



DANCER HANDBOOK

2024 – 2025

(Miriam's Dance Academy)



WELCOME TO (MDA)

Welcome to the official handbook of Miriam's Dance Academy! We're so glad to have you as a dancer with us this season! This handbook is meant to be your go-to resource whenever you have questions about dress code, class etiquette, communication, and general studio guidelines and expectations. Our goal is to foster a positive dancing environment for growth and part of that process is making sure we're all on the same page so we can grow together!





OUR PROMISE

We're so glad you've joined us!

At Miriam's Dance Academy we're proud of the environment we've created to train dancers in excellence and promote a positive studio culture in a faith based environment.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide quality dance education in a loving faith based environment. Our vision is to populate multiple dance studios in other cities so that others can experience the joy of faith based dance training.



REGISTRATION

How long is my registration good for?

When you register you are signing up for an entire 9 month period from September to recital date, which is held in May or June of the following year. The classes DO NOT carry automatically into the Summer. Summer camps, clinics and master classes are open for registration separately.

A one time non-refundable registration fee of \$30 is due when enrolling plus first month tuition. Please note: Classes may be canceled due to low enrollment numbers. A student should register according to their age level, however the Director has the right to move a child if they feel a different level would be more suited to their abilities and strengths.

Registration does not include your practice wear, any costumes, etc. Those must be purchased within a 3 week time frame after registering.

HOW DO I ADD CLASSES?

All classes should be added on our website, which will direct you to register on our online parent portal. Once you create your account you may add classes. If you are having trouble, please contact us.



HOW DO I DROP CLASSES?

To cancel or switch classes with our studio, you may do so by contacting the office at 336-937-0422 or email at miriamsdanceacademy@gmail.com.

What does registration include?

Registration includes one gift per year. You will also receive a digital packet with everything you need to know from calendar of events to costumes and where to purchase apparel. We do have hard copies of the packet in the studio by request only.

Miriam's Dance Academy has the right to drop a student from a class if:

- There have been four consecutive absences with no communication from the student's family. We contact parents if the student is not in class. It is encouraged that we are informed if a student will be absent either by submitting the absence in the portal or texting the office.
- Tuition has not been paid for a 30 day timeframe. In the event that tuition has not been paid, the student can return to class AFTER tuition has been caught up.

Make-up Classes:

We do not prorate tuition for missed classes or holidays. A make up class for illness may be requested as a private lesson, at the private class rate. In the event of inclement weather or emergencies, zoom classes are held for all classes.

Getting a Dancer Early

Parents - if you need to get your dancer from class, please notify the teacher or Director in advance. Parents should not go into a class already in session to pull their dancer as it is very distracting to other students.

Refunds:

We do not give refunds of any sort. If a dancer withdraws, we will not refund for costumes or tuition that has already been paid. Fundraisers are given in the form of dance credit only. Credits may be transferred to other dancers if desired, however the request must be sent in writing.

Parents Sit In

Parents are not allowed to sit in classes as it is a distraction for students. Parents may sit in the waiting area, hallway or simple drop off and return to pick up the dancer at the end of class.

STUDIO POLICIES

Fundraisers

We do hold fundraisers throughout the year as a credit towards costumes and additional fees. Fundraisers cannot be returned in form of cash or any monetary funds.

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Methods of Payment:

We accept many forms of payment including:

- Logging into your online portal gateway
- Cash app \$mdadance
- Venmo @mdadance1
- Cash or check in the studio

Electronic receipts will be emailed for any payment made towards anything paid.

Parental Support

We depend heavily on parental support for our snacks lists, bottled waters, classroom helpers, parent committee, and more. We asks that parents help us as much as possible as we are a non profit who depends on funding and parental support to help us each season. To lend a helping hand, contact the office.

POLICIES

COMMUNICATION

How do we communicate?

Weekly bulletins are emailed every Sunday. The bulletin is also placed in the Studio Announcements on your parent portal. We also text important updates.

We also posts pictures, videos and updates occasionally on our Facebook, Instagram pages.

BEFORE/AFTER CLASS

All dancers should use the bathroom before class begins. They should have no jewelry (only stud earrings if so). Hair should be pulled back out of the face of the dancer.

Upon entering class, dancer should utilize our cubbies for all belongings. Please do not bring toys, or any extra belongings in class. Please do not enter class prior to 5 minutes before classes due to class switches occurring.

If you arrive to class late, please change your shoes quietly and join class. Do not talk while the teacher is talking. Listen first and then ask relevant questions. Refer to each class's specific dress code to make sure you dress accordingly for practices and performances.

After class, dancer should quietly gather things and exit the classroom. Younger dancers will not be dismissed without a parent.

DANCER EXPECTATIONS

In every practice and performance, dancers will conduct themselves with self-control and treat facilities and venues with respect, leaving them in the same condition, if not better than when we arrived. Dancers should treat all instructors, and peers with respect and keep their hands to themselves. We will address unkind words and any potential bullying that comes to our attention directly. In the event of consistent inappropriate behavior the following will occur:

1. Speak with dancer and inform the parent. If behavior continues...
2. Speak with dancer and parent together in one meeting. If behavior continues..
3. Dismissal from the academy.

PRACTICE DRESS CODE

No gum, smart watches or jewelry during class or performances.

