

2017-2018

PARENT HANDBOOK



THE DANCE SHOPPE

(248) 623-1950
3549 Airport Rd. Suite 112
Waterford, 48329
In the Daisy Park Plaza
www.thedanceshoppemi.com

Thank you for choosing The Dance Shoppe, where everyone's a star! You made an excellent choice when you selected The Dance Shoppe for your child. In order to work together toward giving your child the best dance experience possible, there are specific rules and procedures that will need to be followed; this handbook explains these procedures to parents. The Dance Shoppe's program is limitless, meaning the dancers and parents set their own boundaries, by deciding how much time and energy is to be devoted to dancing. This handbook aims to explain the different Dance Shoppe programs and their costs, so that you can successfully help your child with their dance goals. Please carefully read the handbook; you will then experience no "surprises" throughout the year, as we inform you in detail. Pay special attention to information **that is highlighted**, and refer back to this handbook often.

If you ever have any questions throughout the dance season, do not hesitate to leave a detailed message for your child's instructor at the desk. Let's work together to enjoy the 2017-2018 dance season, and make your child a star!

FACULTY

The Dance Shoppe is proud to boast a staff where every teacher is thoroughly qualified to teach your child.

Lauren Lenter has owned and operated The Dance Shoppe for the past decade. She is professionally certified by examination through Dance Masters of America in the disciplines of tap, acrobatics, and jazz. She is certified through the Cecchetti Council of America at both the student and teacher levels. She is active in Dance Masters Chapter 4, and currently serves as a director on their board, as well as co-director of their teen title competition.

In addition to running the studio, at The Dance Shoppe, Lauren heads up the preschool, tap and tumbling programs. Her competitive students, the Classy Dancers, have achieved numerous accolades on both the regional and national level. Lauren has trained former and current Dance Masters and ADA title holders at all age levels, including the current Jr Miss Dance of MI 2017.

Lauren loves working with all of her students, in nearly every subject The Dance Shoppe offers. She enjoys spending time with her "little dancers," just as much as she enjoys working with the more experienced ones. Lauren is also the founder of the studio's popular Dazzling Star performance group.

Lauren is proud of her roots growing up at The Dance Shoppe, where she was a member of the "Classy Dancer" intensive program, as well as the Lakes Area Civic Ballet.

Following graduation, she spent two years studying Dance and Arts Management at Oklahoma City University. She also performed with the RhythM Tap Ensemble, while studying at the University of Michigan. Lauren toured with the cast of "Sesame Street Live" as well, in the lead role of Zoe.

Lauren continues to study around the country with master teachers, to further her dance studies, and stay up to date with the latest dance innovations.

Terri Newman owned The Dance Shoppe for its first 26 years and continues to teach full time. She founded the Classy Dancers 26 years ago when her dancers were invited to perform in the Soviet Union. Terri's extensive teaching credits include being a master instructor at both the Dance Masters of America and American Dance Awards National Conventions. Terri has taught her turning technique throughout the country and produced the DVD entitled, "Turn Your Dancing Around." She is proud to have trained numerous dancers that have pursued successful dance careers, including an LA choreographer, an Alvin Ailey Company member, a Miss Dance of America, an American Female Dancer of the Year, a Juilliard graduate, several NY Rockettes, and many teachers & studio owners. Terri is certified by examination as a professional dance instructor by both Dance Masters of America and the Cecchetti Ballet Council of America. She has judged in both the U.S. and Canada. Most importantly, in her 37 years of teaching, Terri is proudest of the thousands of strong, confident, and courageous young women that danced at The Dance Shoppe. She finds fulfillment in maintaining contact with so many alumni, and in teaching many of their children

Megan Cook is a graduate of Oakland University with a Masters of Arts in Teaching and the University of Michigan with a Bachelors of Science in Pure Mathematics. She is certified by examination through Dance Masters of Michigan in Ballet, by the Cecchetti Council of America at the student and professional levels, and the State of Michigan in Secondary Education for Mathematics and Physics. Megan is an alumna of the Dance Shoppe's "Classy Dancers," the Lakes Area Civic Ballet Company, and the Pre-Professional Group. As an instructor, she has won various awards for her choreography such as Diamond Choreography Award (ADA), the Mary Helen Stewart Choreography Award (DMM), Best Solo Choreography (ADA), Best Choreography Award (Access Broadway), and choreography recognition (LA Dance Magic & Revive). Megan was an award-winning dancer as well. She has performed with the Dance Department and Impact Dance Company at the University of Michigan. In addition to teaching dance, Megan currently teaches math and physics at Renaissance Alternative High School.

