



Dance Class Expectations

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Why we have expectations:

We want your dancers to be the healthiest, best dancer they can be! We want them to be able to use dance as an expression of worship and also as a form of communication that powerfully influences culture around them. Each expectation is for a specific reason that will add to their training in this. We believe it is important to communicate our expectations and the reason why. Please feel free to email us any questions you may have at info@sparkarts.org.

Schedule:

Be sure to review the schedule of important dates available at sparkarts.org/register. Please note in particular the dates for sessions 1-4. Spark dance classes are year-long classes running September to May (sessions 1-4). Following each 7 week session is an 8th week set aside for make-up classes or additional rehearsals, if needed. The exception to this is adult classes for which students register for Fall (sessions 1-2) and Winter/Spring (sessions 3-4) separately.

Why:

By running full-year classes, Spark provides the opportunity for students to focus more heavily on technique in the first half of the year, with a expanding focus on choreography in the latter half of the year without having to go "back to the beginning" by introducing brand new students in January.

By splitting the year in two for adult students, Spark recognises that adults often have changing schedules throughout the year due to the activities of their kids and their own school/work schedules.

Dress code:

Girls

- Pink ballet tights and sleeveless black body suits (little black skirts permitted for tot and kid classes). For jazz classes, black leggings or shorts can be worn over your body suit. For adult students, please wear black leggings or shorts, and a black tank top or t-shirt.
- Pink leather ballet slippers (elastics tucked in). For jazz classes, black jazz shoes.
- Hair must be in a bun that will not fall out.
- No jewellery.
- You may bring a bottle of water into class but all bags are to be left outside the studio.

- Leg warmers and other warmup clothing can be worn if coming early to stretch but should be removed before the beginning of class without being asked by teacher.

Boys

- Black boys shorts.
- Plain white sleeveless t-shirt.
- Black ballet slippers. For jazz classes, black jazz shoes.
- You may bring a bottle of water into class but all bags are to be left outside the studio.

Why:

- Pink tights make it easier to see the little muscles around the knees and ankles that are important in prevention of injury.
- Black bodysuits and pink slippers will often be used for performance.
- Leather ballet slippers help strengthen feet.
- Spark trains dancers to focus on individual growth and teaches dancers how to overcome comparison. This is a skill that is useful in all areas of life. Uniforms make this easier to teach.
- Jewelry can cause injury to students and damage to the jewelry.
- The studio is small so anything other than a water bottle will be left in the waiting area.
- Student's adjusting hair and tripping on untucked shoe elastics is the #1 time waster in class!

Injuries & Lates:

- It is encouraged to arrive early for class as it allows time to stretch and feel prepared to learn.
- Parents/Students are requested to inform us about physical ability, injury, or ailment that may affect the safety of the student or the safety of others before class.
- If you are injured or more than 15 minutes late you may be asked to sit out and work on an age appropriate project.
- If you are injured please come prepared to class with pen + paper for an in-class assignment.
- If you have sat out more than 6 times in a semester you may be asked to complete a larger assignment at home.

Why:

- Being late can be harmful to a dancer's body as they could miss the essential body warm up for the bigger moves towards the end of class.

- The dance assignments are fun and have been proven to increase learning of ballet history and technique.
- This is not a punishment but an opportunity to learn through another platform.

Missed classes / Withdrawals:

- We ask that you make class attendance a priority especially before performance.
- If you are sick or planning to be away, please let us know by emailing info@sparkarts.org. Missed classes will not be reimbursed.
- You may be asked to complete an assignment that you will turn in at the beginning of your next class.
- Dance class fees can all be paid upfront or can be split into three payments. The first payment due with registration (registration/supply/costume fee) is non-refundable. The subsequent two payments (due August 1 and December 1) are refundable up until the 3rd week of class (in September). After this date, the student is committed through the year. The exception to this policy are the adult classes. Adults register for the Fall (sessions 1-2) and Winter/Spring (sessions 3-4) separately.
- We reserve the right to move students if there is another class that will be a better fit for them.
- Class cancellations due to instructor illness will be rescheduled to another day as the studio schedules allows.
- Class cancellations due to low enrolment will be 100% refunded.

Why:

- Much like a sports team, dancers learn to work together and each member is important for spacing, timing, and communication.
- Assignments are not a punishment but an opportunity to learn.

Parent participation:

- The most important thing you can do is pray for their growth as a dancer.
- Helping your child feel prepared for class by arriving on time with everything they need.
- Ask them to show you what they have learned. This can be done by going through their dance folder or by watching them practice.
- Ask them what they are communicating and why that is important.
- Communication will be sent home with your student in their dance folder with information for you as well as take home practice sheets for them please check it often.

- Spark has chosen to have lots of windows for teacher accountability, parent curiosity and natural light. We ask that in waiting room you try hard to not distract the dancers (be sneaky when you sneak a peak).
- There are also many practical ways you can be involved as a parent at Spark.
- We would love to see you use your gifts as well.
- Parents will honour the knowledge of the teachers and studio directors and accept the placement of the student in specific levels and classes

Why:

- So much of your child's development as a student and an artist can be supported by parents.
- Being a part of their journey will create another form of communication between you and your child.
- You will be blessed as you see the improvement and growth of your child in ways you couldn't imagine.

Performance, competition, exams, outreach

- Spark will focus on creating opportunities to use dance to bless others through community performance.
- We will not be participating in competitions or exams.

Why:

- Dance is an amazing form of worship, communication and expression.
- It teaches discipline, creativity, coordination, emotional control, and self awareness. All while developing both sides of the brain and conditioning the body.
- We want to focus on the health of your child's body through good technique and the health of their mind by encouragement, kindness and wisdom.
- We also want to teach them that their gifts are from God and given to bless others.
- So with all this packed into a class we have decided to not do competition or exams.