All leotards should be plain, short sleeved

MDA colors: purple, turquoise, silver, black, white

All classes ages 3-6 (excluding hip hop and cheer)

- Ballet pink short sleeve leotard
- Skin toned footless tights
- Black dance skirt, dance shorts or leggings

All classes ages 10 -12 (excluding hip hop and cheer)

- Royal blue leotard (added to your portal, purchased by staff)
- Skin toned footless tights
- Black dance skirt, shorts or leggings

Hip Hoppers

- Can wear any loose fitting clothing. This may include joggers or sweatpants. (no jeans)
- Black hip hop shoe (Amazon)
- Attire: any MDA color scheme (see above)

Ballet

- Ballet pink shoes. Ages 7 and up should get split sole ballet shoes.

Boys

- Can wear any loose fitting clothing.
- This may include joggers or sweatpants, etc. (no jeans)

All classes ages 7-9 (excluding hip hop and cheer)

- Grape purple leotard (added to your portal, purchased by staff)
- Skin toned footless tights
- Black dance skirt, shorts or leggings

Teen class (excluding hip hop and cheer)

- Black leotard
- Skin toned footless tights
- Black dance skirt, shorts or leggings

Tappers

- Any loose fitting MDA colored clothing. No jeans.
- Black tap shoe with no shoe strings.

Cheer/Dance Pom Pom

- Attire: Any MDA color scheme (see above)
- Leggings, joggers, sweatpants, cheer shorts.
- Pom Poms (added to your portal, purchased by staff)
- Cheer Shoe (see link from Amazon from staff)

Places to purchase attire and shoes:

- Carolina Dancewear
- Amazon
- Walmart, Target (for ages 1-6 only)
- Please contact the office for a list of where to purchase hip hop shoes.

TUITION POLICIES



An annual, non-refundable registration fee of \$30, \$15 for each additional child is due each year for both returning and new students. (max \$60 per family).

You may input a debit/credit card on your online account when registering for an auto draft payment.

Tuition is due on the 16th of the of the month, and late 7 days after in which a \$10 late fee is assessed.

Should you choose to withdraw your dancer, please notify the office through email before the 10th of the month in order to avoid any automatic tuition charges to your account. A two week written notice is required to withdraw.

SOLO'S, DUETS, TRIOS ETC, POLICIES

Choosing a solo, duet or trio is determined by each choreographer with great thought and discussed within the leadership. It is the dancer's responsibility to come to class to learn the material, review choreography on their own time in addition to rehearsal, and inform the choreographer if an absence will be taking place. It is the choreographer's right to withdraw a dancer from a piece if he or she does not attend classes/ rehearsals on a continuing basis or displays an attitude or behavior that is unbecoming of a young artist.

Dancers are chosen by technique requirements & ability to learn choreography quickly. There are additional fees required for solo's, duets and trios.

It is NOT determined by age or seniority alone.



COSTUMES

Parents should expect to purchase a costume for the Christmas parade depending on the theme. This year's parade costume will be any MDA colored attire for ages 3-6. Ages 7 and up will wear black leggings, black tennis shoes, and MDA sweatshirt, tee, hoodie purchased from our swag store.

In addition to the Christmas parade parents are expected to purchase recital costumes for each class you are registered into. All recital costumes are priced at \$65-\$75 per dance. We try to utilize costumes from previous years to cut costs, therefore costumes should never be discarded after the recital. Each class performs two numbers in the recital. The second costume is a less expensive costume from Amazon or a similar store.

Costume fees do not include tights, leggings for the closing dance, MDA t-shirts or any additional props. A deposit is posted November 1, due by December 16th with the remaining balance due by January 31. We do not distribute costumes until tuition is up to date and costume fees are paid in full.



HOW MANY DANCES ARE PERFORMED

Please take a look at our annual calendar located on your dance portal for dates. You will also receive a monthly calendar for the month and you can also utilize the bulletin board located in the studio for information and our monthly wishlists.

We perform at the following:

- Greensboro Christmas Parade (1st Saturday of December) at 12 noon.
- Christmas Show (Thursday, December 14th at 630pm).
- Annual Recital. Held once per year in late May or early June. Each class will showcase two dances, an opening dance and a curtain call.

Community Outreach Team

This is a team in which students age 7 and up may sign up to perform out in the community a minimum of 2 times per year. This is an extra commitment but an awesome opportunity to grow in dance. One dance is performed the entire season and one extra costume has to be purchased. There is no extra cost to perform on the team, however the student must be fully dedicated the entire season, committed to two hour practices on days the entire team can practice before a performance.

To apply click here <https://www.miriamsdanceacademy.com/performance-team>



WHY ARE DRESS REHEARSALS MANDATORY

The purpose of a dress rehearsal is to see the choreography in the performance space for the first and final time before performing. To maintain the professionalism of our performances, we must have every dancer present in order to ensure that all elements are working together for a beautiful final product. Dancing is very much a team sport and each dancer deserves to have their fellow dancers present to get a successful final practice before the show.

Your dancer may have quick changes, partner choreography, last minute placement changes on stage due to space, lifts, costume issues that need to be worked out, or any other number of technical components that must be practiced before they are allowed to perform. For that reason, if a dancer does not attend dress rehearsal, they may be removed or their part changed in a piece.



PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are available for dancers who desire one on one assistance with choreography, technique or extra help. A cancelation of a private lesson requires a 24-hour notice of a planned absence. If a student misses their private lesson the instructor is under no obligation to reschedule or make-up the missed lesson. A missed lesson without proper notification of absence will be charged a non refundable lesson to the student's account.

Private lessons may be requested in the portal or by contacting the office.

The director and teachers may suggest a student take a private lesson if it is seen that the lesson would benefit the student. Private lessons are \$35 for one hour, \$30 for 45 minutes or \$25 for 30 minutes.

THANK YOU



It's going to be a wonderful season!
We appreciate you taking the time to
read, understand, and accept our
studio's policies and procedures.