Chelsea Contway is an alumna of The Dance Shoppe's Classy Dancers and Lakes Area Civic Ballet Company. She is certified by examination by the Cecchetti Council of America at the student level. She is also certified through Dance Masters of America in Jazz. This is her tenth year teaching at The Dance Shoppe, where she has developed an award winning and entertaining Hip Hop program. Her unique style has brought Hip Hop at the studio to the competition level for the last eight years. Her routines have won numerous special awards and high scores, as well as receiving the Shirley Raitz Costume Award from DMM in 2011, 2012, 2013, & 2014. As a choreographer, she was awarded The Diamond Choreography Award (ADA 2013) and Mary Helen Stewart Choreography Award (DMM 2014 and 2016). In addition to teaching dance, Chelsea works in Commerce Township as a licensed cosmetologist. She earned her Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Oakland Community College.

Emilie Hamlin has known the Dance Shoppe to be her second home as long as she can remember. Growing up there, she had the privilege of dancing as a Classy Dancer as well as a member of the Select Program. She started teaching right after high school in 2008. Emilie absolutely loves teaching and working with recreational students and Classy Dancers. Her Classy Dancer pieces have been recognized with the Shirley Raitz Costume Award from DMM, "Entertainment Award" from Bravo Dance Competition and 1st Place overall for 12 & Under Large Group at Legacy Dance Competition. She is an alumna of

Oakland University, with a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in Elementary Education. Emilie loves working with children – it has been her passion for many years! Emilie is really looking forward to marrying her fiancé Ryan in October.

Brittni Kennedy is a 2011 Dance Shoppe alumnus and danced with the award winning Classy Dancers and Select Group. She is certified by examination by the Cecchetti Council of America at the student level. This is her fifth year teaching at the Dance Shoppe. She enjoys working with the pre/kinder program students as well as our recreational combo, jazz, ballet, and tap students. She also works with our Dazzling Star performance group, as a substitute teacher for all other classes. Brittni choreographed her first Classy Dancer competition piece last year and the piece won multiple awards including; Bravos "Entertainment Award," DMM PAC's "Costume Award," and 1st place overall for 12 and Under Large Group at Legacy Dance Competition. Outside of The Dance Shoppe, Brittni is actively involved in the community; she has choreographed for kindergarten and first grade students at Gretchko Elementary School. Brittni graduated from Oakland University with a degree in Biomedical Diagnostic Therapeutic Sciences and a specialization in Radiation Therapy. She is currently working as a Radiation Therapist at Beaumont Hospital Dearborn in the Radiation Oncology Department.

Jodie Randolph is a choreographer and dance educator based in Southeast Michigan. She is a member of Dance Masters of America, Michigan Dance Council, and the National Organization of Dance Educators. Jodie received her B.S. from Eastern Michigan University, where she studied dance and management. She is currently pursuing her MFA in Choreography at Jacksonville University in Florida. Jodie is the Creative Director and Resident Choreographer for Pure Existence, a professional contemporary dance company based in Ann Arbor, MI. She also serves as an adjunct lecturer of dance at Eastern Michigan University, is on faculty at Brighton Dance Festival, Company C Dance Club and the Platinum Dance Experience. She teaches master classes throughout the country for notable organizations including Detroit Dance City Festival, Dance in the Mitten and Oakland Dance Festival. Her students have gone on to study at the Julliard School, Marymount of Manhattan, Indiana University, University of Michigan, Point Park University and among other prestigious schools. Jodie's work has been recognized across the Midwest. She was named Choreographer of the Year in 2012. Her Choreography has been commissioned for Brighton Dance Festival, Dance Masters of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and Oakland University, as well as many schools in metro Detroit. Jodie has presented work at Biomorphic Festival (NY), Brighton Dance Festival, Detroit Dance City Festival, Detroit Dance Race and Oakland Dance Festival, in addition to producing full scale concerts for Pure Existence. Her passion is mentoring dancers to find their own unique voice by embracing their individuality. Her organic practice combined with highly athletic movement allows dancers to push physical and emotional boundaries.

