

# Dantz Dynamix Parent Handbook

2023-2024

859 Main Street, Lewiston, Idaho

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Welcome to Dantz Dynamix. This handbook will serve as your guide to Dantz Dynamix and its philosophy of dance education.

We take our roles as mentors and teachers in your child's life very seriously. It is our objective to inspire a passion for the art of dance in every child who passes through our doors. In the process, we strive to set the right example and help your child (and you) create memories that will last a lifetime.

For 32 years our studio has been a leader in dance education. We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service, as well as our underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this handbook to offer our students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the school.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Our philosophy is to provide each student with a strong foundation in dance as well as nurture each individual's confidence, ability, and knowledge. By doing this, we hope to foster confident dancers, unique individuals, and respectful citizens.

Dantz Dynamix is committed to providing high-quality dance classes to enhance the overall development of the child. We provide a safe and child-centered environment to encourage our students to explore dance with qualified, nurturing teachers.

## **KEY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR DANTZ DYNAMIX**

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Phone: 208-798-0609

Email: Dantz Dynamix dantzdynamixlewiston@gmail.com

Website: [www.dantzdynamixlewiston.com](http://www.dantzdynamixlewiston.com)

Owner/directors: Kerri Bailey: (208) 791-4366 & Holli Wessels: (509)-552-9464

*Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram, too!*

## **Parent Role & Studio Goals**

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your student financially, but your emotional support is of equal – and perhaps even greater – value. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form and children

need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that's comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Not all children will develop into professional dancers. One of the primary goals of our faculty is to teach life lessons and skills that offer children the best chance for success. Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

### **Special Information for Parents of Preschool Students**

Our purpose is to provide the highest quality preschool education in a secure, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Our age-appropriate curriculum serves the physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of the preschool students.

During the first few weeks of class, we will introduce the students to the overall dance experience and help them to become comfortable with the classroom, their instructors, and their classmates. We focus on coordination, listening skills, musical awareness, and developing imagination. We use age-appropriate music and song, simple stretching exercises, ballet and tap basics, and games in an environment of creativity.

Preschool dance focuses on helping children express themselves creatively, not necessarily about learning steps (although they do get introduced to basic steps). They will learn a short routine and will be involved in both of our recitals. However, don't be disappointed if your child doesn't appear to be a professional ballerina right off the bat.

#### **Separation from the Parent**

The process of separating from the parent as the child attends dance class is an important accomplishment of preschool children.

As children mature, they begin to identify themselves as independent personalities. In separating from you, the parent, your child is learning:

- To develop an interest in the activities of the dance class
- To feel comfortable with other children in the class
- To understand that his/her parent will come back and pick him/her up
- To understand that all parents leave their children and come back for them

It is important to know that at times young children will explore the limits of attending dance class and say they don't want to go. This period may occur anytime, but it is usually short-lived. Here are some suggestions that might help you handle this situation:

- Emphasize what the child is doing at the dance class rather than what you do while he/she is in class.
- Before you leave, see that the child is involved in an activity or is in the hands of a teacher.
- Avoid prolonged good-byes.
- Ask the teacher for help in separation. We expect crying (and usually the tears are for the parent's benefit and go away quickly).

If your child cries or does not want to take class, don't panic. If we push children and create more stress than they are already experiencing, they may come to perceive dance class as a bad experience. That kind of negativity could make them apprehensive about dance for a long time, which isn't good for anyone involved. It just may not be the right time yet.

We recommend that children be encouraged to practice at home but not forced to do so. Repetition is one of the key elements of success with preschool dance students; the more they practice, the more confident they will feel. Practicing with your child allows you to join in the dance experience.

### **Staying Informed**

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. In order to do this, we frequently email out information so please make sure we have your current email address and make sure to check it often. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all emails and newsletters and other school information. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us. Please refer to our website ([www.dantzdynamix.com](http://www.dantzdynamix.com)) and our Facebook page. Please do not post questions on the school's Facebook page. Instead, please email them directly to us.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education, please discuss them directly with your child's teacher or the directors. Talking only to other parents can lead to misinformation, confusion, and frustration. In addition, children learn important lessons from their parents and teachers, acquiring behavior patterns through their example. Please do not approach staff for a lengthy conversation in between classes.

