

Nevada School of Dance **Recital Handbook**

Dear Parents and Students,

Each year, Nevada School of Dance has provided students with an exciting performance experience through its June recital. The annual staple of the dance school, the recital, conjures images of childhood and Americana for many. It's a rite of passage for hundreds of youngsters, a chance to shine in front of family and friends that they anticipate with nervous excitement.

The recital offers our students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to their families and friends the results of a year's hard work, dedication, and progress.

A big part of the dance training process includes learning through performance. The experience helps build self-esteem, self-assurance, and contributes to a sense of confidence. Although performance opportunities can help prepare some students for a possible career in dance, they also contribute to children's success in non-dance activities. That onstage experience can result in better in-school presentations, improved social skills, and strong interview skills for future college or job opportunities. The rehearsal process is a tremendous learning experience as well. It helps the children develop retention skills, and by working with their classmates on a group performance, they learn the positive aspects of working as a team to create the best end result.

Dedication to recital commitments is the responsibility of both students and their parents. We've created this hand book to in an effort to clarify what we expect from you in terms of commitments and responsibility to the annual recital, the school, and other students and parents.

Recital Updates: As the season progresses, additional recital information or updates will be emailed and when possible, posted at the school. Make it your responsibility to keep abreast of this important information. It is our goal to make the recital experience organized and exciting for all involved. It's a team effort; students, their parents, the teachers, and the director are key players in the success of the show.

Home Study: To ensure that the students feel confident about their performance, we ask parents and guardians to encourage them to rehearse their recital choreography on a regular basis.

Costumes: We spend many hours determining the correct costumes for each class. They are always age-appropriate and of the highest quality possible.

Costume manufacturers do not accept cancellations or offer refunds; therefore the school does not refund costume fees.

* Sizing – Costume measuring begins during the last week in November, during scheduled class time. Each child will be measured in order to determine his or her proper costume size(s).

*Alterations – Although rare, if alterations are needed after the costumes have been distributed, they will be the sole responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

*Distribution – Costumes will be distributed when all outstanding balances for the season (including tuition) are paid in full.

*Class photos will be announced at a later date. To ensure that there are no costume problems, students should not wear their costumes, accessories, or tights prior to the photo session, dress rehearsal, or performance.

*Withdrawal – No refunds will be made if a parent or guardian withdraws a child from the school after costumes have been ordered and prior to the recital.

*Costume Accessories – Accessories, such as headpieces or gloves may sometimes be included in the cost of the costume. Tights and shoes are not included.

*Costume care – We recommend that your child's name be placed in all costumes, shoes, accessories, and tights. Place costumes in a garment bag with your child's name on the outside. Pack accessories in a clear plastic bag with your child's name on the bag and on each item. Hats should be stored in a hatbox or similar container to prevent damage. Press all costumes prior to the dress rehearsal and the performance. Please do not wash costumes in your washing machine; dry clean them only (after the recital).

*Tights – If possible, having a second pair of tights on hand is most helpful.

Girls: Pink ballet tights

Boys: Black ballet tights

*Shoes – The following shoes are required for all students.

Girls: Pink ballet shoes

Boys: Black ballet shoes

Specialty Shoes: Character and Pointe shoes as per instructor and course requirements

*Undergarment – Girls ONLY. All girls need to have skin color camisole leotard with clear straps under costume - for dress rehearsal and performance.

Hair and Makeup: Female students may be required to wear makeup for the recital: berry lipstick (not red), soft blush, natural eye shadow, and mascara. For the boys, a little blush works well.

Uniform hairstyles are required. All female students must wear their hair in a ballet bun or unless instructor advises differently. No long bangs or beads are allowed. Dancers with short hair must pull their hair away from the face and slick it down.

TIPS – Organizational Suggestions

Pre-Planning: Gather all costumes, accessories, shoes, and makeup several days in advance so you'll know if something is missing or isn't right. Make a checklist of your child's routines, listing their costume, tights, shoes and any accessories, and refer to it to make sure you have all your supplies before going to the theatre.

