

American Dance Academy

2021 Recital Handbook

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

For over two decades, the American Dance Academy has been providing students with an exciting opportunity to expand their dance training and perform in a professionally run show-the recital. Many of you may remember these images from your own childhood. It's a rite of passage for thousands of youngsters, a chance to shine in front of family and friends that they anticipate with nervous excitement.

A big part of the dance training process includes learning through performance. The experience helps to build self-esteem, self-assurance and contributes to a sense of confidence. Performance opportunities also contribute to success in various aspects of a child's non-dance activities, including better in-school presentations, better social skills, stronger interview skills for future college or job opportunities, and preparation for a possible professional performing career.

The choreography process is a tremendous learning experience as well. It helps the child develop retention skills, and working with classmates to create a group performance sets the example of the positive aspects of working as a team to create the best end result.

The recital offers our students and their families a professionally directed performance allowing our students the opportunity to present the results of an entire year's hard work, dedication and progress. We strive to make our show entertaining for everyone.

Dedication to the recital commitments is the responsibility of both our students and their parents. We've created the American Dance Academy Recital Handbook to offer our dancers and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the Annual Recital, our school and your child's classmates.

RECITAL UPDATES

As the season progresses, additional recital information or updates will be posted in our online newsletters which are always posted on our website under the Studio News page link. Make it your responsibility to keep abreast of this very important information. It is our goal to make the recital experience organized and exciting for all involved. The annual recital is truly a team effort; students, their parents, the teachers and the director are key players in the success of the show. Please make it a priority to keep updated with the latest information.

COSTUMES

Many hours are spent determining the correct costumes for each class. They are always age appropriate and of the highest quality we can find that relates with the recital song. PS 1, PS 2, HH 5-7, Child, Elem 1, Elem 2, Jazz 1 and Jazz 2 will need one costume. Level 1 through Level 4 will need a costume for Ballet, Tap and Jazz. All Pointe, Lyrical and Hip Hop classes will need a costume. All open classes and Acro Dance classes are technique only classes for the entire year, and will not purchase costumes as they will not work on choreography.

***Payments** In an effort to insure costume delivery for school photographs and an organized distribution to our students, the American Dance Academy places orders during December. Costume manufacturers begin their production process as soon as the order and payment are received. They do not accept cancellations or offer refunds; therefore the American Dance Academy does not offer any refunds for the costumes. All costumes must be paid in full (or have a payment program in effect) prior to the orders being placed or your order will not be processed. In such a case, parents would accept full responsibility for all expenses, including surcharges and postage for costumes that are ordered late. The American Dance Academy does not take responsibility if the costume company inventory cannot deliver a late order in time for the recital.

***Sizing** Costume measuring will be during the regularly scheduled class time on the first class in November. Each child's measurements will be individually calculated by Miss Darlene to determine the proper size(s) to be ordered.

***Alterations** Although rare, if adjustments must be made, once the costume is distributed, the expense of alterations will be the sole responsibility of the student's parent or guardian. Costumes that have been cut wrong, have a defect, or cannot easily be altered must be reported within one week of distribution.

***Distribution** All costumes will be distributed in March if tuition up to that point is paid in full.

***Withdrawal** If a parent or guardian withdraws their child from the school anytime after the costumes have been ordered and prior to the recital they will not receive a refund for costume payments. Parents or guardians may pick up their paid costume (at the studio) at the time of general costume distribution and up to the recital. Costumes not picked up 15 days after the season will be donated to the school summer camp programs.

***Costume Expense** The due date for costume payment is November 15th. If payment is not received by our original order, there will be a minimum of \$10 per costume charge for additional shipping and handling fees. The cost of costumes will be \$70 for all PS 1, 2, Child, and HH 5-7, \$80 for all Elem 1, 2 (1 ballet OR tap & 1 jazz), and HH 8-12, \$90 for all Level classes (1 ballet, 1 tap, 1 jazz and 1 pointe) and all Pom & HH Ages 12 and up. Costume accessories, such as head pieces, gloves, etc are included in the cost of the costume. Tights and shoes are not included. They can be purchased at the studio or from a dance shop.

***Costume Care** The American Dance Academy recommends that your child's name be placed in all costumes, shoes, accessories and tights. Place all costumes in a garment bag with your child's name on the outside. Pack accessories in a clear plastic bag with your child's name on the bag and on the individual accessories. Hats should be stored in a container to prevent damage. Please do not clean costumes in your washing machine, dry-clean only (after the recital). If wrinkles are apparent, you may

place the costume on a hanger in a steamy bathroom. Do not iron.