Mallory Marshall is a member of the Dance Shoppe's Classy Dancer program as well as the prestigious Select Team. Amongst her dance accomplishments, she was crowned Teen Miss Dance of MI in 2016, with the honor of placing 4th at nationals and winning the tap class award. Mallory has also choreographed her sister's award winning tap solo the past two seasons. In addition to being an accomplished dancer, Mallory has assisted in the classroom for the past five years, for all ages and levels. Her love for teaching dance and choreography has been very evident since she was very young, and she is thrilled to share that love with her students again this season.

Jamie Hetherington has been tap dancing for over 20 years. Her most extensive training was at The Dance Shoppe. Although she trained in all forms of dance, tap quickly became her passion. She has attended many classes/workshops all around Michigan and studied two weeks at the EDGE performing arts center in Los Angeles on scholarship. She has guest taught and Choreographed tap numbers for numerous studios. She has taught at Star Strut Dance Center in Oxford for the last year. Her competitive tap numbers have placed in the overall high scores for their age/category. Jamie has a BFA from Grand Valley State University, where she studied many types of art, but specialized in ceramics. Her commissioned wall hangings are displayed throughout the GSVU campus and in other Michigan businesses and homes. Jamie's passion for all areas of art makes her a stronger teacher, by encompassing a focus on art into her teaching. Jamie is married with two young sons and lives in Clarkston. She hopes to instill her love and passion for tap dancing into her students.

Bernadette Foth is an accomplished dancer with a diverse performance background, as well as being an award-winning choreographer, master class instructor and sought after competition adjudicator. She is a certified member of Dance Educators of America, Dance Masters of Michigan, Universal Dance Association and Dance Masters of America. She has performed with Enrique Iglesias, Sesame Street Live, West Side Story, The Wiz, and also was a principal dancer for Detroit Talent. Bernadette is the co-owner of our sister studio, Tina Marie School of Dance. Her dancers have received extensive nation-wide accolades for their technique and performances, and many have gone on to dance on Broadway, cruise lines, commercials, music videos and for the Radio City Rockettes. She currently travels throughout the country teaching at convention, along with judging for many competitions such as Lifetimes Hit Show, "Dance Moms." She also choreographs the opening routines, television appearances and various floats for the Hobble Gobble and Thanksgiving Day Parade. Bernadette has dedicated her entire life to cultivating talent and enabling her students to reach their fullest potential, and is so excited to share her love of teaching with The Dance Shoppe students this season.

FACILITY

DANCE ROOMS: The Dance Shoppe has equipped each of its 4 dance rooms with raised wood floors. The raised floors are much safer and kinder to the dancers' bodies than slab floors. Our facility offers three stage size rooms with high ceilings, as well as a 30x30 room.

OBSERVATION WINDOWS: Each dance room is equipped with a large observation window surrounded by benches. These windows are open for viewing on alternate weeks for the regular dance programs and the pre-kinder classes. **The teacher, however, has the right to close the curtains at any time.** Although young children may initially be distracted by the observers, they soon become used to the idea of being watched; this leads to very comfortable stage performers. The Dance Shoppe feels that observation windows are important because parents may enjoy their child's efforts; and more importantly, our dancers learn that dance is something we share with an audience. Dance Shoppe dancers are often complimented on their performing skills and confidence on stage. **The teachers ask that you not tap on the window, wave at the class, or let siblings play at the windows. This could lead to the teacher closing the curtains.**

WINDOWS WILL BE CLOSED FOR VIEWING THE 1ST TWO WEEKS OF CLASS! We then begin alternating observation between the rooms.

