

**THE RACHEL PARK DANCE CENTER
STUDIO INFORMATION – 2007/08**

CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10TH

Welcome to all new and returning students and parents!! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that you're looking forward as I am to another exciting year of dance.

Please read (and save) the following very carefully! Understanding all Dance Center policies is extremely important for each family. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please don't hesitate to contact me.

DRESS CODE:

A dress code creates an aura that dance school is special and it is!! Just as your children can't play a sport without a uniform, they shouldn't dance without the proper attire. Dress codes eliminate singularity. Students are more focused and not worried about who has the coolest new leotard or warm-ups, and most importantly the instructor can focus on the body and make necessary corrections. All students at the Rachel Park Dance Center must follow the dress code below. For your convenience, all required dance attire can be ordered at any time during the year at the Dance Center.

Pre-School I and II: pink leotard*pink tights*pink leather ballet shoes*black patent buckle tap shoes

Primary Combo I and II: black leotard*pink tights*pink leather ballet shoes*tan buckle tap shoes

Ballet Technique (all Levels): black leotard*pink tights*pink split-sole ballet shoes (your instructor will let you know if and when you should purchase pointe shoes)

Jazz Technique (all Levels): black leotard*pink tights*black jazz pants, shorts, capris*black split-sole, pull-on jazz booties

Modern Technique: black leotard*black convertible or footless tights*bare feet or tan foot thongs

Tap Technique (Elementary and Intermediate): black leotard*pink tights*tan buckle tap shoes

Tap Technique (Junior and Senior): black leotard*pink tights*black jazz pants, shorts, capris*black oxford tap shoes (Bloch or Giordano brand)

Hip-Hop (all levels): any solid color tank top, tee shirt or leotard*any solid color hip-hop pants or capris*black dansneakers (street shoes will not be allowed)

Male students are allowed to wear white or black tee-shirts*black shorts or hip-hop pants for all classes and must have the appropriate shoes: black canvas or leather ballet shoes* black split-sole jazz shoes* black patent oxford tap shoes*black dansneakers

Female students must have hair in a neat bun during all ballet classes and in a neat bun or ponytail during all other classes. The following items will not be allowed in any class: loose jewelry, boxer shorts, pajama pants, jeans, over-sized shirts, pants or jackets.

Beginning October 1, any dancer not in compliance with the above dress code may be required to sit and observe class and will be marked absent from class.

TUITION:

Multiple Class Discounts:

For students or families whose students are enrolled in more than one class, we offer the following discount: \$10 off your second class and \$5 off of each successive class (highest price class at regular tuition on down.) For example, a student taking the following classes: 90 minute ballet, 60 minute jazz and 45 minute hip-hop would be charged \$128.00 per month.

90 minute ballet – regular tuition of \$58/month
60 minute jazz – regular tuition of \$45/month minus \$10 = \$35/month
45 minute hip-hop – regular tuition of \$40/month minus \$5 = \$35/month
Total monthly tuition: \$128.00

Full year's tuition that is paid in September will be given a 10% discount. If it is necessary to withdraw from classes, the Dance Center will only charge you for the months your child took class and refund the remaining tuition. Refunds only apply to tuition that is paid in full in September.

Tuition is due the first week of each month for the months of September through May. (No tuition charged for any June classes scheduled.) Tuition is the same each month regardless of holidays, school vacations, snow days, illnesses, etc. ***See below regarding make-up classes.**

The Dance Center accepts cash, checks or money orders. If you are writing a check, please be sure to note student's name at the bottom. This is especially important if the person signing the check has a different last name than the student. If there is no one at the reception desk to accept payment, please drop it in the locked mailbox beside the office (envelopes are provided by the box for your convenience). Please note student's name and exactly what you are paying for on the envelope. *There will be a \$20 service charge for all returned checks and a \$5 service charge for any check that the bank has to redeposit.

If you are uncertain what your monthly tuition is, please refer to the tuition rates posted on the mailbox and on the bulletin board. If you still have questions and there is no one at the desk, please drop a note in the mailbox with your name and phone number and someone will return your call promptly.

- **Tuition that is more than two weeks late will be considered delinquent and there will be a \$10 late fee added to the amount owed. We will waive the late fee the first time tuition is late; however, any late payments made after that will be charged the \$10 late fee – no exceptions made.**
- **The Dance Center expects and appreciates your prompt payment. If tuition becomes more than one month overdue a “friendly reminder” phone call will be made. If tuition becomes more than two months overdue it will be necessary to remove student from class until tuition is up-to-date.**
- **Make-Up Classes: Classes that are missed due to holidays and/or snow days may be made up by taking a similar class scheduled at another time during the week. Please refer to class schedule on the bulletin board. If you are planning to attend an alternate class, please notify the Dance Center in advance.**
- **If you wish to change or add classes during the year, it must be approved by the Artistic Director. Please be sure to inform the front desk of any changes immediately so that they can make tuition adjustments.**

- **If you decide to withdraw from classes, you must notify the Dance Center. If we do not get notification you will continue to be billed your monthly tuition.**

RECITAL COSTUMES:

All students will be measured for their recital costumes in November and costumes will be ordered during Christmas break. Absolutely no costumes will be ordered unless deposits are paid in full. If we are able to place a late order once the deposit has been paid, there will be a \$10 processing fee. All costumes are \$70 each which includes required tights and accessories (shoes not included.) All costume deposits are due in full by November 30.

