



STUDENT HANDBOOK

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our primary goal at Rise Dance Center is to offer a structured, professional, and inspiring environment in which our dancers may grow and develop their talent.

We are passionately committed to providing our students with an elite training program, so that they may correctly learn the art of dance through the individual attention and guidance of our professional staff. We are dedicated to helping our dancers develop versatility, self expression, and artistry, while strongly emphasizing the proper use of the body through technical conditioning.

By offering opportunities in various arenas of dance including performance, competitions, and pre-professional training, we hope to widen the artistic experience of our students as well as enrich their lives whether or not they intend to pursue a career in dance.

We will strive to create and maintain a center that provides excellence in dance education and training for dancers of all ages and levels.

2016-2017 Calendar

Breakdown of Sessions

Fall Session: September 6 – November 21

Winter Session: January 9 - March 18 (No Class March 20-April 2)

Spring Session: April 3 – June 3 (No Class Memorial Day, May 29)

Introduction to Dance Recital: June 10 at the Prairie Center for the Arts

Performance Concert Tech week: June 5-June 8 at the Prairie Center for the Arts

Performance Concert: Friday, June 9 and Saturday June 10 at the Prairie Center for the Arts

STUDIO POLICIES

- Observation days will take place during the last week of the fall session and the last week of the spring session. Please be sure to turn off all cell phones when observing. No food or drink in the studio.
- If students are injured or sick, they must present a note from a parent in order to sit out of class. After students have been out for three weeks, dancers need a doctor's note in order to resume participation.
- Much of our communication is done through our website and email. By signing our waiver, you give us permission to email you our monthly newsletter and any other notifications that may come up, i.e. tuition reminders and class cancellations.
- We are a "water only" studio. Food and drink, with the exception of water, are not permitted in the studios or dressing room. **NO POP!** Please keep all food and drink in the lobby and study area.

- Rise Dance Center is not responsible for lost or stolen items. We have a lost and found in the studio and all unclaimed items will be donated at the end of each session.
- Please make every effort to notify your instructor if you will be tardy or absent from class. A missed class may be made up with a non-recital technique class or a ballet class at or lower than your level within the same session of the missed class.
- Parking is available in both the front and back of the studio. The front parking lot can get very congested. You may drop your child off in the front, but please make arrangements to pick up your child in the back of the studio. If dropping your child off, please be prompt in picking him or her up after class. Parents of Pre-Dance, Pre-Ballet and Kinder students need to remain on the premises during their child's class.
- Please make sure students enter and exit the building with cover-ups over leotard and tights.

PAYMENT POLICIES

Tuition payment will be divided into three sessions:

Fall tuition due Monday, September 10*

-Must be received for costumes to be ordered

Winter tuition due Saturday, January 14*

-Must be received for student to be choreographed into their dance

Spring tuition due Saturday, April 8*

-Must be received for student to perform in end of the year concert

**There is a \$15 registration fee added when tuition is not paid by each session's due date. This fee is waived when tuition is paid on time.*

- No refunds will be granted after September 30. This applies for the entire year. Refunds are never retroactive.
- There will be a \$30 fee placed on returned checks.
- The multiple class discount will only apply when registering for classes together at the beginning of the session.
- Tuition is not transferable between students.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

- Please be on time for class. Being properly warmed up is crucial to the safety and training of the dancer. Students who arrive more than five minutes after class has started may be asked to sit. If late to class, please wait until the current exercise is complete before joining.
- Students who are not dressed properly may be asked to sit.
- Street shoes must be removed before entering the studios.

- No talking in class.
- Be attentive and work on corrections when given. Students should apply all corrections to their own work whether or not you are being directly addressed.
- Do not lean or hang on the barres.
- Always applaud and thank your instructor upon completion of class.

DRESS CODE

- With the exception of hip hop, no loose fitting clothing. It is important for the instructor as well as the student to see their lines while in class.
- Aside from small earrings, jewelry may not be worn during class.
- Hair must be pulled up and away from the face. Buns must be worn for all ballet classes.

Girls:

Ballet: Black leotard, pink tights, pink canvas split sole ballet shoes

Jazz: Solid colored leotard or tight fitting top; black leggings or jazz shorts; black or nude jazz shoes per teacher discretion

Lyrical: Solid colored leotard or tight fitting top; black leggings or jazz shorts; shoes per teacher discretion. If in doubt, ballet shoes

Modern & Contemporary: Solid colored leotard or tight fitting top; black leggings or jazz shorts; bare feet

Tap: Solid colored top, leggings or shorts; Oxford taps required for all A level classes and above

Hip Hop: Loose fitting clothes easily able to move in; Instructor will notify students about shoes that will be purchased to wear in both class and performance. Until then, clean sneakers/gym shoes may be worn

Acro: Leotard or tight fitting top, leggings or jazz shorts, shoes per teacher discretion

Boys: Fitted white t-shirt and black jazz pants; black ballet shoes for ballet, black jazz shoes for jazz

Introduction to Dance: Black or pink leotard and pink tights, pink ballet shoes (no "Isotoner" slippers may be worn), black tap shoes. Black pants or shorts may be worn for tap or jazz. Hair must be pulled back and away from the face.