WAITING ROOMS: The Dance Shoppe has comfortable waiting rooms in both the front and back of the facility. There is no smoking permitted in the Dance Shoppe. Food & drink are **only permitted in the front tiled area only. No food or beverages are allowed in the clothing shelves or lockers.** We expect all dancers and their families to respect studio property. Parents must assume financial responsibility for any destruction, accidental or otherwise. The black chairs are provided for adults only, not for children to walk or jump on. Parents, please watch your children while they are at The Dance Shoppe.

PICKING UP & DROPPING OFF: The Dance Shoppe does not offer a baby-sitting service; the waiting rooms are intended for parents observing their child, and for dropping off and picking up their child. Dancers should arrive **NO SOONER THEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE THEIR CLASS TIME & SHOULD BE PICKED UP NOT LATER THAN 15 MINUTES AFTER THEIR CLASS HAS ENDED.** The Dance Shoppe is **NOT** responsible for any dancer once they leave the classroom. Do not permit your child to leave the studio and wander outside, or wait for their ride. **THE DANCE SHOPPE CLOSSES AT 9:30 PM; PLEASE BE PROMPT IN PICKING UP YOUR DANCER, AS OUR TEACHERS WOULD LIKE TO GO HOME.** Students picked up past 9:35 will be subject to a fee for late pickup. If there is a one-time emergency where you may be a few minutes late, please call the studio and leave a message, so your dancer isn't panicking.

FIRE REGULATIONS: Fire Code requires that all aisle ways are left clear for exiting, so please do not set your dancers' things on the floor in the waiting room or observation hall. Please use the cubbies provided. Emergency rear exits are available in the Orange Studio and the Teal Studio and are clearly marked.

STUDY AREA: The study area is adjacent to the office. This area is for dancers to do homework, not socialize. Those wanting to be social, please use the picnic area, or the area in the back of the studio. The dancers have priority in these areas.

BULLETIN BOARDS: PLEASE READ THE FOYER BULLETIN BOARD EVERY TIME YOU COME INTO THE STUDIO; pertinent parent information will be posted. Extra copies of all mailers and handouts will be available in the holder next to the bulletin board. The bulletin board in the eating area contains "Classy Dancer" information.

CLASS PLACEMENT

Dance Shoppe instructors confidentially evaluate and place each of our dancers in the recommended classes each season. The strong advantage to our placement procedure is that we attempt to place every dancer in a class that allows them excel and move at an individualized pace. The disadvantage is that in August, when you receive your registration and placement information, you are not given the opportunity to select a convenient night and time. We feel that the advantage strongly outweighs the disadvantage, and most families work their schedules around the recommendations. Your recommended schedule, for those who pre-registered, will be emailed to you. If

you have a problem with the assigned class(es), please email Lauren: MissLauren@TheDanceShoppeMi.com, or come in on Returning Family Registration Day. But please note, if you change your recommended class, that usually means your child will be put in a 2nd choice class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

ABSENCES: The Dance Shoppe feels that it is important for students to gain a sense of responsibility and commitment to themselves and their classmates. It is also necessary that a dancer attend his/her classes regularly to continue progressing with the rest of the class. If a dancer misses more than 4 classes, The Dance Shoppe reserves the right to remove that dancer from recital routines. **As we prepare for the June recital, attendance the last month of class is EXTREMELY important, for your dancer, and for their classmates dancing with them.** Special arrangements may be made ahead of time with your teacher, if she warrants the situation an exception.

TARDINESS: Dancers are expected to be on time for class. Important warm-ups are missed if a student is late, and injuries could result; coming in late also disrupts the other students. For this reason, **if a dancer is 10 minutes late for class, he or she must ask permission to enter the class.** If too many warm-ups have been missed, the student will sit and observe the rest of the class, or the teacher may not give permission to enter. **Three tardies are equivalent to one absence.** The Creative Movement, Pre & Kinder classes are only 30 minutes in length, so please make every effort to be on time. **Please do not send in your dancer more than ten minutes late to any 30 minute class.**

