



2024-2025

DANCE SPECTRUM
STUDIO CULTURE HANDBOOK



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716.668.1954
www.dancespectrum.net
office@dancespectrum.net



Welcome to Dance Spectrum

We are thrilled you are a part of our Dance Spectrum family to celebrate our **46th season**.

At Dance Spectrum, we believe in the transformative power of dance and are committed to providing a nurturing environment for students of all ages and skill levels to discover the joy of movement. Whether you're a beginner looking to explore the world of dance or an experienced dancer seeking to refine your technique, our team of highly trained instructors is here to guide you on your dance journey.

Whether you're aiming for a professional dance career or dancing for fun and fitness, Dance Spectrum has something to offer you. Our caring instructors create a supportive and inclusive atmosphere, ensuring every student feels encouraged to reach their full potential.

Apart from regular dance classes, we also host workshops, performances, and recitals, providing our students with opportunities to showcase their talent and build their confidence on stage.

Welcome to the Dance Spectrum family and experience the magic of dance in a friendly and welcoming environment.

Let's dance together at the Dance Spectrum, where passion meets creativity, and dreams take flight!



Referral Program

Help Us Spread The Word! Do you know of a child who can't stop dancing around the house? Does your child want to dance with their cousin or friend? Looking for the perfect gift?

When you refer a new family for a full season program you will receive a \$50.00 credit to your account and you will be entered in a raffle to win 2 front row seats to the 2025 Dance Recital, June 14, 2025.

The new family must be active for at least 3 months in order to receive your \$50 DS Dollars! After 3 months, a \$50 referral credit will be posted to your account. This credit has no cash value and can be used on most DS transactions.

When you refer a new family to the Dance Spectrum be sure to have them note your name at the time of registration.

Save The Dates

2024-2025 Important Events

Summer Dance (Ages 18 months-6 years) Session #1 - June 8-29, 2024

Summer Camps - July 8-August 2, 2024

Summer Dance Competitive - July 9-August 1, 2024

Summer Dance (Ages 7-18 years) - July 10-31, 2024

Summer Dance (Ages 18 months-6 years) Session #2 - August 3-24, 2024

Summer Intensive - August 19-22, 2024

Classes Begin - September 16, 2024

Last Day Of Class - June 6, 2025

2025 Recital Dates

Studio Rehearsal - June 7, 2025 @ Dance Spectrum

Competitive & Adult Dress Rehearsal - June 11, 2025 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ **5:30pm**

Recreational Dress Rehearsal - June 12, 2025 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ **5:30pm**

Private Lesson Showcase - June 13, 2025 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ **6:00pm**

Children's & Recreational Showcase - June 14, 2025 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ **11:00am**

Competitive & Adult Showcase - June 14, 2025 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ **6:00pm**

2024-2025 Studio Closures

Halloween - October 31, 2024

Thanksgiving Break - November 25-30, 2024

Holiday Break - December 22-January 3, 2025

February Break - February 17-22, 2025

Spring Break - April 14-26, 2025

Memorial Day Weekend - May 23-26, 2025

**More Important Dates
Coming Soon**



Parent/Guardian Participation Week

Dates TBA

Participation Week gives you the chance to “step” into the classroom and see firsthand what the classroom experience is like for your child.

Yearbook Photos

Dates TBA

Dancers will have individual photos taken for our end of the year yearbook.

Picture Week

Dates TBA

Class photos will be taken at the Dance Spectrum during regular class times by Jessica Popovich Photography. Dancers will have an individual photo taken as well as a group photo. There is no obligation to purchase photos.

Recital Tickets

Date TBA

To create an organized and professional atmosphere, we use reserved seating. Each audience member must have a ticket. Children must have a ticket as Shea’s does not allow children to sit on adults’ laps. Our recitals are considered family entertainment and enjoyable for all.

Tickets for the 2025 Recital will go on sale at the Shea’s box office and through Ticketmaster. Detailed ticket information will be available in the Spring.

Annual Recital & Rehearsals

Studio Rehearsal

June 7, 2025

This rehearsal allows the students to practice without mirrors, practice entrances and exits in the order of the show and it gives dancers a chance to dance in front of their peers. **NO COSTUMES!**

Dress Rehearsal

June 11 - 12, 2025

Competitive & Adult Dress Rehearsal - June 11th @ 5:30pm

Children’s & Recreational Dress Rehearsal - June 12th @ 5:30pm

This rehearsal allows dancers to become familiar with the theater surroundings and feel comfortable with their performance costume(s) and being onstage. Lighting, music cues and all other logistics for an organized and professional performance are rehearsed. For this rehearsal, dancers will wear their recital costumes, as well as practice their stage make-up and hair.

