

DANCE WORLD ACADEMY

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY CLASS PLACEMENT

WE CARE ABOUT OUR STUDENTS! WE TAKE THE TIME TO INDIVIDUALLY EVALUATE EACH STUDENT'S SKILL AND PROGRESS LEVEL FOR CORRECT CLASS PLACEMENT EACH YEAR.

At Dance World Academy, we are very careful to place each student in an **appropriate** class where they will be sufficiently motivated and challenged according to their physical ability, talent level, and the number of times that they study per week. We believe that dance when taught with **care and discipline is an excellent** activity for all children and teens. Our program builds self-confidence, self-discipline, concentration skills, memorization skills and perseverance. Our program is designed so that students can master realistic and attainable dance skills based on their age and experience levels. Our 39 years in the dance business has shown us that when our students **achieve**, it bolsters their self-esteem. They are proud of themselves!!

Parental support is **very** necessary in helping students understand that they are a unique individual whose level of natural talent and physical ability differs from their friends or others in their dance classes. Students will not all progress at the same rate. In maintaining a high quality of dance education, it is therefore sometimes impossible to keep the same students together in a class year after year. Many students may need extra help and a slightly slower pace to help them master new steps in a class. The most important thing is that a student “enjoys” the class and “feels comfortable” in it. A “comfortable” learning environment is sure to yield progress. Remember, it is very common to see two children of the same age and with the same number of years of dance training with extremely different capabilities. **WE STRONGLY ADVISE THAT EACH PARENT ACCOMPANIES THEIR OWN CHILD TO REGISTRATION AND DOES NOT COME WITH FRIENDS. WE WOULD PREFER TO DISCUSS THE PLACEMENT OF EACH CHILD PRIVATELY WITH EACH PARENT.**

1. PLEASE DO NOT BE A “COMPETITIVE” parent and want your child in a certain class because “you” think it is more advanced or a “harder” class. Class placement is the teacher’s decision. After all, that is what he/she is trained to do. We cannot stress enough that since every child is not equally talented, they cannot all show the same progress rate.

2. BEWARE OF BECOMING THE CLASSIC “DANCE MOM” or “STAGE PARENT” who pushes his/her children beyond their capabilities just to be able to “brag” about the “difficult” classes that they are taking or how “advanced” their children are. Children of these type parents usually become so frustrated with their dancing that they “quit” and never realize the joy of dancing. These children usually always themselves as “failures” because they can never live up to their parents’ “impossible” expectations for them. What a shame! Pushing a child too hard and too fast may also do harm to their body through injury. Dance training takes **time and patience.**

(OVER)



3. Dance World Academy prides itself on having a “friendly” and “family-like” atmosphere with enough “healthy competition” to make each dancer develop into the best that he or she can be. Although we provide excellent instruction for **each** and **every** student, we feel it is also our responsibility to encourage any students that the teachers see who have exceptional talent. From time to time, our teachers must make decisions whereby certain students are chosen for solos, competition groups, special classes, special parts or special auditions. These decisions are not easily made and are thought out carefully. The parents and teachers must work together to help students understand that not all students can be chosen for all things. We want our student body to be “happy for” and not “jealous of” each other. We at Dance World sincerely try to give as many students as are ready, “special dance experiences.”

4. The teacher’s judgement must be respected first and foremost. It is normal for every parent to view his or her child as “the best dancer in the class”. But remember - **THE TEACHER IS LOOKING AT YOUR CHILD THROUGH TRAINED, EXPERT EYES**. If your teacher’s judgement is not respected in all areas of your child’s dance training, your child SHOULD NOT BE STUDYING WITH HIM OR HER!

5. The number of times a student studies per week may also have an important influence on how quickly he or she progresses. For instance, a student who has studied jazz dancing for five years on a once a week basis may find himself in a class with a student who has studied jazz for only three years but has also been taking two additional ballet classes and a tap class each week. Naturally, the second student has been dancing more intensively and this will tend to speed up his progress.

6. Ballet is the most important dance form to be studied as it is the basic technique from which other dance forms derive. Ballet encompasses all the fundamentals of dance movement while developing posture, grace, flow of movement and poise. You cannot become an advanced technical dancer in any subject without the study of ballet.

7. ATTENTION PARENTS OF NEW STUDENTS- BEWARE OF USING PHRASES LIKE “My child has had X number of years at _____ School of Dance and was in their most advanced classes. Therefore, she should be in your most advanced classes too!” This may or may not be true. There is no certification required in this country to open a dance school and because of this, the training ranges from excellent to horrible. Dance World Academy has established itself as an institution of “excellence in dance training” and is recognized nationally as such. Please give the Director and teachers the opportunity to observe your child in class for a few weeks, so that he or she may be placed at the proper working level.

We at Dance World Academy view dance as education and feel that everyone, regardless of their talent level, can derive many benefits from dance instruction. Our classes and curriculum are all built around the philosophy that good dance training promotes good health, confidence, self-discipline, perseverance, and teamwork. It is important that students work toward their own personal improvement and not get overly concerned with competing with others. We want the students to be focused on “doing their personal best” and on having fun. We know that we can count on your support and cooperation to help your children understand this message. We encourage all of our students to work hard to become the best dancers that they can be, but they must work at a level which is suitable for them. Many students are easily discouraged when they are placed in too difficult a class. We want dance to be a happy and glorious experience for each student. **REMEMBER, GOOD DANCE TRAINING IS BASED ON TRUST IN THE TEACHER THAT HE/SHE ALWAYS HAS THE STUDENT’S BEST INTEREST AT HEART!**