

2023-2024 SF DANCE HANDBOOK

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WELCOME



Ms. Amanda
Director of SF Dance

Welcome to the SF Rec Dance Handbook, your ultimate guide to an exciting year of dance, music, and performance! We've put together this comprehensive resource to provide you with clarity and address any questions you may have as we embark on this incredible journey together. While we encourage you to read this information carefully and keep it in a safe place for future reference, remember that our friendly dance staff are here to assist you with enthusiasm!

At SF Rec Dance, we are driven by a shared vision, purpose, and philosophy that permeates everything we do. Our studio is a place where children of all ages, shapes, sizes, and abilities come to discover the joy of dance, artistic expression, and performing. We foster an environment that celebrates creativity, individuality, and self-expression, forming a vibrant community of teachers, students, and families who are passionate about the performing arts. Our ultimate goal is to create a positive and joyful experience for each and every student. We strive to nurture and develop their talents, celebrate their achievements, and inspire a deep love and appreciation for all styles of dance and the arts. Most importantly, we are committed to providing a safe and empowering space where every student can freely express themselves.

As mentors and teachers in your child's life, we take our roles seriously. Our objective is to ignite a lifelong passion for dance within each child who walks through our doors. Along the way, we aim to lead by example and help your child (and you) create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

OUR PHILOSOPHY



St. Francis Dance is dedicated to providing high-quality dance classes that contribute to the holistic development of your child. Our safe and child-centered environment encourages students to explore the art of dance under the guidance of qualified and nurturing teachers. We firmly believe that dance training fosters a positive self-image, heightens body awareness, enhances coordination skills, and allows children to express themselves through movement.

We believe in family above all. We make it our mission to put together a high-quality dance studio caliber performance at the end of the year while keeping class costs at a minimum. We believe in different class levels so that we have a place for the dancer who wants to have fun doing an activity with their peers and a place for the dancer who lives and breathes dance and wants to be pushed to new limits each week. We believe that our dancers are not just names on an attendance roster. The minute they step into our classrooms they are immediately family, and our mission is to be there for them every step of the way as they grow as people, not just progress as dancers.

This handbook serves as a roadmap, offering our students and parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibilities to the school. Please note that important dates and expenses mentioned in this handbook are subject to change. Stay up-to-date by checking our website and newsletters for any updates. Welcome to the family!



IMPORTANT DATES & CONTACTS



Social Media: I'm going to try to use our accounts more this year, but email, newsletters, and Band will always be my top 3 spots to communicate.



Search St. Francis Recreation Dance/Pom Program



Sfdance4ever

Where to Find Information

Website: www.stfrancisdance.com

Email: sfdance1314@gmail.com

Because of my full time job and my personal life I will only be taking scheduled time to check and respond to my dance emails on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Email activity is minimal during winter, spring, and summer break.

Our Band App: An invite was sent via email at the beginning of the year. If you need a new invite link, please email Ms. Amanda at the above email.

The Band app features an active calendar, photo albums, a private message option, and an information wall feed. I post information more regularly on there than social media platforms because it is private within our dance family.

Often times when you post a question a veteran dance family member may answer it quicker than I can get to an email.

Newsletters: In an effort to save paper, newsletters will be sent home monthly via email and then uploaded in the Band app and on the website. Only four print newsletters will go home with the dancers in class and they are:

September - Going Home September 11th.

January - Going Home January 8th.

April - Going Home April 8th.

May - Going Home May 13th.

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

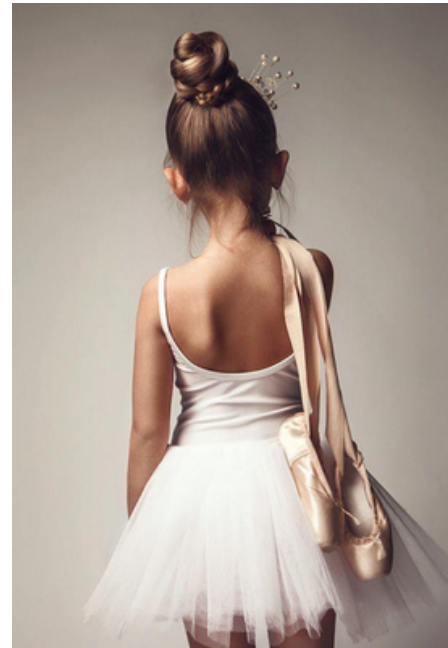
Save the Dates!