Recital

June 13-14, 2025

Private Lesson Showcase - June 13th @ 6:00pm

Children’s & Recreational Showcase - June 14th @ 11:00am

Competitive & Adult Showcase - June 14th @ 6:00pm

The recital offers our students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to their families and friends the results of a year’s hard work, dedication and progress. Our 2025 recital will be held at Shea’s Performing Arts Center on Saturday, June 14, 2025.

For Recital Showcases, dancers will arrive backstage in their Recital costumes, hair and make-up. Dancers will remain in their assigned dressing rooms throughout the Showcase. More information on our Recitals and rehearsals will be provided later on in the dance season.



Registration Policies

Registration

All students should register for classes through the Parent Portal. Dance Spectrum offers a variety of classes for all ages and levels.

The Children's Program is designed for our youngest dancers, ages 8 & under.

The Recreational Program is designed for dancers ages 9 & up.

We also offer Competitive Programs for dancers ages 5 & up. Dancers must audition for placement into the Competitive Programs.

To learn more about our programs and available classes, visit www.dancespectrum.net.

Membership Fee

The non refundable membership fee and 1st tuition payment are due at the time of registration.

Available in Standard and Premium levels!

- **Standard DS Membership Fee** includes registration into the school, standard access to class registration & waitlists, livestream viewing access, private Facebook member group, participation in the recital at Shea's Performing Arts Center and all additional rehearsals, standard access to ticket sales, digital program book and insurance fees for our dancers.

1 Dancer - \$145

2 Dancers - \$195

3 Dancers - \$235

For debit or credit pricing, please contact office@dancespectrum.net

- **Premium DS Membership Fee** includes everything listed in the Basic DS Membership Fee **-PLUS-**

The 2025 Recital Show Shirt, digital download of the 2025 Recital, 20% off DS Retail, 20% off DS yearbook & Recital stuffie, premium prices for all in-house DS workshops and camps, priority registration for the 2024-2025 season, workshops & camps, priority waitlists for the 2024-2025 season and priority ticket sales for the 2025 Recital.

1 Dancer - \$185

2 Dancers - \$235

3 Dancers - \$275

For debit or credit pricing, please contact office@dancespectrum.net

Tuition Policy

Dance Spectrum tuition is based on a full season starting September 16, 2024 until the Recital June 14, 2025. Tuition is a course fee and all prices include all holidays. We do not prorate for late registrations.

TUITION: All accounts must have a form of payment on file (CC, EFT checking or savings) Payments can be made anytime before the 1st. Any unpaid accounts will automatically be processed on the 1st of the month to your primary account on file. Payment arrangements are always an option & can be made by contacting the office.

LATE FEES: A \$10 late fee will be applied on the 2nd of the month to all accounts not paid by the 1st of the month.

- Family discounts include: 5% 2nd child discount, 10% 3rd child discount (some restrictions may apply). All students must reside at the same address to receive the sibling registration discount.
- Please Note: the total you will see on your dance portal, for charges pertaining to the 24/25 season, reflects credit card pricing.
- You can SAVE 4% by paying with ACH (online) OR cash/check (at the office)
- There are no make-ups or refunds for missed classes.
- A \$30 service fee is charged on all returned checks.
- A \$20 service fee is charged for an ACH return.
- After 2 checks are returned for insufficient funds, your account must be paid with cash or credit only.
- Students who fall more than two months behind on tuition payments will not be allowed to return to class until the account is brought up to date, including late fees.

Costume Fees

All costume fees are due **November 1, 2024**.

Payments can be made anytime before the 1st. Any unpaid accounts will automatically be processed on November 1st. Payment arrangements are always an option & can be made by contacting the office.

PreSchool Program & Boys Ages 3-6

Cash or ACH \$75.00

For debit or credit pricing, please contact office@dancespectrum.net

Children's Program Kinder & Mini

Cash or ACH \$80.00

For debit or credit pricing, please contact office@dancespectrum.net

Recreational Program Level 1, Level 2 & Boys Ages 7-18

Cash or ACH \$85.00 (Boys Only Hip Hop/Tap Cash or ACH \$95.00)

For debit or credit pricing, please contact office@dancespectrum.net

\$10 Late Fees will be applied after 11/1/2024.

Please Note: the total you will see on your dance portal, for charges pertaining to the 24/25 season, reflects credit card pricing.

General Policies

- Dancers are expected to attend all classes. Please contact the studio to inform us of any absences.
- Please remove all street shoes and boots at designated locations.
- Dancers should always have a water bottle with them in class. Please label your dancer's water bottle.
- Only water is allowed in the studios, No food, drinks, or gum is allowed in class.
- Student must act respectfully and appropriately while on any possible scheduled breaks.
- Cell phones may not be brought into class. Please turn cellphones and watches to silent mode to not interrupt class.
- Smoking and vaping are prohibited on the Dance Spectrum property.

Stay Connected

If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact the office at 716-668-1954.

