



2019-2020 Handbook

Dance Dimensions is owned and operated by Misty Christopher. Misty is certified by Dance Masters of Ohio, Dance Masters of America, and Dance Educators of America. She has over 30 years of teaching and studio ownership experience.

Business Hours and Location

The studio is located at 922 NE 8th Street, Cape Coral, FL (33909). Our regular business hours are Mon-Thurs 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. The studio can be reached at 239-573-7837 or by email at ddswwl@aol.com. We will address your needs and concerns as quickly as possible and are available by email, phone or by appointment. Please contact us with any concerns or suggestions.

Our Mission

TO HELP EACH STUDENT REALIZE AND REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND TO ENHANCE LIVES THROUGH THE
ART OF DANCE

Dance Dimensions of SWFL strives to be the best in the industry. We are a non-competitive studio. This means we encourage students to do what they love without the pressures and demands that come with competition. We encourage children to find their passion and strive for their best while having fun and enjoying what they do.

We do have a group of performers called “Show Troupe” for those students who would like to perform and do a competition.

We have created this handbook to help you with all the details that come with dancing. This is to ensure a wonderful experience for students, parents, teachers, and staff.

Tuition

The annual family registration is due when you register for classes. The current registration fee is \$35 per family. Registration is due yearly each fall. Tuition for classes is due the 1st of each month and no later than the **10th of the month**. We strongly suggest enrolling in our auto pay program. This will ensure your tuition will be paid on time and you will also receive a \$10 monthly discount if you do enroll. You can also save 10% by paying 3 months of tuition at a time. Any accounts with tuition not paid by the end of the month will incur a \$30 late fee. **Tuition cannot be prorated or refunded for any reason**. If your child cannot commit to a full month of classes we do have “drop-in” rates available. Please see the office for more details.

Attendance

Students are reminded of the importance of regular attendance. Tuition is not prorated due to student absence. Students should be on time to each class so that they don't miss important stretches and warm-ups that prepare the body properly for dancing and aid in injury prevention. Make-up classes in a comparable class are available for missed classes. Make-ups must be made within 30 days of absence and are offered only if tuition is current.

Dress Code

PRE & K-1 & K-2 DANCERS:

- Ballet:** Pink logo leotard (Leotards must be purchased from Dance Dimensions)
Tan/pink tights (pink preferred)
Pink ballet shoes (no black ballet shoes and no slippers or vinyl shoes)
- Tap:** Pink logo leotard (Leotards must be purchased from Dance Dimensions)
Tan/pink tights
Tan tap shoes
- Jazz:** Pink logo leotard (Leotards must be purchased from Dance Dimensions)
Tan/pink tights
Pink ballet shoes (no slippers or vinyl shoes)
Pre-dancers- pink ballet shoes; K-1 and K-2 – tan jazz boots.
- Acro:** Biketard or leotard with shorts
Barefoot or jazz shoes
No shirts are to be worn and no 2-piece outfits
- Hip Hop:** Shorts/Leggings or dancewear
High or low top tennis shoes (can start with regular tennis shoes)

PRIMARY LEVEL:

- Ballet:** Hair in a bun
Black leotard and pink tights
Pink ballet shoes – ballet shoes must be split sole all leather no vinyl.
- Tap:** Any color leotard or fun dancewear and tights (may wear black shorts)
Tan tap shoes with buckle or tie
- Jazz:** Leotard and tights or fun dancewear (No big shirts)
Tan split-sole jazz boots
No oversize t shirts or regular clothing for dancers are permitted.
- Hip Hop:** Two-piece dance apparel shorts or pants and tops are permitted
High or low top tennis shoes or hip-hop shoes
- Acro:** Biketard or leotard with shorts
Acro shoes or barefoot
No shirts or 2-piece outfits are to be worn

TEEN/JR/SR DANCERS:

