

HARFORD DANCE CENTER

2018-2019 Student Handbook



WELCOME TO HARFORD DANCE CENTER

This handbook has been developed to answer many of the Frequently Asked Questions about our studio.

Please feel free to call at any time with any question.

HDC CONTACT INFORMATION:

Zaneta McKoon
Director of Dance

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MISSION STATEMENT

Harford Dance Center offers a diverse range of dance classes for ages 3-18, and strives to be a studio of creative welcoming energy. We provide both personal and professional dance instruction to students of all levels. At HDC we provide high- quality dance training across multiple disciplines such as Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Contemporary, Tap, Pointe, Lyrical and Hip Hop. Classes emphasize technique while expanding and developing an appreciation for dance performance. HDC enhances dance as an art form, built with hard work, discipline and dedication.

The teaching staff at Harford Dance Center is comprised of talented and energetic teachers who are well trained in the field of dance. They understand what it takes to be a good dancer and make it a priority to pass that knowledge on to their students.

Our students are our first priority. It is our goal that they receive a positive and excellent education in dance.

TEACHING STAFF

The teaching staff at Harford Dance Center is chosen with great care. All of our instructors have either a college degree in dance, tenured professional development in the field, have danced professionally or are currently performing with a professional dance ensemble. We have regular staff meetings where we discuss curriculum and teaching methods. Teachers monitor and discuss students' progress across each of the disciplines to make sure that each student is performing to the best of his or her ability. Our staff strives to give each student the individual attention and instruction he or she needs to reach their potential.

Each of our teachers brings a unique perspective, personality and skill set to the classroom environment. Students benefit from these differing approaches and environments as they mirror the professional environment dancers will encounter throughout their dance career.

HDC DANCE COMPANY

The HDC Dance Company is a year round program for serious intermediate to advanced dancers. Company members will be provided with high quality dance routines to be performed locally and at regional competitions. They will also have opportunity to train at dance conventions with world-renowned teachers and choreographers. Through HDC Dance Company, your dancer will learn teamwork, sportsmanship and an appreciation for the art by practicing, performing and competing. HDC Dance Company will provide dancers with an enhanced development of their craft and offer a rewarding way to express their love of dance.

HDC Dance Company is an audition only program.

HDC DANCE PROGRAM

PRE-BALLET/TAP	Ages 3-5
BALLET	Introductory to Advanced
POINTE	Pre-Pointe to Advanced
MODERN	Beginner to Advanced
JAZZ	Introductory to Advanced
LYRICAL	Beginner to Advanced
CONTEMPORARY	Intermediate to Advanced
TAP	Introductory to Advanced
HIP HOP	Introductory to Advanced
SPECIALTY CLASSES	Leaps, Jumps & Turns, Ballet Technique, Dance Conditioning, & Musical Theater



CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

BALLET is the basis for most dance forms. It teaches the strong foundation and terminology needed by all dancers. It is most commonly danced to classical music. Our curriculum is influenced by many techniques, such as Vaganova and Cecchetti but not conformed to one sole discipline.

PRE-BALLET WITH TAP is a program designed for children ages 3 - 5 years. This program takes the basics of ballet technique and through the use of props and imagination, gives the children a fun and educational class. Gross motor skills are highlighted as well as coordination. All of the pre-ballet classes end with tap, where rhythms and fine motor skills are emphasized. *Children must be 3 years old by the start of the session and fully toilet trained.*

POINTE is an extended form of ballet. A student must reach a certain age and level before they are ready for Pointe based on a list of criteria. Pointe shoes are required and must be approved by the teacher. An additional ballet class is required to build strength in the legs, torso and ankles. *Students must have prior approval of the studio's director. (pre-requisites required)*

JAZZ is a combination of technique and stylized movement that incorporates isolations of the body. Our classes showcase a range of classical, funk, Broadway and contemporary jazz. Jazz is danced to more popular music. *Students must be turning 6 years old in the fall to participate.*

HIP HOP is the style of dance often seen in the commercial dance industry. While jazz dance is heavily incorporated, pedestrian movements are stylized and included in combinations that are performed to upbeat music. *Jazz experience is strongly recommended.*

TAP is a dance in which the rhythms of rhythmical variation is audibly tapped out with the toe or heel by a dancer wearing shoes with metal taps placed on them.