- September 11th – 1st day of classes
- September 11th – Beginning of First Semester
- October 1st – Registration Closes
- October 2nd - Spirit Wear Order Due
- November 19th Cookies & Cocoa with Santa Fundraiser 12:00-2:00 pm
- November 20th Costume Reveal Online
- December 25th & January 1st – Winter Break
- January 8th – Classes Resume
- January 15th – Second Semester Begins
- January 15th - Parent T-Shirt Orders Due
- March 18th - Stars and Roses Go On Sale
- March & April - Costume Handout TBA
- March 25th & April 1st – Spring Break
- May 6th – Picture Day
- May 6th Last Day to Order Recital Stars/Roses
- May 27th – No Classes – Memorial Day
- May 28th – Dress Rehearsal at SMPAC
- June 1st – Recital Day at SMPAC Time TBA
- July 1st - Registration Opens for 2024-2025

Closure Dates

We will be closed on **December 25th, January 1st, March 25th, April 1st, and May 27th**. We have class every other Monday, including Martin Luther King Day and other Mondays where schools may be closed. This is in an effort to keep our semesters even in the amount of classes held.

If the St. Francis School District closes for snow emergencies, heat/cold advisories, emergency situations, we are also closed. I will post these on the Band, social media accounts, and email once I am made aware of the closure.



OUR STUDENTS



You are taking the first step towards becoming an amazing dancer by making a solid commitment to your classes. Remember, class time is your opportunity to focus on yourself and improve your technique. Come prepared, leave distractions behind, and embrace each class as a chance to become even better at what you love. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, and make the most of every moment. With dedication and enthusiasm, you'll see incredible progress.

Respecting your teachers is key. Embrace every correction given, as it shows how much your teachers care about your growth. Nothing can stop those who apply themselves and value their teachers' guidance.

Respect your peers! Respect their personal space and respect that they may learn things faster or slower than you, because everyone is different, Be a good team member by practicing patience and be a good leader by offering help if needed.

OUR PARENTS

We believe that your support plays a crucial role in your child's dance education. Your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, and we encourage you to actively participate in your child's dance journey. Our programs thrive in a positive atmosphere that involves the cooperation and respect of all parents. By showing respect for one another, our students, and our faculty, you become role models for your children, demonstrating how to interact professionally and compassionately with others.

Your child's consistent attendance at all classes is imperative. Together, we foster a spirit of teamwork and dedication that forms an essential part of our educational process. While parents and teachers may have different perspectives, we share a common goal: ensuring that every child receives the best possible training, physically and mentally. By fostering mutual respect among our faculty and parents, we create an environment that nurtures our students with care and the highest quality education.





CLASS SCHEDULES & ROOMS

FOR THE 2023-2024 SEASON

The first few weeks, we will begin to settle in before beginning choreography. We make sure everyone is in the right level class and feels comfortable in their new environment. The schedule below will remain the constant schedule until next semester, which begins January 15th.

In the second semester, classes might shift 15 minutes or so. We begin to work on reviewing our first semester material and start learning our last dance style that was not on the first semester schedule.

This includes:

Mini, Elem, Junior, Senior, and Senior Elite Hip Hop and Junior Elite Lyrical

The reason we do not do all of them all year is it becomes a long, time commitment for younger dancers who want to do it all and we only have so many rooms and so much time on Monday nights. We make sure to allot enough time for everyone to feel confident in their recital choreography. We tend to select the class that has the most expensive costume allocation from the \$90 registration fee to be taught in the second semester.

Semester 1 - Starts Sept 11th at Deer Creek				
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Community Room
5:30-6:00	Junior Tap Teacher: Emily Assistant: Nadia	Junior Elite Jazz Teacher: Lauren	Pom 1 Teacher: Natalie Assistant: Lexi	Creative Movement Teacher: Ms. Jessie Assistant: Nora
6:00-6:30	Elem Jazz/ HH Teacher: Emily Assistant: Nadia	Junior Elite Tap Teacher: Amanda/Lauren	Junior Lyrical Teacher: Natalie Assistant: Lexi	Mini Jazz/ HH Teacher: Jessie Assistant: Nora
6:30-7:00	Elem Lyrical Teacher: Emily Assistant: Nadia	Junior Elite HH Teacher: Lauren	Junior Jazz/HH Teacher: Natalie Assistant: Lexi	Mini Ballet Teacher: Jessie Assistant: Nora
7:00-7:30	Production Teacher: Amanda Assistant: Emily	Elem Tap Teacher: Lauren Assistant: Nadia	Pom 2 Teacher: Natalie Assistant: Lexi	Mini Tap Teacher: Jessie Assistant: Nora
7:30-8:00	Senior Elite Lyrical Teacher: Amanda Assistant: Emily	Senior Lyrical Teacher: Lauren		
8:00-8:30	Senior Elite Jazz Teacher: Amanda Assistant: Emily	Senior Tap Teacher: Lauren		
8:30-9:00	Senior Elite Tap Teacher: Amanda/Lauren Assistant: Lauren	Senior Jazz Teacher: Emily		
9:00-9:30	SG	Nora & Gabby's Duet		