- Ballet:** Black leotard and pink tights
Hair in a bun
Pink ballet shoes all leather split sole only
- Tap:** Any color leotard or fun dancewear and tights
Tan oxford tie tap shoes
- Jazz:** Any color leotard or fun dancewear and tights
Tan split-sole jazz boots.
- Hip Hop:** Two-piece dance apparel (shorts or pants and tops are permitted)
High or low top tennis shoes or hip-hop shoes
- Acro:** Biketard or leotard with shorts
Acro shoes or barefoot
No shirts or 2-piece outfits are to be worn

Class Attire additional notations

- All hair must be up and away from the face. Hair must be in a bun for ballet classes.
- No large or excessive amounts of jewelry should be worn in classes.
- Our studio dance shop sells the brands of shoes recommended for each class. Proper shoes are necessary for each class.
- It is very important that all dance shoes, bags, etc. are labeled with the student's name. Dance Dimensions is **NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS.**

Classroom Etiquette

- A good attitude is very important in any learning environment.
- No gum chewing is allowed during class.
- Absolutely no cell phones or any electronic devices are permitted in the ballrooms at any time. Devices must be packed in your dance bags and turned off during class times. If a parent needs to reach any student they should call the office and we will relay the message.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO VIDEOS OR PHOTOS** are to be taken in any class without consent from Misty. No dance choreography, class lessons or anything within the studio is permitted to be posted on Facebook or other social media without the consent of Dance Dimensions of SWFL, Misty Christopher.
- Food and drinks (except water) must be kept in the lobby. Please take care of your food/garbage when you are finished eating.
- If you are late, please come in quietly and join the class in session without any disruptions.
- Students should always adhere to the dress code for their class and wear proper shoes.
- Please remove jewelry before dance class. Small stud earrings are acceptable.
- A principle focus in the art of dance is discipline. Proper respect, courtesy and attention are expected. Parents are encouraged to discuss this rule with their children.
- We expect our dancers to display courtesy to the staff, their classmates, and others in the studio always.

Bully Free Zone

Dance Dimensions is proud to offer all families a safe and inviting dance area. The studio has a very strict anti-bullying policy, which extends to outside of the dance space as well. We encourage all dancers to offer fellow students positive reinforcement, as all teachers are active in. We want our dancers to bond and create great friendships. All students have the right to feel safe and happy in the studio and we do not accept or tolerate anything less. Dancing is a team sport and all students learn how to dance as part of a team, as well as be accepting of all other dancers.

Ms. Misty has the responsibility and authority to ensure that DDS dancer's well-being and safety objectives are achieved. Teachers are responsible for reporting any situations that they are aware of to Ms. Misty as soon as possible. Students and parents of DDS dancers are responsible for their own behavior and may face disciplinary action if they engage in bullying behavior in any form.

Lobby Etiquette

- Please watch all children in the lobby at all times. We suggest bringing a quiet activity for siblings to do while waiting for the class to finish. ***Please do not leave dancers (or siblings) in the lobby unattended. ***
- Food and drinks should be kept to a minimum and disposed of properly when finished.
- Please be aware that interrupting the class is unacceptable. Once a class is in session, the door to that studio will remain closed, unless there is an emergency.

Costumes

Each year the studio ends the season with a professional, fully-staged dance production. Participation is highly encouraged, but not required. However, a decision upon participation is required by mid-November. The recital will be held June 8th with a matinee performance for our youngest dancers and an evening performance for the older dancers.

