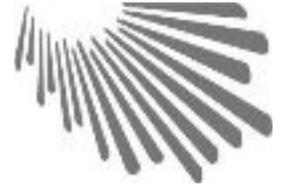


DaySpring Arts & Education

Dance Department - Upper Levels & Electives, 20-21

Orientation Letter, Policies and Calendar



Until further notice please refer to the Covid policies sheet, which may override some of these policies.

Welcome DaySpring Dance Department Families!

Whether this is your first or fifteenth year as a student in the Dance Department, we are thrilled to have you as part of the DaySpring family. Our goal for our dance students at every age and level is to create a safe learning environment where the students can develop confidence, cooperation, discipline, and their pursuit of excellence- skills that will serve them not just as artists, but in all areas of their lives. Whether through our Young Dancers Program, the Classical Ballet Program, or our other dance styles classes, we hope to give all students a chance to explore their love for dance! Please read through this information along with the dance policies, dress code, and department calendar included with this letter. Our website provides a list of general policies for the building along with a calendar showing all days we are not in session due to holidays and breaks.

Orientation

All 2020-21 orientation meetings will be held virtually! You will be receiving a Welcome Letter from your child's dance teacher(s), as well as a *Welcome Week Letter* with virtual orientation information for each class.

Performances

All Dance Department students have the opportunity to participate in the end-of-year *Finale* performance in June. Because *Finale* performance preparation is an important part of our students' dance training, it will take place during a portion of class time. We expect students to be fully engaged and ready to work for the duration of every class period.

- *Finale* rehearsal will take place **within the required class day** for each level.
- There are costume fees for dancers in classes that perform in *Finale*. A costume deposit is charged for each class and the balance of the costume cost is due before you pick up your costume.
- Tickets are available for purchase online as the performance date draws closer.
- There is a mandatory dress rehearsal at the theater during the week of *Finale*.

Auditions for the 2021 Fall ballet production will be held in late Spring 2021. Audition announcements and invitations will be sent to the email address we have on file.

Production Help

Without our volunteers, we would not be able to produce the quality performances that DaySpring is known for. We need your help with painting, sewing, crafting, building, marketing, ushering and more. Anyone who wishes to help out during production time is warmly welcomed, and we will be sure to let you know what needs as they arise!

Contact Us

If you ever have any questions or concerns, we are here to help! Your teachers can be reached through their DaySpring email, the office is readily available to answer questions and I am happy to speak with you via email, phone call, or in person during my office hours. We greatly appreciate you choosing DaySpring and we look forward to working with your children.

Amber Studebaker

Dance Department Head
amberstudebaker@dayspringarts.org

Policies Specific to Upper Level/ Older Dancers

These policies and standards have been agreed upon by the dance teachers of DaySpring based on their experience in the professional field of performance and instruction. With these elements in place, teachers can confidently work toward the most professional atmosphere and create an intensely productive class period. These standards are meant to be upheld by both the teachers and the students, thereby aiding each individual to work to their fullest capacity for the entirety of class.

Communication

- **New this year: during the 2020-21 school year, DaySpring will be transitioning to a new registration and parent portal software, JackRabbit. Be on the lookout for an email with instructions for accessing your family's account!**
- We use email as a main form of communication. Be sure to check your inboxes for important info regarding classes, performances, etc. Your teachers are also available through email. The personal address for each teacher is the first and last name followed by @dayspringarts.org. (ex: amberstudebaker@dayspringarts.org)
- Like us on Facebook! Find our pages: *DaySpring School of the Arts*. We post pictures and videos and all kinds of fun links and updates.
- Don't forget about our website, www.dayspringarts.org! Most information sent via email is also posted there.

Behavior Within Class

- **Attendance:** Consistent attendance is necessary to gain skills in the artistic disciplines--please make it a priority. Attendance and promptness of each student will be monitored by the teacher and recorded in our files. **A student's commitment level is one of the deciding factors in the placement for the following year and casting of the annual dance concert or ballet.**
- **Tardiness:** We understand that situations can cause a student to be late for class. This is the exception and cannot be accepted as the norm. If a student arrives late, the teacher will determine if they may safely join the class or if they must take notes. All notes will be turned in to the teacher at the end of class. **When possible, please notify the teacher or office if your student will be late or absent.**
- **Missed Classes:** If a student must miss a class, they may attend any other class at or one level below their current level to make up the absence. Be sure to speak with your teacher(s) or Ms. Amber to arrange permission.
- All phones will be turned off during class.
- No student is allowed to leave the class at any time without permission from the teacher.
- All students should bring a water bottle into the studio so as to not disturb the class with exiting and entering for water.
- It is a tradition passed down from many generations to applaud and thank the teacher clearly at the end of each class. Please, respect the art of ballet and the time your teacher has given by carrying on with this tradition.

Building use for Upper Level Dancers

- DO use the changing room. Personal belongings and dance bags may be neatly stowed in the changing room or cubbies. If you prefer to keep your belongings with you in the studio, they must be contained in a small bag and placed out of the way for the duration of class. Refrigerator/freezer must be cleared of all food and drink at the end of every day.
- DO use any free studio to warm up before class or rehearsal. However, the studios are specifically for warming up, not for simply "hanging out" (warming up is a quiet, focused activity).
- DO ask the office if you would like to use a studio for a prolonged period of time (30 minutes or more) to work on choreography or some other piece you are presenting at DaySpring or elsewhere. We are happy to accommodate these requests if the space is available.
- DO NOT wander throughout the building before or after class/rehearsal. Remain in the dance lobby or the main lobby (there should never be dancers going back into the warehouse without an adult). This ensures everyone is safe and accounted for.