***Tights & Shoes** To insure no discrepancies in the color and shade of tights, students are required to have specific Capezio brand tights. These capezio tights are available at the studio or from the dance wear stores. Be sure to purchase the correct brand, color and style. Note: having a second pair of “back-up” tights can offer a great sense of security for the student and the parent/guardian. The color of tights and type of shoes will be put in the direction sheet for all costumes. If a child's shoes are to be spray painted to match the costume better, and is different from the required style, it will be listed on the direction sheet and collected and sprayed by The American Dance Academy.

DRY RUN

This rehearsal is broken into 1/2 hr intervals between the hours of 4:30-8:30 pm and our staff tries their best to run accordingly. Students report to the auditorium in pink tights, black leotard and the proper shoes. Boys will wear their white shirts and black pants. Level 1-4 classes will wear their suntan tights HH dancers wear regular HH attire. **COSTUMES ARE NOT TO BE WORN ON THE DRY RUN.** Every child must have a responsible adult to accompany them.

DRESS REHEARSAL

THIS REHEARSAL WILL BE CLOSED TO OBSERVERS except for those wearing wrist bands (see info below). The dress rehearsal offers your child the opportunity to become familiar with the theatre surroundings and become comfortable in their performance, costume and the stage. It offers your child's teachers and the school director the opportunity to be sure your child makes the best possible impression. Lighting, music cues, and all other logistics for an organized and professional performance are rehearsed.

We run an organized and timely dress rehearsal (although it does run longer than the actual show); parent/guardian's help with the process will guarantee a professional production. Students are to arrive in their first performance costume. Food and/or drinks during the rehearsals are not permitted in the theatre.

***Dressing Room Etiquette** Students must respect others' space and property in the dressing rooms. More time will be spent in the dressing rooms than on stage, so please do your best to keep the dressing rooms organized and clean. Food or drink is not permitted in the dressing room (except water) so that costumes do not become soiled..

***Dress Rehearsal Guests** Each family will receive one wristband for admittance to the theatre to take videos and pictures. This rehearsal is **CLOSED** to the public and guests will be asked to leave if they do not have a wristband on.

***Dress Rehearsal Drop-Off and Pick-up** Students accompanied by a parent or guardian are brought to their assigned areas where they will be checked-in and turned over to their class mom(s). When a class has completed their final performance, they are to be picked up by the parent/guardian in the assigned area. Parents are not allowed backstage or in the dressing areas after the child has been properly checked in backstage.

***Dress Rehearsal Dismissal** Students will be dismissed from rehearsal after the assigned finale. This ENTIRE rehearsal is mandatory.

VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY

The dress rehearsal is when parents/guardians can take the opportunity to videotape or shoot photographs

of their child. Due to the large number of cameras, no electrical outlets will be available. Be sure your batteries are fully charged. Due to safety issues, no tripods are allowed in the aisles.

PLEASE NOTE: NO VIDEO OR PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE THEATRE AT THE RECITAL! Flashes can disturb the dancers on the stage and videotaping and photography may interfere with the professional tape and other audience member's views. Security guards will ask you to bring any cameras back to your car.

Home Videos - dance videos are not to be posted on any public internet sites. This is for the safety and privacy of our students. The teachers also work very hard on their choreography and do not want it posted online.

FINALE

All students will remain in their last performance costume for the finale. PS 1, PS 2, Child & HH 5-7 classes will be in a mini finale at the end of the first half. All others will be in the finale at the end of the second half.

THEATRE RULES

No eating or drinking allowed in the theatre or dressing rooms. This will guarantee that costumes will not get soiled from spills. Dancers will remain in the dressing rooms or assigned areas with their class moms during the dress rehearsal and the recital. Class mothers are needed for each class to supervise the dancers. Volunteer requests will be sent out via e-mail on April 1st. Out of respect for dancers and their families, everyone is to remain seated during the performance.

PRE-PLANNING

Recital isn't a "that day" activity. Gather all of your costumes, accessories, shoes and makeup several days in advance in case something is missing or isn't exactly right. Make a checklist of your child's routines, listing their costume, color of tights, shoes and any accessories. Make sure you have all your supplies before arrival. The checklist helps when leaving to ensure that you have everything.