LEVEL PLACEMENTS

Students are evaluated as individuals and dance is your own personal journey. Everyone accomplishes growth at a different pace and no two students develop their abilities at the same rate. It is common and acceptable to stay in the same level for two or more years. It is also important to remember that the higher up you go in levels, the more difficult it is to move up because the higher level dancers are also improving their skills, raising the standards every year. That is why our older, advanced dancers are more accomplished dancers than their counter parts were four or five years ago. Being asked to repeat a level does not mean you did not do a good job. It means there are things you need to work on, or maybe you might need to physically mature and become stronger in your current level before moving on to the next. Also, please keep in mind that the advanced classes are reserved for high school students. Unless an instructor makes a special request, if you are in an intermediate III level you will remain in that level until you are in high school. However, you will move into the advanced levels only when your instructor feels you are ready.

The following are some of the elements that teachers take into consideration when deciding on level placements:

TECHNIQUE: How well do you apply proper dance technique? For example, ballet requires proper alignment, turn out of the legs, pointed toes, proper plié use and proper use of head and arms. Tap requires correct weight changes and clarity of sounds. Jazz requires applied ballet technique, power and attack of movement and correct isolations of the body. Different disciplines have some similar and some different components of technique and all are important.

ACCURACY: How well do you follow and learn the movement? Do you dance independently or do you rely on watching others when you dance? Do you repeat the same dance errors or are you able to apply the teacher's corrections?

PRECISION AND TIMING: How well are you moving to the rhythm of music and with your group? Do you go too fast or too slow?

FLEXIBILITY: How flexible are you? Do you work to improve your flexibility over time? Not everyone is naturally flexible but it is still a consideration when placing students.

SHOWMANSHIP AND CONFIDENCE: How is your energy level when you dance? Do you smile and show emotion when you dance resulting in dynamic stage presence?

ATTENDANCE AND ATTITUDE: Do you attend class consistently? Are you polite and respectful in class or do you chat with friends as other are going across the floor? Do you dress appropriately for the class you are attending? It is important to be in class and it is important to know how to behave when you are there.

We want our students to be in a level where they will experience the most success and we will do our best to explain the reason for your placement. If you have a question about your placements and would like to make an appointment with an instructor, please do so. We prefer talking with young dancers when parents are present. We also have no problem discussing concerns just with the dancers, but speaking with parents alone is difficult because 'dance lingo' can be confusing. The dancer should always be present.

A FINAL NOTE TO STUDENTS...

Please be respectful to all instructors and peers, as well as to yourselves. Bring with you to class an open mind, a positive attitude, and a willingness to work hard. Because you are in class for a limited time, make it a point to remain focused and use your time productively.

Information about Our Studio Companies

Rise Dance Center has three performing companies, Shine Performance, Shine Competition and Dance Stellar Productions, or DSP. Below is some information regarding each company:

Shine Performance is a youth touring company made up of dancers ages 8 through 14 years old. During the fall and winter seasons, Shine presents an abridged version of The Nutcracker which they have brought to such venues as Friendship Village, Devonshire, and Stratford Mall. Shine also presents an annual Holiday Revue at the Prairie Center for the Arts in December, providing an entertaining variety of holiday-inspired dance sure to spark seasonal cheer. The spring season brings about a concert with a variety of genres being performed. Again, the dancers travel to retirement homes, malls, and put on an annual Spring Dance Concert in March at the Prairie Center for the Arts. Auditions take place each year in the summer. Dancers in Shine Performance must be enrolled in ballet and jazz year-round, and other genres are strongly recommended.

Shine Competition and Dance Stellar Productions are the studio's competition teams, the former made up of dancers ages 11 through 14 and the latter made up of dancers ages 15 through 18. Throughout the year, the dancers participate in weekly company classes and work with guest choreographers from all over the country. In the fall, they prepare for the upcoming competition season as well as rehearse pieces for Rise Dance Center's annual Holiday Revue. They compete in three competitions each spring as well as put on their own annual showcase. Company members must be enrolled in ballet, jazz and hip hop year-round, and other genres are strongly recommended.