UNDERSTANDING DANCE EDUCATION

As a parent, your support is invaluable to your child's dance journey. Encourage them to be the best version of themselves, focusing on their own accomplishments rather than comparing themselves to others. Dance is an individual art form, and each student progresses at their own pace. Our dedicated faculty not only teaches technique and steps but also imparts essential life lessons. Through dance, children learn commitment, teamwork, and the rewards of hard work. Our goal is to educate their minds, bodies, and souls, providing them with skills that will serve them well in all aspects of life.



Class Placement

Our experienced faculty carefully considers each student's progress and placement. Placement decisions are based on years of teaching expertise and aim to promote self-esteem and confidence. We understand that every child is unique, and factors influencing placement are complex. Trust in our faculty's judgment and encourage your child to embrace their class with enthusiasm, regardless of the level. Our priority is to provide a positive and empowering environment for each dancer.



Medical Information

Your child's well-being is of utmost importance to us. Please inform the director and teachers of any medical conditions, learning disabilities, or allergies your child may have. Our teachers are trained professionals who are eager to work with all children, and the more we know about your child, the better we can provide a fulfilling dance experience. Rest assured that all information regarding our students is treated with the utmost confidentiality. Please note: St. Francis Dance is a nut-free program. Other than being nuts about your love for dance, please refrain from bringing any snacks, candies, or birthday treats containing nuts.



Do's and Don'ts

It's natural for parents and students to draw inspiration from others, but let's focus on personal growth rather than making negative comparisons. Encourage your child to celebrate their achievements and avoid speaking negatively about teachers, fellow students, or other parents. Our faculty takes their role as mentors seriously, guiding students to act respectfully towards their peers, adults, and themselves. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out directly to your child's teacher or the director. Misinformation can be avoided by seeking accurate information from the right sources.

STAYING INFORMED



We strive to make the dance experience organized and enjoyable for everyone involved. To keep you well-informed, please read all newsletters and studio updates carefully. Newsletters and important updates will be emailed to you and posted in our Band app group. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Amanda via email. Our website will be regularly updated with essential information, and our Band app is a great resource for regular updates and connecting with the dance community. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook/Instagram for more exciting updates!

Never be afraid to ask questions!!!



DRESS CODE ▶▶▶▶▶

At St. Francis Dance, our dress code is very relaxed. We want our dancers to be comfortable, but as teachers it is also important for us to be able to see their movement. They can wear leotards and tights if they want, they can also wear t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, tank tops, leggings, yoga pants, shorts, etc.

We just ask that what they wear is not distracting or restricts their movement in anyway. This means no pajamas, baggy hoodies/sweatpants (other than during warm up), or jeans.

To ensure organization, students are required to carry their dance shoes and belongings in a designated dance bag. Please remember to label your child's bag and all its contents with their name. This includes writing initials or names in the soles of their dance shoes.

During classes, we kindly request that students avoid wearing watches and jewelry, as they can be distracting and can pose a safety issue. Dance shoes should never be worn outside to preserve their quality and cleanliness. Students with long hair are encouraged to secure their hair tightly and neatly away from their faces. Maintaining good personal hygiene habits, including the use of deodorant for students aged 10 & older, is expected from all dancers.

SHOE

REQUIREMENTS

The first few weeks, we expect that all of our dancers will not have their dance shoes yet. Until you have the proper shoes that fit, please make sure your dancer has on socks and an athletic shoe. They cannot dance barefoot or in crocs/sandals for safety reasons.