### **Student and Parent Use of Social Media**

Use of Facebook, Instagram, and other online social-media vehicles is commonplace. This policy is intended to provide Dantz Dynamix students and parents with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- You DO NOT have permission to reveal any information that compromises Dantz Dynamix. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the directors, other

students and their families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or Dantz Dynamix.

- Students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of Dantz Dynamix.
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend Dantz Dynamix.
- If you wish to post videos of class or rehearsals, don't post choreography in its entirety; Dantz Dynamix owns the copyright to all choreography taught at the school.
- Respect the law, including those laws governing defamation, discrimination, harassment, and copyright and fair use. As stated in this handbook, parents and students should never post negative comments about other schools or teachers.

### **Termination of Enrollment**

In certain circumstances, when it is in the best interest of one or more students, it may be necessary for the school owners to terminate a student's enrollment. Every effort will be made to correct a problematic situation before terminating enrollment. Reasons for termination could include the following:

- Disruptive or dangerous behavior by students or their parents
- Abuse of other children, staff, or property
- Badmouthing of studio
- Inability of Dantz Dynamix to meet the child's needs

### **Policies and Guidelines**

#### **Parent and Student Responsibilities-**

- Please be prompt for all lessons. Please remain quietly in the waiting area and do not come into the dance room until the instructor calls your class.
- Your child's presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school's educational process.
- Parents are responsible for keeping in contact with the group and instructor to make certain they are aware of what is going on. (Scheduled performances, costumes, dues, etc.) Bulletins are posted, emailed, and/or sent home periodically with your child, so make sure and check them.
- Parents are responsible to keep current on all tuition and fees. Students will not be allowed to participate in recitals if a balance is owed. Each student's family will be required to sign up for an automatic checking account, debit card, or credit card debiting to cover the costs of each month's bill.
- Parents must closely supervise all youngsters. It is distracting to the students when children are running around. It is also a safety issue. Please also make sure to pick up the toys your

child plays with.

- Parents and students must commit to attending our 2 yearly recitals and dress rehearsals (see calendar for dates) and scheduled performances as part of Dantz Dynamix. Dress rehearsals/recitals are that staple of the dance school. It's a rite of passage and a chance for students to shine in front of family and friends. Therefore, please do not schedule vacations, etc. during this time and plan on attending.
- Parents are encouraged to contact either Holli or Kerri if you have a suggestion aimed at improving a dancer's experience or the overall organization.
- Parents are responsible for picking up their child(ren) promptly after the class ends. If your child's class is the last one of the evening, we especially ask that you be on time.
- Parents are expected to contact either Holli or Kerri or your child's instructor if you have a concern or question.
- Parents are responsible for filling out an add/drop form for any changes in enrollment. The instructor must first sign it and then it must be turned into the office BY THE PARENT. This is how your bill is calculated. You have 3 weeks from the date of registering to drop a class. After this date, you are responsible for paying for the remainder of the semester.
- Students must show respect for instructors, staff, classmates, and themselves.
- Parents are responsible for positively interacting with and showing respect for all parents, students, and faculty. We're in this together!

#### **Instructors-**

- Instructors will choose the classes and maintain the right to make changes they feel are necessary for the benefit of the class.
- Instructors/directors will guide parents in appropriately placing students in the class(es) they feel will be most beneficial. Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex.
- Instructors will choose the music for the routines. Requests and/or suggestions are gladly accepted, but the instructor will have the final say.
- Instructors and students have the right to a class free of discipline issues. If a student constantly disrupts class, a short time-out may be used and the parents will be notified. If the problem persists, your child may be asked to withdraw from the class.

#### **Treats-**

- Treats are occasionally given to the students after class. If you prefer your child not to have a treat, please let us know in advance of class. If your child has any food allergies, please let the instructor know on the first day of class.
- If you would like to bring a special treat for a special occasion, please advise your instructor in advance.

