NOTE: We work very hard to keep you notified of all studio events that involve your child. We will communicate primarily through email. Please notify us if you don't have access to email. We will post information in the lobby and also on our website. Please keep your information current on your studio account.

***Thank you for being part of our dance family.
If you have questions please contact us.***

www.danceexpressionsinc.com

(301) 249-7430

dance@danceexpressionsinc.com