Returning dancers who have shoes that do not fit and are in good condition, please feel free to donate them to our hand me down collection that are used to provide dancers free shoes. After I receive these hand me downs on week one, I will compile a list of the shoe styles and sizes and email them out to all parents.

If we do not end up having a free hand me down shoe in your child's shoe style or size, you will have to purchase dance shoes at your earliest convenience. You can purchase them anywhere you can find them as long as they are similar in style and color to the shoes shown on the next page.

We have a link to an online store that sells dance shoes. We allow you to purchase them at our studio member cost without mark up. We also have a sample size set of these shoes in each size to try on before you buy. When you order online through our store (which is linked to our website) the shoes ship directly to us with your child's name on it to hand out at class. ***If they do not fit you are responsible for any returns or exchanges***, so please try them on ahead of time and look at the size conversion chart provided on the site. Often times the dance shoe size is not the same as their street shoe size. The website will convert this for you. If you are on the edge of a size, order up. Dancer's feet grow throughout the year and we would like their shoes to still fit comfortable for the recital in June.

Week one we will not be doing any shoe try on or sample sets because our focus will be getting all of our dancers safely to the correct classes and into the rhythm of things. September 18th and 25th we will have sample sets out and available to try on with Ms. Amanda in Room 1 downstairs.

We encourage dancers to get in the habit of taking their shoes off and putting them directly into their dance bag. Too often shoes go home with the wrong dancer or are left behind in classes when they are taken off and left on the floor to be accidentally grabbed by someone else. Please help us instill this habit with your children. Initials or names on the soles of the shoe help us match up lost shoes with their owner.

Shoes for Lyrical/Ballet Classes



Lyrical/Ballet shoes should be pink or nude and fully cover the toes. They can be made of leather or canvas. Boys can wear pink or black ballet shoes or black jazz shoes for ballet.

Shoes for Tap Classes



Tap shoes should be black. They can be made of leather or shiny patent leather. They can be slip on, tie up, buckle up, or velcro, but must be black in color.

Shoes for Jazz/Hip Hop/ Pom Classes



Jazz shoes should be black. They can be slip on or tie up, but must be black in color.

DANCE CLASS

FEES & TUITION



Dance registration fees are \$90 per class for the 2023-2024 year. This fee includes class tuition, a recital t-shirt for the dancer, recital costumes/tights, recital themed participation medal, and free access to professionally captured recital videos and photos.

Required Purchases Not Included in the \$90 Registration Fee:

Required dance shoes (costs vary) & Recital Tickets (\$13 PREMIUM, \$11 OTHER)

Dance shoes are free if we have a hand me down in your size. They can also be purchased through our store, ebay, Amazon, dancewear sites, etc.

Tickets are sold in May (Dates TBD) through the South Milwaukee Box Office. Ticket costs cover the rental of the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center for rehearsal and recital, including dress room spaces, lighting technicians, janitorial staff, etc. Ticket fees also cover the cost of free recital programs available in the lobby, finale flowers for staff and seniors, 10 year and 15 year awards given out at finale, and more.

Optional Purchases Not Included in the \$90 Registration Fee:

Spirit Gear, Extra recital t-shirts for parents, siblings, or fans of dancers, professional picture day photos in costume, Recital roses or Stars for Your Stars shout outs, etc



DISCIPLINE POLICY



At St. Francis Dance, we believe in creating a positive, nurturing, and professional environment for all our students. We emphasize the importance of being part of a group, respecting others, our teachers and staff, and the studio property. Our goal is to foster good habits and cultivate a culture of compliance with rules of conduct.

When a child exhibits unacceptable behavior or attitudes, we take a proactive approach. We kindly explain what went wrong and guide them towards a positive alternative approach or behavior. In the event of a conflict between children, we handle the situation respectfully. They are separated and encouraged to express what happened. We promote problem-solving and communication between them to find a resolution and reconcile with one another.

Disruptive behavior is addressed in a respectful manner. If a child's behavior continues to disrupt the class, we kindly ask them to stop. Should the disruption persist, a reminder will be given, highlighting how it affects others. If necessary, the children involved may be asked to take a short break (typically three to five minutes) before rejoining the class.

If a child's misbehavior persists and continues to significantly disrupt the class, we may need to involve the parent or guardian. We believe in open communication and will reach out to discuss the situation and request the child to be picked up if necessary. Please remember that our ultimate goal is to provide a safe and productive environment for all students.