EXTRA-EVERYTHING

You may want to bring at least one extra pair of tights of each color. Hair gel, hair nets, bobby pins and hair spray should be packed in a bag for the older children. A few less obvious things that have come in handy for others include: baby wipes/shout wipes to fix makeup mistakes or dirty hands, baby powder for itchy costumes, safety pins for emergency costume repairs, clear nail polish for minor holes/runs when there isn't time to repair, and invisible band-aids

BACKSTAGE

Family members and friends do not belong backstage or in the dressing rooms during rehearsals or the recital. There is a lot of backstage activity in a limited space, and dressing rooms are a private area. Please remind your family and guests to be respectful of these areas. If they wish to greet a performer after the show or present flowers, they must do so in the lobby areas.

MAKE-UP

Make-up should be done at home and may be retouched by the stage moms. Let's remember that although this is a special time for the dancers they are still just kids and we want to keep it that way for as long as

we can. A little blush and lipstick looks great on stage for the little ones. Older children should wear red lipstick, blush, eyeshadow (not blue) and mascara.

HAIR

All students must have their hair off their face. Female ballet dancers should have their hair in a bun or similar style. No heavy bangs or vacation beads. Uniform hairstyles are required. For dancers with short hair, it must be pulled away from the face. Our staff will try our best to keep the older children's styles simple.

RECITAL VOLUNTEERS

Anyone interested in volunteering to help backstage is welcome. All volunteers must report to a meeting before the recital. As an American Dance Academy student, your child is a direct beneficiary of this volunteer effort, so we hope that you will become an enthusiastic member of our volunteer pool. Most jobs require limited commitment at a specific time during dress rehearsal and/or recital. We encourage you to become involved in some way with our volunteer program and welcome any contribution you are willing to make.

All volunteers will receive an identification badge, which must be worn throughout the entire dress rehearsal and performance. Please do not bring guests, including children with you while you are volunteering. Recital week is a hectic experience; all volunteers must work in a cooperative manner at all times.

CLASS MOMS

The goal of a class mom is to assure the safety of each child in their care and to be sure all children are accounted for. You will be responsible to insure that each child is in the proper costume, accessories and shoes, and you must be sure your children or classes are backstage when Miss Laurie (our backstage manager) tells you it's time. In addition, you will be responsible to return all children to their appointed pick up area following their performance. There will be two class moms for each class. If we have too many volunteers for a class you may be asked to work with children from another class. Class moms will walk their group back and then must stay far back from the wings so that the teachers can take over.

All volunteers need to be prepared to work within the system to make everything flow. Our Backstage Managers (Miss Laurie and Miss Debbie) work very hard to put a system in place that works, please rely on their experience. We ask that all volunteers follow all instructions from the backstage manager.

PROFESSIONAL DVD

A professional DVD will be taken during the recital. Purchase is optional.

RECITAL TICKET POLICY

All studio accounts (tuition, costumes, etc.) must be paid to date before any family dances at the recital. Tickets go on sale in April. Ticket money is for the production of the show (theater rental, workers, lighting and sound costs, maintenance costs, curtain rentals & backstage staff, to name a few). Prices begin at \$18. There is no minimum or maximum ticket purchase. Our recital is not recommended for children who cannot sit still for 2 hours. Audience members who are in wheelchairs will have specific seats designated by the theatre.

RECITAL PROGRAM ADS

The American Dance Academy puts together a beautiful program/memory book for the recital. Our program book reaches an audience of 1500-2000 people. It is a wonderful way to write a special message to your dancer for him/her to have as a memorable memento. For those of you who have a business-our audience can be your audience as well. Your contribution and interest are greatly appreciated.

Ads for the program book will be sold in March.

NON-PARTICIPATION

If you do not wish for your child to participate written notice must be given to the studio November 1st.

MAKING KIDS HAPPY

Our number one goal at American Dance Academy is to make the children happy while instilling a passion for the art of dance. Our recitals do just that while helping them to build their self- esteem and self-confidence, along with memory and social skills. Our dancers often dream and talk about their early recitals where they got to wear their mommy's make-up and their daddy gave them flowers. It has proven to be a special experience they truly love and treasure through their lives. We hope you will join us in our 2020 Recital.

2021 RECITAL & REHEARSAL DATES

**TBD-We will book as soon as St Mark's
allows rentals**

(All dates are mandatory-Dancers are in both shows)

Please stay up to date on website news in case any times need to be adjusted