MODERN was developed at the turn of the 20th century to stray away from ballet's codified movement. Modern uses a greater range of body movements by the use of energy, breath, phrasing, fall and recovery, contraction, manipulation of the spine and release. Humphrey-Limon, Cunningham, Hawkins, Graham and Release are among the techniques

used. Improvisation is integrated into this class, as well. This particular form of dance is helpful for finding a dancer's center placement and strength. Various forms of music are used.

CONTEMPORARY dance technique tends to utilize both ballet and modern dance, combining the strong, controlled legwork of ballet and the stress on torso of modern. It can also employ contact-release, floor work, fall and recovery, and improvisation. It has an interpretative style and sometimes can be motivated by the music. *Students must have prior approval of the studio's director. (pre-requisites required)*

LYRICAL is a dance style that blends ballet and jazz dance. Lyrical is generally smoother and a bit faster than ballet, but not quite as fast as jazz. A lyrical dancer uses movement to express strong emotions. *Students must have prior approval of the studio's director. (pre-requisites required)*

UNIFORM ATTIRE

Ballet, Pre-Ballet and Pointe:

Female: Pink tights and pink leather ballet shoes, any colored leotard. Hair pulled into a bun.

(Optional: ballet skirt, leg warmers, ballet sweater)

Male: Black dance pants or tights, white t-shirt, black ballet shoes

Intermediate Levels I and up must have split-soled ballet shoes.

Modern, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Tap:

Female: Pink, Black or Tan tights, any colored leotard. Hair pulled in a pony tail.

Male: Black dance pants or tights, white t-shirt.

Modern: Bare feet.

Jazz: Black and Tan Jazz shoes or Teacher's discretion.

Lyrical and Contemporary: Tan Foot Paws.

Tap: Black Tap Shoes, no heels.

Hip Hop & Musical Theater:

Loose fitting, athletic clothing. Clean soled jazz sneakers or regular sneakers (black for recital).

Suggested Retail:

:: curtaincallforclass.com

Studio Name: Harford Dance Center

Passphrase: HDC12345

Go to "My Studio" in the upper right-hand corner, then select your level class

:: Target (seasonal)

:: Payless for younger dancers

LEVELS

Harford Dance Center classes are divided into levels based on student ability, not necessarily by age (with the exception for students under 8 years old).

We divide our levels into the following categories:

Pre-Ballet (Ages 3-5)

Introductory Level Classes

(Ages 5.5-7, must be 6 in the Fall)

Beginning (Level 1 – Level 4)

Intermediate (Level 1 – Level 3)

Advanced

PLACEMENT

It is important that the students are placed in the correct level to help them learn at their own individual rate. Ages are simply a guideline. Students are placed according to their ability. During the first few weeks of classes, students will be evaluated by the teacher and Studio Director to find the best fit for your child's ability. It is recommended that all students participate in a ballet technique class. It is the technical foundation for all other dance genres and will only enhance your child's ability to progress in dance.

We have a great deal of curriculum to cover in each level and we want to make sure that the student is comfortable, strong, confident and technically correct before moving up.

Some students may take a Level for a couple of years, others may move through a Level in less time. The determination is made on an individual basis by the instructor and director. Often our levels do not coincide with other studios. Some studios have three levels while others may offer 10. To compare levels, it is important to look at the curriculum not the number of years of training or to compare year of dancing at another studio. A copy of our curriculum by level is available through the office.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

:: Uniform must be worn. No extra clothes should be worn over the uniform. On occasions where the studio is cold, only dance warm-ups will be permitted. Jewelry of any kind should not be worn.