In certain rare circumstances, when it is in the best interest of one or more students, the school owner or director may need to terminate a student's enrollment. We always strive to address and resolve any problematic situation before considering termination. Reasons for termination of enrollment may include:

- Disruptive or dangerous behavior by students or their parents.
- Abuse of other children, staff, or property.
- Inability of St. Francis Rec Dance to meet the child's needs.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

At St. Francis Dance we value punctuality and safety for all our students. We kindly ask students to arrive 5-10 minutes before their class begins, allowing them to settle in and prepare for an amazing dance experience. To ensure the safety of our young dancers, children under the age of 10 should be picked up promptly after their class from their classrooms. For students aged 10 and older, we kindly request that they are picked up no more than 10 minutes after their class ends. As a parent, you can make the choice whether to pick them up directly from the classroom or drive up to the glass doors for pickup. Please understand that we are unable to assume responsibility for students before or after their scheduled classes, so it's essential for parents to ensure timely drop-off and pick-up. Dancers under 10 will remain in the classroom until a parent physically gets them. They will sit there as we begin our next class until a parent arrives. Dancers over 10 are sent upstairs where there are rec workers present to supervise, but a teacher **will not be present**, as we are beginning our next class. Please drive slowly and safely in the lot in between classes as there are dancers coming and going.

We understand that unforeseen circumstances or emergencies may arise, causing delays. If you find yourself in such a situation, please contact Ms. Amanda immediately via email. Our priority is to keep your child calm and safe until they can be collected. Your communication is crucial, and we appreciate your cooperation.

ATTENDANCE

Every class at St. Francis Dance is a step forward in the educational journey of our students. Regular attendance is essential for continuous progress and growth. Throughout the year, choreography for the year-end performance will be taught and rehearsed. It's crucial for children to feel completely confident with the choreography and their performance. Missing classes during this period could lead to frustration for the students, their teachers, and their classmates. We encourage all students to prioritize their dance education and make attending classes a top priority. If a child misses more than 5 classes in a semester, they may be taken out of parts or an entire routine if necessary to be fair to their peers and teacher. Parents will be notified a warning in advance when a child is nearing this possibility.

TARDINESS

Dance is a physical activity that requires a properly warmed-up body to ensure safe movement execution. Students who arrive late miss out on the essential warm-up and/or review of choreography material, which may increase the risk of injury or limit their confidence in the routine. To prioritize the safety and well-being of our students, those arriving more than 10 minutes late may be asked to observe the class. We want all our dancers to enjoy their dance journey while staying safe and injury-free.

CLASS VISITORS:

For the safety of our students and to fulfill our legal responsibilities, we are unable to permit visitors in the classroom during regular class sessions. Students should refrain from inviting siblings, relatives, or friends to their classes. This includes toys and stuffies. Chairs will be available outside of classrooms for adults to sit in if they are waiting for their child.

MAKEUP CLASSES:

We understand that unforeseen circumstances may cause a student to miss a class. However due to other school scheduled activities make up classes to “catch them up” are not possible. Make up classes may only be scheduled in the event that we have a number of snow day cancellations that hinder our show preparedness.

LOST AND FOUND:

We know how easy it is for dance-wear, shoes, and personal items to get misplaced. To avoid any confusion, please make sure to label all your child's belongings with their name. We will make every effort to locate and return lost items; however, we kindly ask for your understanding that we cannot be held responsible for any items your child brings to class.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION:

While we have never experienced an emergency evacuation at our studio, we prioritize preparedness and the safety of our students and staff. In the event of an emergency, students will calmly and quietly evacuate in single file to the designated area. Our dedicated teachers will take attendance to ensure everyone's safety. Students and teachers will return to the building only when the all-clear signal is given, indicating that it is safe to do so.

ILLNESS:

The health and well-being of our students and staff are of utmost importance to us. We kindly request your cooperation in keeping our dance community healthy. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, we kindly ask that you keep them at home to prevent the spread of illness:

- Nasal discharge that is green or yellow
- Complaints of ear pain
- Consistent cough
- Severe sore throat
- Pink, burning, itching, or discharging eyes
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Fever

If these symptoms or any other contagious conditions are observed in your child during a class, we will promptly contact you to arrange for their immediate pick-up. When your child has a fever, please keep them at home until their temperature returns to normal. Furthermore, if there are any lingering signs of illness such as glassy or watery eyes, listlessness, or drowsiness, we kindly request that you keep your child at home. This precaution will ensure that the illness has fully passed, and your child will be well enough to fully participate in class activities the following week. Please follow all COVID protocols that are in place at the time which may involve required face masks if required by the school district at the time.