Season hours - Monday through Friday 3:00-8:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am-12:00pm.

We answer emails on a daily basis. Feel free to email questions to the office at office@dancespectrum.net.

Email

Please make sure we have your most up-to-date email address on file on your dance account. Newsletters & updates are emailed often.

Website - www.dancespectrum.net

We are constantly updating our website. Calendar of Events, News, and important parent and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is available to all current DS families. Access your account by creating a user name and password. The Parent Portal provides you with 24/7 access to your child's information. With a Parent Portal account, you may log on at any time to view information regarding your families account, child(s) class schedule, tuition information, and ability to make payments and register for workshop classes online. Visit www.dancespectrum.net for instructions into your Parent Portal.

Dance Spectrum App

Please download it from the iTunes Store for iPhone users or GooglePlay for Android users and create a profile. When downloading the app from the iTunes Store, search Dance Spectrum. When downloading from GooglePlay please use this [link](#) or search 'Dance Spectrum'.

After creating a profile, find your class(es), click "Join Class" then select "request access". You will receive access to your class(es) within 24 hours of requesting. This is a private group where your teacher will send videos, pictures and skills to work on.

Social Media

Follow us on our social media platforms. We often post photos and videos of our students in class and other Dance Spectrum events. Find us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Please join our DS Members only Facebook group.

Zoom Into Class

Due to our Safety Policies, our Waiting Room is closed. Parents have the opportunity to view classes via Zoom. Zoom ID numbers change monthly. Log in with your dancer's name and please mute your microphone.

Weather Cancellations

School closures due to severe weather conditions will be announced by 3:00pm on that day. Notifications of weather cancellations will be posted on the Dance Spectrum app, emailed, posted on the website, the Facebook page, and announced on the school's outgoing voicemail message. Weather cancellations will also be posted on local TV channels.



DRESS CODE

PreSchool 3 - Option 1

- Attire: Leotard & Tights (Any Color)
- Shoes: Pink Ballet Shoes

PreSchool 3 - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Black Ballet Shoes

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face

PreSchool 4 - Option 1

- Attire: Leotard & Tights (Any Color)
- Shoes: Pink Ballet Shoes & Black Tie Tap Shoes

PreSchool 4 - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Black Ballet Shoes & Black Tie Tap Shoes

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face

Acro - Option 1

- Attire: Form fitting dance clothes (leotard, leggings, shorts, etc)
- Shoes: None

Acro - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: None

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face

Ballet - Option 1

- Attire: Black leotard & Pink tights (Ballet skirts are permitted)
- Shoes: We recommend split sole canvas shoes

Ballet - Option 2

- Attire: Black joggers & Black form fitting tee shirts
- Shoes: Black Split Sole Ballet shoes

Hair: Pulled back in a bun

Hip Hop - All Dancers

- Attire: Comfortable street clothes - No Jeans
- Shoes: Clean Sneakers

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face

Jazz - Option 1

- Attire: Form fitting dance clothes (leotard, leggings, shorts, etc)
- Shoes: Black (Slip on or tie up) Jazz Shoes

Jazz - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Black (Slip on or tie up) Jazz Shoes

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face

Lyrical - Option 1

- Attire: Form fitting dance clothes (leotard, leggings, shorts, etc)
- Shoes: Barefoot, Ballet Slippers or Jazz Shoes

Lyrical - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Barefoot, Ballet Slippers or Jazz Shoes

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face

Tap - Option 1

- Attire: Form fitting dance clothes (leotard, leggings, shorts, etc)
- Shoes: Black Hard Sole Oxford Tap Shoes are recommended

Tap - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Black Hard Sole Oxford Tap Shoes are recommended

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face

OUR CLASSES

PreSchool 3 is a program designed for 3 year olds that teaches more than just dance!! This class incorporates engaging music, interactive props and presents a classroom structure (following directions, taking turns, spatial awareness as well as developing friendships) all while introducing beginning ballet curriculum, rhythm, balance and gross motor skills.

PreSchool 4 is a continuation of the PS3 program or for brand new 4 year olds. This class maintains and builds on ballet basics and strengthens gross motor development. The tap portion of class will help further develop rhythm, balance and coordination.

PeeWee Acro is for 3-4 year old Boys & Girls. Acro is based on safe and effective progressions in five areas; flexibility, strengthening, balancing, limbering and tumbling, similar to floor gymnastics.

Acro (ages 5 & up) is based on safe and effective progressions in five areas; flexibility, strengthening, balancing, limbering and tumbling, similar to floor gymnastics.

Level 2: Dancers must be able to execute skills such as both side cartwheels, backbends down & up, front limbers and backbend kickovers.

Ballet (ages 5 & up) is a Classical dance form demanding strength, grace and precision. Ballet is used as the foundation in all dance forms.