### **Costumes-**

- Instructors will pick out 1-5 costumes for each group and the group will vote on 1 (if there is more than one option). Parents or guardians are responsible for paying for them, plus a shipping charge. A \$30.00 deposit will be added to your October or November bill and the balance will be added to your November or December bill. Average costume/tights fee is \$50.00-\$65.00. **COSTUMES WILL NOT BE GIVEN OUT UNTIL YOUR BILL IS CURRENT.**
- All combo classes will only order one costume for the entire year so please take good care of it and don't let children use them for dress-up after the winter recital.
- At no time will costume books be available to students or parents to browse through. When the group's costume has been chosen, you will be allowed to view that costume only.

Instructors typically size the students for their costumes, which is based on a size chart that the company provides. Costumes are not made specifically to fit your child; therefore, it is not an exact science. If you would like to choose your child's costume size, please let the instructor know. Please understand that if you choose to exchange/return your costume, you will be responsible for all applicable restocking and shipping charges. (unless it is a company error)

- If your child withdraws after the costumes have been ordered, you are still responsible for the costume fee if it cannot be canceled. If it can be canceled, you are responsible for all cancellation fees.

### **Recitals-**

Recitals offer our students the opportunity to present to their families and friends the results of a semester's worth of hard work, dedication, and progress. A big part of dance training includes learning through performance. The experience helps build self-esteem and confidence, which can result in better in-school presentations, improved social skills, and strong college and job interview skills. The rehearsal process is a tremendous learning experience as well. It helps children develop retention skills, and by working as a team to create the best end result.

- There are two recitals per year. Dress rehearsals are held on Friday evenings and recitals are held on Saturdays.
- Attendance is mandatory at all recitals and dress rehearsals. **STUDENTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN DRESS REHEARSAL IN ORDER TO PERFORM IN THE RECITAL.**
- All students will remain backstage with cast mothers/fathers/chaperones in classrooms during recitals. You may also remain backstage with your dancer if necessary. No dancers will be allowed in the audience at any time.
- Flowers will be for sale at recitals by the Idaho Fusion Senior Dance Team if you wish to purchase some for your dancer.
- There will be two shows per recital: an afternoon one and an early evening one. Your dancer will perform in one (with the exception of some older groups and the dance teams. They may perform in both). Please be advised that if you have more than one child or they take more than one class, there is a possibility of performing in different recitals. We do our best to accommodate as many families as possible.

- There is an approximately \$12 per family recital fee to help cover the cost of the facility, decorations, printing, etc. This fee alleviates patrons having to purchase tickets and will be on your January and May bills.
- Recital DVDs are available for purchase. Approximate cost is \$25.00. Sign-up sheets will be available a couple weeks prior to each recital. The fee will be added to your bill.

## Tuition

- 25-30 minute-class = \$43/month
- 35-45 minute class = \$47/month
- 60 minute-class = \$53/month
- 75 minute-class = \$60/month

## Multiple Class & Family Discount

Tuition prices are based on each student per month. For multiple children in one family or one child taking more than one class, the discount is as follows:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> class - \$7 discount
- 3<sup>rd</sup> class - \$10 discount
- 4<sup>th</sup> class - \$13 discount
- 5<sup>th</sup> class - \$16 discount
- 6 or more classes - \$20 discount

Example: If one child took a 45-minute class (\$47) and another child took a 30-minute class (\$43) the total would be \$83 (\$47 + \$43 - \$7 discount).

- All fees will be deducted monthly from either your checking account or charged to your credit card. If you use a credit card, there will be a 3% fee. All customers will be asked to fill out a form of their choice authorizing us to collect payment. We email out monthly invoices/statements.
- There is a 10% pre-pay discount if you pay the entire year for tuition costs only. (5% if you pre-pay a semester). However, if your child drops, you will not be refunded unless it is within the first 3 weeks of classes. Registration fee is non-refundable.
- Registration Fee (non-refundable): There is a \$25 per child (\$50 per family maximum) registration fee.
- Projected Dance Expenses:
  - ◆ Props for routines, tap, jazz, and/or ballet shoes, costume/tights, recital fees, practice-wear, pictures (optional), accessories for recitals (if we choose to order any).