We cannot cancel a costume order once it has been processed. Therefore, if for any reason your child decides to discontinue dance after we have placed the order, you will still be responsible for the entire costume payment and we will contact you when your costume arrives.

GET INVOLVED AT THE RACHEL PARK DANCE CENTER!!

**ADULT BEGINNER HIP-HOP – SIX WEEK SESSIONS MONDAYS AT
7:30 – 8:30 P.M. BEGINNING OCTOBER 15 – NOVEMBER 19
\$65 PER SESSION (NO REGISTRATION FEE)**

**MOMS-N-TOTS (a special dance class for 2 and 3 year olds with moms) – SIX WEEK SESSIONS
WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 – 11:00 A.M. BEGINNING OCTOBER 3 – NOVEMBER 7
\$35 PER SESSION (NO REGISTRATION FEE)**

*****NEW THIS YEAR FOR RECITAL 2008!!!!***
DAD’S DANCE!!!**

**OPEN TO ALL RPDC DADS (NO DANCE EXPERIENCE NEEDED!)
FURTHER INFO TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Bring-a-Friend Week: Students may bring one friend to class during the week of September 24 – 29. Friends may observe class or dance along with us. Any student whose friend enrolls at the Dance Center for the entire year will receive \$20 off their next month’s tuition.

RPDCKids: The RPDCKids Company is the preliminary training ground for the Rachel Park Dance Company. It is comprised of selected students at the Dance Center and provides a vehicle for serious young dancers to explore their talents and share their love of dance with the community. Members of RPDCKids perform along with the Dance Company at local nursing homes and at our annual Spring Festival. RPDCKids also attends one or two regional dance competitions each year such as American Dance Awards, On Stage America and Starquest. They have brought home platinum and high gold awards and last year earned a high-score award at American Dance Awards.

Rachel Park Dance Company: The Dance Company is a performing troupe comprised of selected students at the Dance Center. The Dance Company performs at local nursing homes and the annual Spring Festival. They have attended various workshops and master classes and competed regionally at On Stage America, Starquest, Ticket to Broadway and American Dance Awards. They have placed with platinum, high gold, overall high score and several special awards. These dancers spend many hours taking their required classes, attending weekly rehearsals and working at the Dance Center as teacher apprentices.

Middleborough Youth Ballet: The Middleborough Youth Ballet is dedicated to promoting dance for young people. The goal of the Youth Ballet is to provide training and public performing opportunities to young dancers in the greater Middleborough and Taunton area and to increase the community’s enjoyment

of the art of dance. The Youth Ballet has been performing a full-length Nutcracker for the past five years. Auditions are open to all area dancers.

I would be happy to speak with any student or parent who may have questions about the above groups.

The Nutcracker: The Middleborough Youth Ballet is eagerly anticipating auditions for its sixth annual production of the Nutcracker. Auditions will be held on Thursday, August 23. Audition times are as follows: ages five – seven from 5:30 – 6:00; ages eight – eleven from 6:15 – 6:45 and ages twelve and up from 6:45 – 8:00. The performances are scheduled for the first weekend in December at the Nichols Middle School. **Adults needed for the party scene. Please let me know if you are interested (no dance experience necessary). Adults do not need to audition.

Middleborough Christmas Parade: All students at the Dance Center are invited to ride on the Dance Center float at the Christmas parade held on November 24. Watch for more information in the months ahead.

Spring Festival: Our Spring Festival is open to all Dance Center students and is a wonderful opportunity for the students to showcase their original choreography. Choreography is a unique talent, and I encourage all of our dancers to explore their potential. Last year's Festival, held at the Middleborough Council on Aging was a huge success.

Teacher's Apprentice Program: If you are interested in learning more about becoming a teaching assistant, please see me for further information.

Recital: Our end-of-the-year performance will be held in June at Durfee High School in Fall River. Dates and times will be announced as soon as we hear from the school.

Parent Observation: Parents may observe classes the first week of the following months: October, November, February, March and April

Some Final Notes:

- There is absolutely no food or drink allowed in the carpeted waiting area. Students/parents may use the tiled snack area behind the office.
- Gum, candy, snacks or drinks (except water) are not allowed in classrooms.
- All parents and siblings must wait in the reception area during classes. The hallways between the studios need to be kept quiet when classes are in session. Small children must be supervised at all times!!!
- Students must remain in the reception area until their instructor calls them in to class.
- For safety reasons, students must remain in the reception area when waiting for parents to pick them up.
- For the safety of our students the back doors of the Dance Center are not to be used except as emergency exits.
- There is parking in back of the Dance Center as well as limited curbside parking. If you are parking at the curb outside the Dance Center please remember that it is illegal to park directly in front of the Studio even if you are in your car. Police do take notice. Please do not park directly behind Lindo's Pizza. Those spaces are specifically reserved for them.

- Please check our bulletin boards, calendar and website (www.rachelsdancers.com) often for updated Dance Center news.

Again welcome to the Rachel Park Dance Center and please remember that my staff and I are always available if you have questions or concerns throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Rachel

Rachel A. Park
Artistic Director

Dance Quote of the Month: “The arts – and dance in particular – transmit culture, teach skills and fulfill the human spirit. There is perhaps no better description of education than this”.....Carolyn Adams