CLASS MAKE-UP: Makeup classes are available in most cases, but must be arranged with the teacher. Please remember that the class your dancer is in is unique in its level, as we usually have only one level of each dance style. Once the show routines begin, each class has a different routine, and makeup classes may no longer be available. Please make it a priority to attend every class. **Make-up classes do NOT eliminate absences from your attendance record.**

DRESS CODE

The Dance Shoppe has a dress code for the following reasons: 1) Uniformity of dance attire enables the instructor to more easily identify a dancer's problem areas. 2) Dressing responsibly for class is part of the discipline of dance. 3) Our dress code eliminates "fashion parades" in class, thus saving parents the expense of trying to outfit their child in the latest dance craze. In fairness to other students who follow the rules, please do not expect us to make an exception for your child. Your first warning is considered a reminder. If your child is out of dress code a second time a note will be sent home, and the third time your child will not be permitted to participate in class. Note: When dancers have reached advanced or professional levels, the instructors may permit exceptions.

GIRLS IN ALL DANCE SUBJECTS:

***Solid colored, plain leotard without attached skirts, designs or decorations of any kind

***Ballet Pink or Suntan tights

*** **Hair must be secured NEATLY up off the neck in a clip or bun.** Hairnet and bobby pins recommended

***Creative Movement, Pre and Kinder Dance, and Tumbling students are permitted ponytails

***Tiny pierced earrings are the only acceptable jewelry worn in class
***No Ballet skirts unless indicated by the instructor
*****NO SHORTS IN ANY BALLET CLASS**
***Baggy, comfortable clothing for hip hop - no leotards and tights please. **Kneepads are required.** No tight shorts or cheerleader shorts.

BOYS IN OUR INTENSIVE PROGRAM (Dazzling Star or Classy Dancer level classes) – dress code for ballet, jazz, stretch, turns, and choreography classes:

***Solid colored shorts or dance pants
*** Solid colored tank top or a tight fitting t-shirt.

ALL OTHER BOYS/BOYS' CLASSES:

***Loose fitting, appropriate clothing

DANCE SHOES:

Ballet : Soft leather **split-soled** ballet slipper (snugly fit), Bloch or Capezio recommended. Cloth ballet slippers for intensive dancers of high school age. Pink for girls, black for boys.

Jazz: Tan soft leather split soled Jazz Oxfords or slip ons (snugly fit), Bloch or Capezio recommended.

Tap: Black patent leather Tap shoes **WITH ELASTIC** and Teletone taps for dancers in second grade or younger, jazz tap shoes for dancers 3rd grade and up.

Hip Hop: Tennis shoes **that are not worn outside the dance room.**

All dance shoes and attire must be purchased by October 1st.

TUITION

Tuition has been divided into ten equal payments for your convenience. The 1st payment is due upon registration.

Each of the following nine payments is **DUE ON THE 15th OF THE MONTH, BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 15th AND ENDING ON MAY 15th.** Checks should be made payable to **The Dance Shoppe. If paying in cash, please bring the exact change & request a receipt.** If there is any problem with cash payments you must be prepared to show your receipt, as without a receipt no adjustment can be made. Please keep your receipts until June. Tuition paid by check may be put into the tuition box located at the front of the desk or mailed to 3549 Airport Rd, Suite 112, Waterford, MI 48329. If mailing in a tuition check, it must be received **by the last day of the month to avoid late fees.**

The Dance Shoppe accepts credit card payments for tuition only. Payments must be made during office hours, and repeated each time you wish to use a card. **WE DO NOT STORE CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.**

If you have a problem with tuition payments, please come to the desk immediately; do not wait until the end of the year. Any tuition that is **NOT AT THE DANCE SHOPPE BEFORE THE 1st DAY OF THE MONTH IS CONSIDERED LATE, AND WILL RESULT IN A BILLING FEE OF \$15.00.** Any tuition that is delinquent in excess of 30 days will be charged an additional delinquent fee equaling 15% of the unpaid balance.

Any returned checks will result in a \$25.00 service charge. Anyone having more than 2 returned checks will be asked to pay by money order or cash. **You must notify the desk (not your dancer's instructor), in writing, by the last day of the month, to discontinue your tuition obligation.**

The tuition policy is standard business policy and already allows for a 2-week grace period. The front desk is not authorized to make any exceptions, so please make sure your tuition is at the Dance Shoppe **by the last day of the month** to avoid any additional fees. If you are experiencing a financial hardship and would like to request special consideration, please make arrangements prior to delinquency with Lauren Lenter.