Parents we ask for your help with upholding our uniform policy. Just as you would not send your child onto the soccer field without shin guards and cleats, please do not send your dancer to class without the appropriate uniform—that includes a good bun for our female dancers.

- :: All students should arrive to the studio **10 minutes** before their class is scheduled to begin. Students need time to prepare for their class by getting into proper uniform, fixing their hair and stretching to loosen their muscles to prevent any injuries. Please do not allow your child into the studio until the teacher calls for them.
- :: If your child is going to be late or absent to a class, please notify the studio prior to the class.
- :: Only four absences from class will be allowed for any child wishing to participate in the end of the year dance performance.
- :: No chewing gum in class.
- :: Do not talk in class.
- :: Take correction willingly.
- :: Please greet, accept and befriend any new students.
- :: Students should remember to use the bathroom **before** class begins to minimize interruptions. If it is necessary to use the bathroom during class, the student should ask the teacher for permission and return to class promptly.
- :: Doors to the studios are kept closed while classes are in session. Parents are asked to remain outside the studio for the duration of the class.

HDC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Inclement Weather

When Harford County Schools are closed or delayed due to inclement weather, all morning classes are cancelled. Please call Harford Dance Center's direct line at 410.893.0022 or join our facebook page at facebook/HarfordDanceCenter.com for all updates on afternoon classes.

Missed Classes

Classes missed due to illness can be made up the following week in any genre on that class level or the one below.

No refunds will be given except in a prolonged medical circumstance, with a doctor's medical certificate.

Waiting Area

Children under the age of 12 years should not be unsupervised in the studio under any circumstances. They are to remain in the dance area only. The teachers are in the studios and cannot be responsible for the children in the lobby. We stress this for your child's safety. If you are dropping or picking up your child off, you must walk to their classroom, not wait in the parking circle.

Parent/Faculty Conference

A conference may be requested with the director as well as the teacher of the class to discuss progress or concerns.

Contract

Our contracts are yearly commitments, August through April. We require a 30 day written notice from the first of the month if your child is not going to continue in the dance program. For example, if your child will not be attending classes in January, we must have the written notification in hand by December 1 to insure you will not be liable for the tuition payment as of January. Tuition is based on our annual dance year and remains the same regardless of the holidays or closings.



2018-2019 DANCE YEAR CALENDAR

2018

SEPTEMBER 4-8 | First Week of Classes

OCTOBER 1-OCTOBER 6 | Bring a Friend Week

OCTOBER 31 | Studio Closed, Halloween

NOVEMBER 5 | First Costume Payment Due

NOVEMBER 21-25 | Studio Closed, Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 26 | Classes Resume

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 1 | Studio Closed, Winter Break

2019

JANUARY 2 | Classes Resume

JANUARY 21 | Final Costume Payment Due

MARCH 23 | Picture day

APRIL 11-17 | In Studio Dress Rehearsal (costume only)

APRIL 18-APRIL 21 | Studio Closed, Spring Break

APRIL 22 | Classes Resume

APRIL 23-24 | Studio Closed (unless make-ups needed)

APRIL 26 & 27 | Dress Rehearsal at John Carroll H.S

APRIL 28 | 11:30 & 3:30PM

Annual Dance Recital at John Carroll H.S

**ZANETA MCKOON
HARFORD DANCE CENTER
DIRECTOR OF DANCE**

It's a great privilege and responsibility to be the Director of Dance here at Harford Dance Center. I look forward to getting to know each and every family here. I believe that parent-student-teacher relationships are necessary for maximum success within our program. I will maintain communication throughout the year via emails, phone calls and conferences, when necessary. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time. You can call the office at 410.893.0022 or contact me via email at zmckoon@wellbridge.com. Harford Dance Center is a wonderful place to see your young ones blossom into beautifully rounded dancers and we look forward to having you as a part of our HDC family.



410.838.2670

658 Boulton Street | BelAirAthleticClub.com