Hip Hop (ages 5 & up) is best described as high energy and original. Strengthening and conditioning will help build a solid foundation for Breaking, Locking, Housing and more.

Level 2: Dancers 9 years old & older with 3 or more years of experience in each style. Years of experience starts after dancers complete the Mini Program and are a part of our Recreational Program.

Jazz (ages 5 & up) dance combines the technique of Ballet and Modern dance with the current forms of popular dance. Jazz has its own vocabulary ranging from isolations to the movement of the entire body. The Jazz curriculum includes stretching, jumps, rhythm and various styles of movement.

Level 2: Dancers 9 years old & older with 3 or more years of experience in each style. Years of experience starts after dancers complete the Mini Program and are a part of our Recreational Program.

Lyrical (ages 7 & up) is a fusion of Jazz and Ballet styles with a concentration of Ballet technique. Lyrical focuses on fluid movements and expressive emotion. We highly recommend all Lyrical students take a weekly Ballet class.

Level 2: Dancers 9 years old & older with 3 or more years of experience in each style. Years of experience starts after dancers complete the Mini Program and are a part of our Recreational Program.

Musical Theater (ages 5-6 & 9 & up) is a combination of dancing and acting, similar to what would be seen in musicals and Broadway shows. Dancers learn to incorporate personalities & story lines into their story

Tap (ages 5 & up) is a percussive style of dance. Its name comes from the tapping sound made when metal plates on the dancer's shoes touch the floor. Students will learn to understand rhythm and timing while working on footwork and agility.

Level 2: Dancers 9 years old & older with 3 or more years of experience in each style. Years of experience starts after dancers complete the Mini Program and are a part of our Recreational Program.



OUR SAFETY POLICIES

Your child's safety is our top priority. We pledge to keep your children healthy, happy and safe!

Fast Facts:

- Faculty and Staff are certified in CPR, First Aid and the use of an AED. There is an AED machine located near the front desk.
- We are proud to teach age appropriate classes and choreography. Also, we use age appropriate music and costuming.
- Each dance room is equipped with "sprung" floors and state of the art sound/tech equipment.
- Each dance room has ceiling fans and HVAC systems with Merv 10 filters.
- There are fire extinguishers in the front and back of the building.
- There are smoke detectors and emergency lighting throughout the building.
- There are 4 exits in the front of the building and 2 in the back.
- The front desk has a panic button that if needed, a light will go on in each of the dance rooms alerting the teachers to "lock down".
- Each studio has 2 ways in and out and all doors are equipped with dead bolts.
- Each studio has an intercom system and an emergency bag that contains first aid supplies.
- We have numerous safety drills in place including fire, active shooter, lock down and lock out. Therefore, once classes are in session the waiting room is closed to parents & visitors.

Did you know:

- The DS Dream Team consists of 2 Doctors of Physical Therapy, a Mental Health counselor, 2 certified elementary teachers, 2 elementary teacher assistants, 5 certified teachers in PBT (progressive ballet technique), a graduate student in Early Childhood Education, an MBA in communications, a trader with 3 NASD licenses, a notary republic, a former Broadway professional, a graduate student in school psychology, a graduate of economics and finance, a fashion makeup artist with a degree in special effects, a graduate of business administration, a former student of The New York City Ballet and the American Ballet Theater, a Licensed Practical Nurse and a CATT Scan Technologist at Oishei Children's Hospital.

Communication

Illness

If you observe any signs of illness or contagious conditions in your child, please keep them at home and inform the office, 716.668.1954 or office@dancespectrum.net

Medical Information

Parents should notify the Dance Spectrum office if your child may require the use of an inhaler or any other medications during their time at the Dance Spectrum.

It is also important to inform the office of your child's existing medical conditions at the time of registration and throughout the school year.

Please share with us any information to help our instructors give your dancer the best experience possible.

Injury

If your child obtains an injury which restricts their participation in class, parent should notify the office.



OUR DREAM TEAM



Patty Neal
Studio Owner & CEO



Aubrey Neal
Studio Manager
Recreational Program Director



Lauren Zerkowski
Studio Manager
Competitive Program Director



Lynne Johnson
PreSchool
Program Director



Jennifer Keicher
Office Manager



Jill McKay
Assistant Competitive
Program Director



Abby Catlin
Faculty



Lindsay Colbert
Faculty



Lily Dreyer
Faculty



Renee Fitzsimmons
Faculty & Office Staff



Liz Franklin
Faculty



Maddie Flanigan
Faculty



Maddie Kline
Faculty



Gary Marino
Faculty



Beverly Pajak
Faculty & Office Staff



Jeremy Powalowski
Faculty



Jordan Ryszkiewicz
Faculty



Alex Sherry
Faculty



Joyce Stencel
Office Staff



Emma Wade
Faculty



Karen Washbon
Faculty