The Dance Shoppe offers a considerable discount for families with students attending several classes. Monthly tuition payments for the regular dance program (weekly classes of at least 1 hr) are determined by adding the number of WEEKLY HOURS your FAMILY will be studying, and then calculating your monthly tuition. ****PRE-DANCE, KINDER DANCE AND CREATIVE MOVEMENT CLASSES ARE PRICED SEPARATELY.**** All tuition prices are from the first day of classes, **Monday, Sept 11**, through our June production. The tuition fees are as follows:

REGULAR DANCE PROGRAM (Weekly classes are at least 1 hour)
When paid before the 1st of each month

1 st weekly hour	10 monthly payments of \$56.00
2 nd weekly hour.....	10 monthly payments of \$48.00
3 rd weekly hour.....	10 monthly payments of \$42.00
4 th weekly hour.....	10 monthly payments of \$35.00
5 th weekly hour.....	10 monthly payments of \$28.00
6 th weekly hour.....	10 monthly payments of \$21.00
Additional weekly hours...	10 monthly payments of \$12.00

To figure your cost: add total # of weekly hours (1/2 hour will be half of your next hour)
EX: 3 ½ hours = \$56+48+42+17.5 = \$163.50

CREATIVE MOVEMENT (3 yrs old by Oct 31st and potty trained), **PREDANCE and KINDERDANCE**
(Weekly Classes are ½ hour each)

1 st weekly class.....	10 monthly payments of \$40.00
2 nd weekly class	10 monthly payments of \$34.00
3 rd weekly class.....	10 monthly payments of \$25.00
Additional Weekly Classes.....	10 monthly payments of \$18.00

****Please note:** If you have a student in the REGULAR dance program and the Creative Movement, Pre Dance or Kinder Dance, you must price them separately.

Registration accepted as space permits. Dancers will be placed according to age, grade, experience, and teacher evaluations.

The Dance Shoppe charges a \$20.00 registration fee. Families from the 2016-2017 season who pre-registered by July 17 pay only \$15.

*****Pay your year in full by Oct 1st, and get a 5% discount off the entire year. There will be NO REFUNDS ISSUED, so please make sure your dancer is committed to an entire season of dance.**

*****We will begin offering our popular 2 yr old class (must be 2 years old by the first day of class – dancer does not need to be potty trained) in 8 week sessions starting Oct 1st. More info to be emailed out once the year begins – Please notify the front desk if you have a dancer interested in this class!**

TUITION CHART 2017-2018

The Dance Shoppe charges a \$20.00 registration fee.

1 hr - \$56	
1.5 hr - \$80	
2 hr - \$104	
2.5 hr - \$125	
3 hr - \$146	
3.5 hr - \$163.5	
4 hr - \$181	
4.5 hr - \$195	
5 hr - \$209	
5.5 hr - \$219.5	
6 hr - \$230	
6.5 hr - \$236	
7 hr - \$242	
7.5 hr - \$248	
8 hr - \$254	
8.5 - \$260	
9 hr - \$266	
9.5 hr - \$272	
10 hr - \$278	
10.5 hr - \$284	
11 hr - \$290	
11.5 hr - \$296	
12 hr - \$302	
12.5 hr - \$308	
13 hr - \$314	
13.5 hr - \$320	
14 hr - \$326	
14.5 hr - \$332	
15 hr - \$338	
15.5 hr - \$344	
16 hr - \$350	
16.5 hr - \$356	
17 hr - \$362	
17.5 hr - \$368	
18 hr - \$374	
18.5 hr - \$380	
19 hr - \$386	
19.5 hr - \$392	
20 hr - \$398	
20.5 hr - \$404	
21 hr - \$410	
21.5 hr - \$416	
22 hr - \$422	
	22.5 hr - \$428
	23 hr - \$434
	23.5 hr - \$440
	24 hr - \$446
	24.5 hr - \$452
	25 hr - \$458
	25.5 hr - \$464
	26 hr - \$470
	26.5 hr - \$476
	27 hr - \$482
	27.5 hr - \$488
	28 hr - \$494
	28.5 hr - \$500
	29 hr - \$506
	29.5 - \$512
	30 hr - \$518
	30.5 hr - \$524
	31 hr - \$530
	31.5 hr - \$536
	32 hr - \$542
	32.5 hr - \$548
	33 hr - \$554
	33.5 hr - \$560
	34 hr - \$566