Dress Code

- The dress code leotard for ballet is available in the office. It is Capezio CC202 (black) for Ballet 1 and above. Dancers in Ballet 4 and up may wear any solid black leotard for class (however, you must still have the dress code leotard for use during exams, observation days, and for use during performances).
 - “Choose Your Leotard!” Classes- Check the calendar on the dance bulletin board for dates when you may wear any color leotard to ballet class.
 - **Hair** - pulled back in a tidy bun or twist for ballet, in a secure ponytail for jazz and contemporary modern. Shorter hair should be secured out of the eyes/face.
- Hair accessories and jewelry should be minimal and tasteful. Teachers have the authority to ask a student to remove any accessory that they deem distracting to dance training. Please make sure all watch alarms are off or silenced.
- Warm-ups are allowed only with the teacher's permission.
- **New this year:** dancers may (but are not required to) choose flesh-tone tights and ballet shoes in place of pink. We will be expanding our inventory to include three color options for tights that will be available for sale in the office. Ballet, tap, and jazz shoes may be purchased at any dance supply store (for flesh-tone ballet shoes, we recommend St. Louis Dancewear, 9644 Olive Blvd, Olivette, MO 63132, 314-733-5678. Students are permitted (but not required) to “pancake” pointe shoes to match tights if they prefer.)
- **Ballet Classes**
 - Black leotard, pink or flesh-tone seamed tights worn under the leotard and over the feet. Pink or flesh-tone ballet shoes with elastics properly sewn, pointe shoes properly sewn and tied.
 - Undergarments: A flesh-tone camisole leotard may be worn under the black leotard if desired.
 - or
 - Opaque black ballet tights (footed or footless with black socks), white fitted shirt, black ballet shoes.
 - Undergarments: Males age 10 and older should wear a dance belt under their black tights.
 - **Accelerated Beginning Ballet students ONLY** may wear a solid color fitted top and solid color fitted leggings, pants, or athletic shorts instead of a leotard/tights.
- **Pointe** - A short dance skirt if permitted by the instructor.
- **Jazz & Contemporary Modern**
 - Any style solid color leotard or fitted top
 - Black tights, leggings, jazz pants, or above-knee shorts.
 - Black Jazz shoes for Jazz classes/ Barefoot for Contemporary Modern
- **Tap** - Students should wear clothes they can easily move in and black tap shoes. “Mary Jane” style tap shoes are not recommended for Tap 1 and Tap 2.
- **Musical Theatre Dance**- The aim is to be able to see the students’ body placement while making sure they feel comfortable in their attire.
 - Any style solid color leotard or athletic top
 - Solid color tights, leggings, jazz pants, or above-knee shorts
 - Solid color socks (if desired) and black or flesh tone jazz shoes and tap shoes. “Mary Jane” style tap shoes are not recommended.

Classical Ballet Program Expectations

The Classical Ballet Program is a pre-professional track program for serious ballet students which requires multiple ballet technique classes per week, as well as Conditioning for Dancers and other dance styles for the upper levels. Dancers in our Classical Ballet Program participate in dance conferences in the late fall, annual exams in the spring to evaluate their progress, and the *Finale* performance in June. Students currently dancing at the Ballet 2 level or higher who are unable to commit to the full Classical Ballet Program requirements may take Open Studio Ballet Classes as well as Dance Elective classes.

Ballet Conservatory

This class is by invitation for students interested in pursuing more intense ballet training. Detailed information will be available mid- November 2021; please contact amberstudebaker@dayspringarts.org if you are interested in this class.

Annual Dance Concert or Ballet

- Auditions are held in Spring or Summer for the following fall’s ballet. Participation is open to current students; casting is dependent upon registration for the following year. Details concerning this production are available at the end of each dance season.

- Rehearsals are scheduled outside of the class periods and a performance class fee is assessed for extra rehearsal time and costuming.

DaySpring Dance Department

Important Dates, 2020-21 Season

Month	Date, Day	Event
September	7, Mon 8, Tues	Labor Day - No classes Classes Begin
October	20, Tues	Ballet Conferences
November	20-21, Fri-Sat 23-29, Mon-Sun	<i>Taking Flight</i> performances Fall Break - No classes
December	21-Jan 3, Mon-Sun	Winter Break - No Classes
January	4, Mon	Classes Resume
February	1-6, Mon-Sat	Dance and Performing Arts Observation Week
March	22-27, Mon-Sat	Spring Break - No Classes
April	7, Weds 4:15-5:15pm 8, Thurs 4:15-7:45pm	Ballet 2 Exams Ballet 3+ Exams
May	10-15, Mon-Sat* 28, Fri 29, Sat 31, Mon	<i>Finale</i> Portrait Week Last Day of Enrichment Classes Last Day of Dance & Performing Arts Classes Memorial Day - No Classes
June	First Week	<i>Finale</i> Dress Rehearsals & Performances
*date(s) subject to change		