## Final May Bills

Everyone will pay regular tuition from September thru May. All classes will receive at least 35 regular scheduled yearly lessons from August 29 – May 20. Some months have more than 4 lessons and some have less. In addition, most classes will receive \*\*2 “All Studio Practices”\*\* which brings the

yearly total to 36-37. Classes will also have a couple performance opportunities.

- A \$20.00 late fee per month will be applied to any account that is behind or if a credit card declines or an automatic debit will not process.
- Approximately \$15 fee per family per recital will be charged (see above).
- If we need to mail a bill or any other information, there will be a charge of \$1.00 added to your bill.

## **Dress Code**

All students must wear appropriate shoes. Students will not be allowed to participate without proper attire.

### **Ballet**

- Pink ballet shoes (please purchase them from us if you don't already have them as we do have a specific style/color we would like)
- Leotard, tights, hair in a bun or back.
- Spandex shorts/skirts are optional.

### **Jazz**

- Tan or black (depending on the class) jazz shoes. Please refer to the "Shoe Requirement" form.
- All younger classes should wear a leotard and tights and/or a dance type "outfit." Dance skirts are optional. Solid black pants are optional. **NO JEAN SHORTS, JEANS, BASKETBALL SHORTS, DRESSES, SWEATS, OR ANY OTHER STREET CLOTHES ARE ALLOWED.**
- All older classes must wear a leotard/tank top/fitted shirt with solid black dance pants, yoga pants, or booty shorts. **NO JEANS, BASKETBALL SHORTS, DRESSES, SWEATS, OR ANY OTHER STREET CLOTHES ARE ALLOWED.**
- Hair up and out of face.

### **Tap**

- Attire for tap is the same as jazz except students need to wear tap shoes.

### **Hip-Hop**

- Street tennis shoes or jazz shoes.
- Dance capri pants, fitted tank tops or shirts, and any other dance pants are allowed. **NO JEANS!**
- Hip-hop attire is more relaxed, but do not expect to dance in your school clothes please.
- Hair out of face.

## **Viewing Policy**

Parents may watch their child's lesson on the first lesson of each month. There is a "No Viewing" policy on the lessons for the rest of the month. Parents may wait in the waiting room or run an errand during these lessons. In order to be fair to everyone, we cannot make exceptions to this rule. If you have an extenuating circumstance, you must call and arrange it in advance.

## Miscellaneous Information & Policies

- Students may bring in any old shoes, or occasionally dancewear items to sell. Please give them to an office assistant, tell us what you would like to sell them for, and we will take care of the rest. You will get 80% of what your shoes sold for.
- The office is off limits to everyone except when a staff member is present.
- Makeup lessons will only be given due to the instructor's absence or by instructor's request.
- Professional pictures will be taken a week or two after recital; (typically) by Ridinger's. Everyone is asked to attend, but no one is obligated to purchase pictures. Please be there for the group.
- Lost and Found is located on the shelves back by the restroom. Please mark all of your child's belongings (especially dance items) with your child's name on them.
- Colds, flu, and other contagious diseases occur frequently and spread easily among children. To help minimize the possibility of contagion at dance, please keep your child at home if you observe any of the following: nasal discharge that is green or yellow, complaints of ear pain, consistent cough, severe sore throat, eyes that are pink, burning, itching, or producing discharge, diarrhea or vomiting, fever.
- Parents and students should never interrupt a class in session.
- Each summer Dantz Dynamix offers summer dance and cheer camps. Throughout the year, we periodically offer 1-day clinics as well.
- The studios are available for rental for meetings, rehearsals, and other activities. Cost is \$20 per hour for one room and \$35 per hour for both rooms.
- Please pick up after your child. This includes all toys used in the waiting room.

Thank you for your cooperation. By signing the Registration Form, you agree to conditions and terms of enrollment. This form is available upon registration.