

ROSEMARY'S SCHOOL OF DANCE EDUCATION

2018-2019 Dance Season Student Handbook

About This Handbook

Welcome to the 2018-2019 dance season here at Rosemary's School of Dance Education. Enclosed you will find all information needed for the entire year. We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid dance training and quality service, along with an underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this handbook to offer our dancers and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility. We are looking forward to another great year of accomplishments by our students!

- Dates and/or expenses listed in this handbook are subject to change. Please check the bulletin board each week for updates.

❖ TABLE OF CONTENTS:

	Page
Understanding Dance Education	2
Class or Choreography Placement	2
Do's and Don'ts	2
Student Conduct	3
For Dancers and Parents	3
Attendance	3
Dress Code Requirements	3
Shoes	3
Pointe Class	4
The Annual Student Showcase and Dance Company	4
The Tuition and Expense Policy	4
Annual Revue	4
Awards	4
Costumes	5
Class Observation	5
Vacations	5
Hazardous Weather	5
Contact Information	6

◆ Costume Payments- Due in FULL by December 1st

❖ **Understanding Dance Education**

As a parent, the financial support of your student is important, but of equal—perhaps even greater—value is your emotional support. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be without regard to what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form; each child needs to achieve at a pace that's comfortable for him or her. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage the children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique or the steps your children will learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment by offering them the chance to learn, experience the spirit of teamwork, and understand what hard work can accomplish. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, to teach them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

❖ **Class or Choreography Placement**

The school faculty meets regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child. Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident, in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some dancers who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with dancers who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex. Please see the school's director if you have questions or concerns about your child's placement.

❖ **Do's and Don'ts**

Some parents may compare their child's progress, class or choreography placement to that of others in the program. Watch for this behavior in your children as well, and encourage them to focus on their own accomplishments. Looking to others for inspiration is a good thing; however, a negative focus or comparison distracts from the energy that could be focused on becoming a stronger dancer. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow dancers, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will react to their parents in a way that imitates the parent's behavior with other adults or authority figures.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring important behavior patterns through their example. Our school's faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully to their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education, don't panic—and please don't talk only with other parents when questions arise. Make an appointment to speak directly to your child's teachers or the director of the school. Please conduct all communication through the school office rather than approaching your child's teacher or the director between or during classes or calling them at home.

If you do request a conference, please listen carefully to what your child's teachers have to say. They spend a significant amount of time with your child and can offer expertise in the field of dance education.

❖ Student Conduct

All students are expected to be on their best behavior during class as well as in the dressing and waiting areas. No student should be left more than 15 minutes before or after their scheduled class. Restrooms should be used in-between classes only. All persons involved with the studio are expected to conduct themselves properly and in a civil manner. There are many students coming and going from the studios at all times. Please be careful not to leave personal belongings in the building. The doors are locked after the last class of the day and not reopened until the next scheduled class.

❖ For Dancers and Parents

Rosemary's School of Dance and/or staff members are not responsible for any damage claims, injuries or loss of property while at the studio and/or sponsored events.

❖ Attendance

Attendance is necessary to progress in dance training at any age or level. If absenteeism is frequent it is at the instructor's discretion whether to allow participation in the Annual Revue. This is only fair to those students who attend regularly and are keeping up with the class progression. Attendance is a consideration for a student's proper placement and can affect progression in levels.

❖ Dress Code Requirements

Proper dress attire is to be worn during ALL classes. It is absolutely necessary that the proper attire and shoes are worn. An instructor cannot observe the movement of students unless such proper attire is worn. Appearance should always be in a neat and clean fashion. Hair must be neatly fixed away from the face. Dangling bracelets, necklaces, and earrings are never allowed during classes.

Dress Code:

- Any style **SOLID** leotard with any neutral color tights (white, black, tan, pink).
- Black jazz pants, capri's or shorts may be worn in Jazz and Tap classes for all levels.
- A Ballet skirt may be worn for young dancer Ballet classes **ONLY**.
- Hip Hop classes may wear any comfortable clothing – no jeans or pajamas.

❖ Shoes

Young Dancer Division

- Ballet: Pink
- Tap: U-buckle black
- Jazz: TAN slip-on or tie
- Hip Hop: Clean Sneakers (any kind) to be used in the studio only
- Modern: Footundeez in NUDE

Main Dance Division

- Ballet: Pink
- Tap: Black slip-on or tie
- Jazz: TAN slip-on or tie
- Hip Hop: Clean Sneakers (any kind) to be used in the studio only
- Modern: Footundeez in NUDE

❖Pointe Class

Pointe is only available to serious ballet students. Once a student completes a full level of primary ballet it is at the instructor's discretion if the student is ready for pointe work. If so, they may take a pre-pointe class. This class must be completed before being placed into a regular pointe class. Pre-Pointe does use Pointe shoes but does not participate in the Annual Revue.

❖The 18th Annual Student Showcase (for the Dance Company)

The 17th Annual Student Showcase will be held in December at Portsmouth High School. All new solos, duos and trios will be performing along with the 2018-19 Dance Company Production. Please come and support your fellow classmates. All are welcome!. The Dance Company is available for the serious student who wishes to further their dance education. Contact Alissa for more information about becoming a member of the Dance Company

❖Tuition and Expense Policy

Tuition rates can be found in our brochure, or by logging into your portal. There is a \$15 registration fee for new and current students (\$5 per additional family member) due when registering for classes. There is a \$5 late fee for any payments 30 days past due.

❖Annual Revue

Our 13th Annual Review will be held on Saturday, June 8th at Kuss Middle School in Fall River, MA.

One learns to perform by performing. The Recital is to demonstrate talent and is part of the training experience. The Recital aims to develop the student's poise, confidence, pride, and also to increase their knowledge and appreciation of the Arts. Since there is training and discipline involved we attempt to create a professional attitude. All is done to make this a pleasant and worthwhile experience for you and your child.

❖Awards

Awards at the Recital are presented to students who have taken 5 or more years of dance training. Certificates for 1st and 2nd year students and medals for 3rd and 4th year students will be given in class at the end of the dance season. A list will be posted in the waiting room after Winter Break. It is the student's responsibility to be sure their name appears on an award list. A trophy for 5 years and up will not be ordered for anyone that is not on the list.

❖ Costumes

Costume Balances:

These balances in full are due by December 1st. Payments toward costume balances can be made at any time. *Total cost for costumes (each class performs a separate routine in the Recital): (30 min classes) \$55.00 ; (40-45 min classes ages 11 & under) \$63.00 ; Main and Adult Dance Divisions \$70.00. Prices include any tights if needed.* Costumes will not be ordered unless a payment is received.

AS STATED ON REGISTRATION FORM: In order to participate in the Recital all tuition and costume balances must be paid in full. Costumes will not be ordered unless tuition is current. All costumes ordered after the deadline are not guaranteed by the Recital and are subject to an additional shipping fee of \$10.00 per costume.

❖ Class Observation

The viewing monitors will be on the first class of each month from October-April. We will not turn the TV's on during the months of May and June as we prepare for our recital. Parents may observe the students' progress in class during these times only. Please do not ask for any exceptions!

❖ Hazardous Weather

Hazardous Weather will result in the cancellation of classes. The message service at the studio will announce all class cancellations at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled class time. Cancellations and delays will also be posted on Channel 10, or you may visit Turnto10.com. Make-up classes will be held during vacations if possible. Notices for class make-ups will be posted on the bulletin boards.

❖ Contact Information

Thanks for joining us for another year here at Rosemary's. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact the office. We are looking forward to another wonderful year with our students. Thanks!

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