CAR PARK SAFETY:

At St. Francis Dance the safety of our dance family is our ***top priority***. When entering and exiting our parking lot, we kindly ask everyone to exercise extreme caution. Please be mindful of the presence of children of all ages. It is essential to park only in designated parking spaces and avoid parking in areas that are not intended for vehicles. Additionally, we kindly request that you refrain from idling your car if parked in close proximity to the building or its windows. For the safety of all, we kindly ask that siblings do not play in the parking lot. Let's create a safe and secure environment for everyone to enjoy.

At St. Francis Dance, we prioritize safety, punctuality, and the well-being of our dance community. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines, which contribute to a positive and empowering dance experience for all.

STUDENT AND PARENT USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

We recognize the power of social media in facilitating communication and connection. To ensure a positive and respectful online presence, we have established guidelines for our students and parents. Please take a moment to review our Social Media Policy below:

1.

Respecting Privacy:

Please remember that anonymity on social media platforms is never guaranteed. Exercise caution when sharing posts, images, or videos that may identify children, parents, or staff at St. Francis Dance.

2.

Promoting Respect and Kindness:

Any comments or posts that are obscene, defamatory, threatening, harassing, discriminatory, or hateful towards St. Francis Dance staff, students, or families are strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary or legal action.

3.

Boundaries and Relationships:

We encourage parents, students, and teachers to maintain appropriate boundaries on social media. Please refrain from becoming "friends" or "followers" unless there is an existing relationship. Let's respect personal boundaries while fostering a sense of community.

4.

Open & Direct Communication:

We discourage the formation of "hidden" or "private" groups solely dedicated to discussing studio matters. Instead, we encourage joining our Band app for public discussions. Let's ensure transparency and open communication.

Matters directly related to the studio, including fees, scheduling, staffing, or performance opportunities, should not be communicated via social media. We have an open-door policy and encourage you to communicate any questions, complaints, or feedback directly to the Studio Owner.

5.

Consent and Privacy:

Posting photographs or videos featuring St. Francis dancers (other than your own child) online requires the consent of their parent/guardian. Furthermore, please remove any identifying information, such as names, ages, or locations, when sharing content involving minors. St. Francis Dance may post photos on their social media platforms of graduating seniors, Dancers of the Month, or more. If you wish to not have your child ever featured, please let the studio know via email immediately.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can create a vibrant and respectful online community that reflects the values of our dance studio. Let's embrace the digital age while upholding the spirit of St. Francis Dance.

OTHER GENERAL

POLICIES



At St. Francis Dance we strive to create a positive and focused environment for our dancers. Please familiarize yourself with our general policies below:

1. Respectful Class Atmosphere:

To ensure a productive learning environment, we kindly ask parents and students not to interrupt a class in session. Your cooperation helps us maintain a seamless experience for everyone.

2. Hydration and Nourishment:

Water is the only permissible beverage in our studios. We kindly request that you refrain from bringing food, drinks, or gum into the studios. Let's keep our dance spaces clean and enjoyable for all. Please send your child with a filled water bottle every week. Not all classrooms have a bubbler.

3. Safety and Supervision:

Our goal is that your children are learning, having fun, but all while being safe. Please supervise them coming in and out of the building and make sure parents of children under the age of 10 are escorting them to and from the classroom.

4. Focused Learning:

During class time, we kindly request that all students refrain from using mobile phones, computers, or any electronic devices including smartwatches. Let's stay fully engaged in the dance instruction without distractions.

5. Communication Channels:

To streamline communication, we ask students and parents to direct all inquiries, messages, or concerns to Ms. Amanda via email or respectfully to our dance family through the Band app.

6. Promoting Positivity:

It is important that we create a supportive and encouraging atmosphere within our dance community. We kindly request that you refrain from speaking negatively about teachers, students, or parents from other studios. Let's celebrate the talent and efforts of all dancers.

7. Respect for Teachers:

Showing respect for our teachers is fundamental to maintaining a positive learning environment. Inappropriate behavior may result in dismissal from the school. Let's cultivate an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation.