- To participate in the recital, students will have to purchase costume(s). The approximate cost of each costume is \$65-\$90. We do our best to select acceptable costumes at reasonable prices. Whenever possible, we try to order 2-in-1 costumes for younger students and combo classes.
- The deposit for each costume is \$65. You will not receive your costume until it is paid in full. There are **NO REFUNDS** for costumes. We cannot order the costume until the deposit is made as we are unable to return costumes. We will be placing only 2 orders for costumes. Our first order will go out during Thanksgiving break and the next will be Jan 24th. Costumes generally take 12 – 18 weeks to come in. Therefore, if you order during the later date, you may not have enough time for exchanges or alterations if they do not fit. There is also a possibility it may not get here in time or they will be sold out of the size your child needs. We definitely encourage everyone to order from the first group to ensure your costume arrives on time and fits.
- Measurements for costumes will be taken in classes during mid-October. However, please remember that every costume company's sizes are different and that these are not custom sized. Therefore, alterations or exchanges, if necessary, are your financial responsibility (provided the costume company has enough time to make the exchange). Costume orders take 12-18 weeks for each order in some cases.

Recital Fees

Recital fees are due by April 1st. These fees must be paid to participate in the recital. Each family will be required to pay a recital fee to help cover the costs of the production, including auditorium rent, insurance, sound and lighting equipment, props, rented costumes, and miscellaneous expenses. Each family will receive a program book and each student receives a T-shirt commemorating that year's recital. Recital fees and ticket fees are determined based on final cost of auditorium production crew and rental cost.

Rehearsals

- The studio will hold recital rehearsals the week or two prior to recital, as well as a dress rehearsal at the recital's location the night prior to or day of their recital. All students participating in recital must attend these rehearsals.
- Videotaping or photography during the recital is not allowed. A professional DVD will be made available for purchase if you desire. You may videotape and take photos during the dress rehearsal

Rights of the Studio

- The studio reserves the right to provide a substitute teacher for your child's class if the teacher is unavailable that day.
- The studio reserves the right to change a class instructor if necessary to best meet the needs of the students.
- The studio reserves the right to cancel a class or combine classes into a new time if there are less than 5 children enrolled in the class. You will receive at least a week's notice prior to a change occurring.
- The studio reserves the right to make changes to the calendar if needed due to weather, illness, or other surprise events that necessitate in closing the studio at an unscheduled time.
- The studio reserves the right to place students in the class that best suits their abilities, even if it is not the exact "age bracket". This allows each child to reach their potential in the best possible manner without feeling frustrated in a class that's too hard or bored in a class that's too easy.
- The studio reserves the right to make changes to the policies as needed. You will receive any changes in writing.
- The studio reserves the right to deny entrance to any person or persons who have conducted themselves in a manner which the studio feels is inappropriate behavior for the students and staff of Dance Dimensions of SWFL.

Studio Closings/ Inclement Weather

The studio is closed the following dates:

Labor Day	Sept 2 nd
Halloween	Oct 31 st
Thanksgiving	Nov 25 th through Nov 29 th
Winter Break	Dec 23 rd through Jan 5 th
Spring Break	March 16 th thru March 20 th
Memorial Day	May 25 th

These selected closings are factored into sessions so that each session reflects 4 classes. Please see the calendar for specific session dates, and for other important dates for payments and recital information.

If the schools close due to inclement weather (i.e. hurricane), please call the studio to listen for a special message to see if classes have been cancelled also. Many times, the weather has cleared up by the afternoon, so classes may be held. If classes are cancelled, we will schedule a makeup or allow your child to come to another class time to make-up missed classes. No prorating of tuition will occur.

Miscellaneous

- Dance Dimensions communicates monthly through newsletters. We will e-mail these to the address you provided. Please add ddsowl@aol.com to your e-mail account's address book so you can receive these important letters (otherwise they may end up in your e-mail's spam folders).
- In the event you move, change phone numbers (home, work, or cell), or change your e-mail address, please inform the office immediately so we can update your information.
- **Primary communication from the studio will be provided to you via e-mail.** If you prefer to receive hard copy of studio information, please inform the office.

Social Media

- Check us out on Facebook www.facebook.com/dancedimensionsofswfl
- Visit our website www.capecoraldance.com
- Instagram @dds_dance_swfl

We look forward to another great year of dance! Thank you for being as part of our dance family!