Creative Movement, PreDance, and KinderDance students – Priced Separately

1 class - \$40
2 classes - \$74
3 classes - \$99
4 classes - \$117
5 classes - \$135
6 classes - \$153

SUBJECTS OFFERED

The Dance Shoppe offers a variety of programs for both the serious and recreational student. Our class offerings for this season are: Ballet, Pointe, Cecchetti Graded Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Turns, Tap, Acro/Tumbling, Modern, All Boys, and Musical Theatre. All of the following have an Oct 31st cut off date unless permission is received from Miss Lauren: 3 yr olds that are potty trained for Creative Movement, 4 yr olds for Pre Dance, and 5 yr olds for Kinder Dance. 4&5 yr old students can take ballet, tap, tumbling, Tot Hop and/or Broadway Babies. Students taking ballet and jazz that desire more performing opportunities may be invited to join the “Dazzling Stars” performance group. Serious students in 5th grade and up may audition for the “Classy Dancer” competition troupe. Classy Dancers in 9th grade or above, achieving a high technical level, may be chosen for the “Select Program.”

JUNE PRODUCTION

The Dance Shoppe’s June Production audiences are always pleasantly surprised to find our productions much more professional than the typical dance recital. Our production includes all of our dancers at the studio telling a story through dance, with scenery and special effects. We make all our dancers feel special, teaching them to be committed to their class, and comfortable with an audience – invaluable skills!

Our June Shows will be held at Clarkston High School in mid-June (exact dates announced in September). Many dancers are involved in only one of these performances. The rehearsal and show schedule is not ready until the week after spring break. **We do our best to schedule students with multiple classes and family members into the same show, but this is not always possible!**

COSTUMES: A **non-refundable payment** for each class that your dancer is in will be **due by Dec 1st, PAYABLE TO LAUREN LENTER (check or cash only)**. For all dancers 1st grade or younger, costume cost for the season is \$70/costume. For all dancers 2nd grade or above, costume cost for the season is \$80/costume. The **non-refundable costume payment** must be accompanied by the Tight and Show Agreement (which will be included in your Fall Newsletter). During the first week of December, costume orders are finalized and the companies have a NO REFUND POLICY.

*****Don’t Miss Out!** Pay your costume fee, and turn in your tight and show agreement **by Oct 31**, and pay the EARLY BIRD rate! \$65 for all dancers 1st grade or younger, and \$75 for all dancers 2nd grade and above.

TICKETS: Tickets will go on sale online through Tututix at the end of May. **Accounts must be paid in full before tickets can be purchased.** Our shows are popular, so it is important that parents order their tickets before public ticket sales begin. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE TICKET AVAILABILITY AFTER THE PRE-SALE DATES.**

DVDS & SHOW PROGRAMS: Parents may video at the rehearsal only, with a battery-operated video camera. We contract a professional DVD company to film the entire show at the performances. Parents have been very pleased with these DVDS in the past. The Classy Dancer study trip dancers produce a show program, which includes a complimentary picture of each Dance Shoppe class. You will have the opportunity to

purchase personal or company picture ads of your dancer. “Happy Ads” wishing your dancer good luck in the show are also available. You will also have the opportunity to order flower bouquets for your favorite dancer. Information on the ads will be available in late winter and order forms for the DVDS, bouquets and programs will be available in the spring.