8. Refunds:

If you find that dance is not a suitable fit for your child, we do offer full refunds before October 1st. Once costumes are ordered they cannot be cancelled or returned so refunds are not possible since the costume fee is included in the \$90 tuition fee. So there can either be no refund issued or it will be only a small portion. Your child can pick up their ordered costume once it arrives if you do still proceed with unenrollment.

9. Personal Items

St. Francis Dance is not responsible for any personal items brought into the classroom. For this reason, we discourage children from bringing toys, tablets, stuffed animals, etc from home. They are responsible for caring for cell phones by keeping them safely in their bags and making sure they leave with all of the items, including shoes, hats, gloves, warmup outerwear, etc. that they come with.

10. Injuries

St. Francis Dance should be made aware in advance of any injuries your child has that affects class. If there is an injury from other sports, gym, or playtime, we have some accommodations we can make so that they don't miss class, including observing or giving temporary modifications.

11. Pre-Planned Absences

In some instances, if we are aware of vacations or pre-planned absences, we can take practice videos for them to review material on their own.

12. At Home Practice

Before winter break, we do send home practice music and sometimes video for at home practice. We encourage this especially for older dancers, The older students get the harder the material gets and reviewing at home helps us maximize productivity in our 30 minutes of class time together.



COSTUMES



Costumes:

We devote significant time and effort in selecting appropriate and high-quality costumes for our dancers. Please take note of the following costume-related details:

1. Costume Orders:

To ensure timely delivery and organized distribution, costume orders are placed during October. Please understand that costume manufacturers do not accept cancellations or offer refunds. Consequently, the school does not refund costume deposits after October 2nd. Please make sure any add on classes or class drops are completed before registration closes October 1st. Remember that we measure for costumes in October and don't usually receive them until February or March, so we order up a size if a child is on the edge. **We cannot guarantee exchanges can be made.** You are responsible for any needed alterations.

2. Costume Fitting:

Remember that we measure for costumes in October and don't usually receive them until February or March, so we order up a size if a child is on the edge. **We cannot guarantee exchanges can be made.** You are responsible for any needed alterations. When we do receive costumes, we do bring them in before handout day and have your child try them on so check the fit and that all pieces are there.

3. Costume Handout:

Costumes will be distributed only when accounts are paid in full. It is the responsibility of parents or guardians to ensure timely payments to avoid any complications. If you are paying off classes a portion at a time, your final payment must be made before March or your dancer's costume will be held by the studio until final dues are deposited.

4. Costume Care:

Once costumes are handed out, they are your responsibility to care for. If costumes are lost or damaged, your child will not be able to participate in the show. Please hang them so they are wrinkle free, using a steamer to free up any wrinkles from packaging. **DO NOT IRON**

Do not let children play dress up, eat around, or play in costumes. Try to keep them away from pets. If the costume already doesn't have your child's name printed on the label, please do so immediately in preparation for picture day, rehearsal, and recital.

5. Age-Appropriate and High-Quality:

Rest assured, our costumes are always carefully selected to be age-appropriate and of the highest quality. We prioritize the comfort and aesthetic appeal of our dancers.

RECITAL



Our annual recital is an exciting opportunity for students to showcase their hard work and progress. Here are some important details:

Rehearsals:

Additional rehearsals are scheduled to ensure our students' preparedness. Younger students (mini, elementary, junior, junior elite, pom, and creative movement classes) have one additional rehearsal, which is Tuesday May 28th. While older students (Senior, senior elite, small groups) have two. One is Tuesday May 28th and the other is prior to the show on Saturday June 1st. Participating in the dress rehearsal is mandatory for all students. If there is a conflict of some kind, please let Ms. Amanda know ASAP.

2. The Power of Performance:

Our recital provides a professionally directed platform for students to present their achievements to family and friends. It not only enhances their dance training but also contributes to their overall personal development. The experience builds self-esteem, confidence, social skills, and prepares them for future endeavors. Through rehearsals, students learn the importance of teamwork and the joy of creating something remarkable together.

Recital Handbook:

In May, we will distribute a comprehensive handbook containing all the necessary information for a smooth and enjoyable experience. It serves as a guide for parents and students, ensuring everyone is well-informed and prepared for this exciting event.

Professional in Costume Photos:

On May 6th, we arrange for class photos to be taken at our studio. It is mandatory for all students to be present for their class picture which is featured in the recital program. Following the group photo shoot, individual solo portraits are also taken. Our photographer offers affordable package options, although there is no obligation to purchase. They take pictures of every dancer in every costume. Once edited, they post group photos and all individual poses online by class for you to view before you decide to order.

