

New Students Information Sheet

Welcome to the Cooling Dance Center! If you are looking for a healthy, fun, educational experience for your child, I believe you have come to the right place. And if you are like most parents, you have some questions. I hope the following will provide some useful answers.

How will my child be placed into a class?

Children are grouped by age and amount of experience. I do offer at least three (and sometimes more) sections in each age range to make sure that can happen. I am now offering two mornings of preschool classes as well as Saturdays to help avoid the later evenings for this age group. Dancers ages 5 and up may also fit into our weeknight schedule as space allows. In 16 years of teaching, I have found it is not necessary to take children out of their age group to “advance” them. We are able to advance all of the children within their age group using the appropriate music, costuming, and teaching methods for that particular age and level of experience.

What will I need?

1. Shoes- If I could offer one piece of advice to parents who want their children to make steady progress in dance, it’s this- invest in a good, workable, breathable, bendable shoe. To this end, I have found a company which offers “stretch” inserts for growth all year, leather styles, great sounding taps, beautiful and moveable fit, and comfort for the children all at very affordable prices
2. Dancewear- Girls- Leotard and tights are required for class. Skirts and/or dance pants are also acceptable and popular over the leotard. Please use leotard liner (flesh colored leo) if wearing 2 piece outfit with midriff. Hair should be off the face in barette, pony, or bun.
3. Costume- Your registration deposit will apply directly to your recital costume. Balance due, if any, will be due in Nov. for our Dec. order deadline.

What does a typical class include?

Your 2 and 3 year olds will take the entire class in the ballet shoes, learning to interact through movement, music, listening, and cooperation in 30 minutes. I have a large assortment of music and materials to keep this age group hopping and smiling, not to mention tumbling too. 4 and 5 year olds will begin with tap steps and tap routines, and continue the class with fun ballet movement and routines, finishing with tumbling in their 45 minute class. Those 6 and older may incorporate jazz with tap and ballet in their class.

Your child will only have to come once a week to learn tap, jazz, and/or ballet. Older students desiring more focus on technique, advancement, or competition may choose to take an additional weekly class.

Will I be able to observe my child’s dance lesson?

There is always room for positive, encouraging family and friends in our studio lobby. Parents of youngest children are also welcome to come in to help younger children with restroom visits if needed.

What is the typical class size?

3 and “younger 4 year old” groups are limited to between 6 and 10 students per class, and 4 and 5 year olds average 12 students per class, and often smaller. Kindergarten and up will have 12 to no more than 18 students. We have a number of class demonstrators and assistants who will also be on hand to work with the children.

Who will be teaching my child?

I will. Because teaching is the part of my work that I most enjoy, I am there for your child. In some classes (primarily evenings,) we will also have assistants on hand. These assistants may demonstrate steps, work with children on dance combinations, and more. We will also have Tasha, college student, on hand to fill in when needed. In the event that I would need to be absent from class, an older trained assistant such as Tasha may teach in my place.

What about recital and performance opportunities?

Performance is an important aspect of dance education, as it allows the student to demonstrate learning, success, and therefore increased self-esteem. We take great care in preparing our performances, and you will find our shows to be framed in a positive, accepting manner. Cooling Dance Center students perform a holiday concert (December) and a spring recital (May/June) each year. The holiday concert features the youngest students in a chance to be onstage, and the spring recital features all the students. We order costumes for the spring recital, while the holiday recital costume is minimal. We also offer several performance and competition opportunities throughout the year.

I look forward to making a difference in your child’s life through dance, and in getting to know your family. JC.