THE DAZZLING STARS

The Dazzling Stars performance team offers dancers an opportunity to gain valuable performing experience, without the pressure or commitment of joining our competition team. They are focused on community outreach and entertainment. These dancers take a minimum of ballet and jazz, in addition to their weekly class that includes stretch and a half hour of choreography. Founded in 2007, the Dazzling Stars perform at several elderly care facilities, the annual Classy Dancer showcase, the Dance Masters Of Michigan competition, and local area parades.

THE CLASSY DANCERS

The “Classy Dancers” are a nonprofit dance company designed for amateur dancers that have chosen dance as a priority activity. Annual auditions are held for the selection of the competing Troupes. Dancers are selected based on dance abilities, future potential, attendance records, and the evaluations of attitude and effort.

The “Classy Dancers” compete and perform numerous times each year. They also attend several workshops and conventions each season. The company was founded to offer involved students more performance opportunities and professional experiences. The nonprofit company also offers parents the opportunity to fundraise their troupe expenses, through participation in Parents for the Advancement of Dance Arts (PADA).

Dancers wishing to audition for the “Classy Dancers” should be studying a minimum of Jazz and Ballet, and are strongly encouraged to begin Cecchetti Graded Ballet, as well as a turns class. Workshop and convention attendance is also strongly encouraged. You may read the eating area bulletin board for information on educational opportunities. Parents should seek guidance from Lauren Lenter or Terri Newman if their child is hoping to train for the “Classy Dancers.”

THE CECCHETTI GRADED BALLET SYSTEM

Parents will be notified when their child qualifies to begin exam training. Cecchetti is invaluable in training muscle memory and developing strong technique. This class is required for Classy Dancer participation and is taken in addition to the dancer’s regular ballet class. The class is designed specifically to prepare the ballet dancer for exams.

POINTE WORK

Parents will be notified when their child is ready to begin pointe work. A ballet dancer must have passed the Grade Three Cecchetti exam, and be at least 13 years of age, before they may be considered by their instructor for pointe work. Dancers studying pointe are required to take two ballet classes, one of which is Cecchetti. Some dancers may be required to have an x-ray showing proper foot growth before beginning pointe work.

HOME PRACTICE

Dancers are encouraged to set aside 10 minute practice sessions, 2 or 3 times weekly. Instructors may assign a practice step each week. Stretches that have been taught in class may be practiced at home; this may make television time more constructive. Splitters Club pins are awarded in June for any dancer who can sit in both a correct right and left split for 1 minute. Home practice makes this easier to obtain. To aid in home practice for the June production, dancers may be asked to bring in a battery operated tape recorder beginning in January. You will also have the option of purchasing a cd with your dancer's recital music on it. This is a very valuable tool in aiding your dancer's practice! After your dancer's show routine has been taught, there will be a video day, so that you may video the entire dance.

PICTURES

Every spring the Dance Shoppe has a professional photographer come to our studio and take pictures of the dancers in full costume and makeup. The photographer offers a variety of packages involving individual and class pictures. This is offered to interested parents, but is **ABSOLUTELY NOT REQUIRED**. In fact, dancers may elect to participate in only the class picture, and will be part of the June Show Program at no expense to the dancer.

SCHEDULED HOLIDAYS

Classes for the 2017-2018 Dance Season begin Monday, Sept 11

There will be no classes on the following dates:

Halloween – No class Tuesday, Oct 31

Thanksgiving – Break begins Wednesday, Nov 22 and classes resume Monday, Nov 27

December Break – Break begins Friday, Dec 22 and classes resume Monday, Jan 8

February Break – Break begins Saturday, Feb 17 and classes resume Monday, Feb 26

Spring Break – Break begins Saturday, March 31, and classes resume Monday, April 9

Memorial Day – Break begins Saturday, May 26, and classes resume Tuesday, May 29

Recital – Tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 15 & Saturday June 16 with mandatory rehearsals June 12-14 (Exact dates announced in September. Schedules for rehearsals and shows distributed the week after spring break)

**Look for "Summer Workshop" dates to be posted in newsletters and online in February.

SNOW CANCELLATION

WE DO NOT NECESSARILY CANCEL WHEN SCHOOL IS CLOSED. If the weather appears questionable in the late afternoon, please call the studio after 3pm, check your email, or check our facebook page, before leaving your home.