Recital Photos:

Capturing memorable moments is an essential part of the recital experience. That is why we hire professional photographers and videographers to capture the day and have their available for you to download and save forever at no additional cost. This includes a setup in the lobby for families to take family photos with their dancer(s).

2024 RECITAL THEME

"We've Got You Covered 2024"



This year's recital theme is "We've Got You Covered" and features all cover songs or new songs that sample the beat of songs we already know and love from the past. I love using cover songs for dance. The music is familiar yet a little unknown to the audience. It lets us put a new twist on a classic. We have used 137 cover songs in our last 15 years of being a dance program. We have used so many amazing cover songs in the past, but we still have enough to make a whole show out over covers. Did you know that out of 17 recital shows we have put on that not one show didn't have the use of a cover song in the recital line up? That's a lot of cover songs!

The recital t-shirt logo is in the above picture. It will be on an orange t-shirt. Each child receives one with their costume handout. Parents will receive an order form in January if they would like to purchase one for family/fans of their dancer.

The logo will also be on the recital program and the participation medals that dancers will receive at recital this year for a year of hard work with the SF Dance Program.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES AND ACTIVITIES

At St. Francis Dance, we provide additional services and activities to enhance your dance journey and maximize unique performance opportunities. Take a look at what we offer:



Out of State Performance Trips:

Every few years we have an exciting out of state dance performance opportunity. In 2012, 2018, and 2022, we traveled to Walt Disney World to perform on stage in front of an international audience, take a workshop with a professional working Disney dancer, and experience the most magical place on Earth together. We have plans to see the Rockettes, take a dance class with a Radio City Rockette, and perform in Times Square in Winter of 2025 and we have plans to return to Walt Disney World to dance in a parade down Main Street in front of the castle in 2027 or 2028.

Competitions:

If the majority of the kids in a dance class are interested in competition experience and their dance is prepared and ready by early spring, there are opportunities to perform in nearby dance competitions. Competitions build a dancer's showmanship, confidence, and how to win and lose graciously. An interest form will be sent via email before winter break to see who is interested in competing this spring or in the future.



Community Performances:

St. Francis Dance has performed at the St. Francis Library, parades, and Milwaukee Bucks games. We are always trying to find new, unique, and memorable experiences for our dancers. Although our primary focus is dance instruction and preparation for our year-end recital, we sometimes offer these exciting add-on experiences when opportunities arise.

FUNDRAISING FOR OUR DANCE PROGRAM



Throughout the year, we hold fundraising events that build up our account we use to fund our out-of-state trip opportunities. We have fast food nights, brat fries, and more. As we book fundraising events, please participate if you are willing and able. If you cannot help or participate, please help us out by spreading the word to make the event a success.

This year:

We participated in the State Fair Corn Roast booth.

We will have fast food nights all year where restaurants will donate a percentage of their earnings to St. Francis Dance

We have a Cocoa and Cookies with Santa event at Deer Creek on November 19th between 12-2pm where families can take pictures with Santa, decorate holiday cookies, visit our cocoa bar, and create their holiday wish lists.

For the recital we do raffle baskets, 50/50 raffle, and sell roses and Stars for Your Stars shoutouts.

If you have ideas and want to be a member of our “think tank” email Ms. Amanda today and become a member of our St. Francis Dance Fundraising Parent Committee and SF Dance Fundraising Band Group.





A Final Note:

We are thrilled to have you on board for an extraordinary dance journey filled with passion, growth, and boundless possibilities.

Our team of dedicated, enthusiastic, and talented teachers considers it an honor to be part of your family's dance education. We are wholeheartedly committed to supporting and guiding you every step of the way. Whether you have questions about registration, tuition, or our discipline policy, we are here for you. Let's maintain open lines of communication and work together to ensure a positive and uplifting dance experience for everyone involved.

Thank you for choosing St. Francis Dance as your dance home. We are dedicated to providing a joyful, enriching, and empowering experience for all our students and families. Together, let's embark on this incredible dance journey, brimming with happiness, growth, and endless possibilities!

Get ready to shine, express yourself, and embrace the magic of dance at St. Francis Dance. Welcome to our family, where dreams take flight and where you'll find a home for your passion, talent, and love of dance!

WELCOME TO THE ST. FRANCIS DANCE FAMILY!



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St. Francis Recreation
Dance/Pom Program