Bring at least one extra pair of tights. Also bring extra hair gel, hair nets, bobby pins, and hairspray.

Other handy extras include:

- Baby wipes/Shout wipes (to fix makeup mistakes or wash hands)
- Clear nail polish (to repair minor holes or runs in tights when there isn't time to change them)
- Band-Aids (the "invisible" kind)

REHEARSAL BRIEF

Tech Rehearsal: The tech rehearsal is necessary so the performer can get a feel of the stage and stage surroundings. To practice their dance routines on stage and learn where their entrances and exits will be.

Dress Rehearsal: The dress rehearsal allows the students to become familiar with and feel comfortable with their performance, costumes, and being onstage. Lighting, music cues, set changes, and all other logistics for an organized and professional performance are rehearsed so that the students make the best impression possible. Participation in the dress rehearsal is mandatory.

We run an organized and timely dress rehearsal; your help with the process will guarantee a professional production. Please arrive at call time posted. Students should not arrive in costume to prevent soiling of the costume and/or damages.

*Finale - All students are required to participate in the finale, which will be rehearsed during the last month of classes. A run-through of the finale will take place at the dress rehearsal. All students will remain in their last performance costume for the finale.

*Dressing-room etiquette - Students must respect other students' space and property in the dressing room. The students will spend more time in the dressing rooms than onstage, so please do your best to keep them organized and clean. No food or drink is allowed in the dressing rooms.

*Dress-rehearsal guests - One parent or guardian may accompany each student to the dress rehearsal. Please, no siblings who do not dance!

*Dress-rehearsal drop off and pick up - Parents or guardians should bring the students to the theater stage door, where they will be checked in and placed under the supervision of a chaperone/volunteer. Parents are not allowed in the dressing rooms after the children have been checked in for the rehearsal – unless you are a parent volunteer.

*Dress-rehearsal dismissal - Students will be dismissed from rehearsal upon completion

*Video and photography: We do not allow video or flash photography in the auditorium at the dress rehearsals and recital. Our professional camera crew and photographer will capture it all. You may take photos of your child ONLY AFTER the performance.

Auditorium Rules: No eating, drinking, or smoking is allowed in the auditorium or dressing rooms. Dancers will remain in the dressing rooms with their chaperone volunteer during dress rehearsal and the recital when they are not on stage.

Backstage: Family members and friends don't belong backstage or in the dressing rooms during rehearsals or the recital. The same applies during intermission and after the show. There is a lot of backstage activity in the limited space, and dressing rooms are a private area. Please remind your family and guests to be respectful of these areas. Those who wish to greet a performer after the show or present flowers should do so in the lobby areas.

Recital Volunteer Information: Anyone interested in volunteering to help backstage, in the dressing rooms or out front in the lobby is welcome. A volunteer sign up is required and will be email to all parents. There will be an orientation for all volunteers, and all must abide by the policies set forth by Nevada School of Dance. The recital weekend is a hectic experience; all volunteers must work in a cooperative manner at all times. Our backstage manager works very hard to put a system in place that works; we ask that all volunteers rely on their experience and follow their instructions.

All volunteers will receive an identification badge at the dress rehearsal, which must be worn in the theatre at all times. Please do not bring guests, including children, with you while you are volunteering.

*Room Chaperones – Room chaperones are needed to supervise the young dancers. Chaperones must assure that each child in her care is safe and accounted. They are responsible for making sure that each child is in the proper costume, has the proper accessories and shoes, and is backstage at the appropriate time. They are also responsible for seeing that all children return to their appointed dressing room after their performance. Volunteers are not allowed to enter the stage area. There will be live microphones backstage; only dance teachers and assistants will be allowed in the wings.

Recital Photos: Photo's will be taken at the dance studio. Dates and times will be announced at a later time. We will provide opportunity for group photo shoot and parents/students may choose to have solo portraits taken in costumes. There is no obligation to purchase. Please arrive at the scheduled time since photo shoots tend to run long.

Recital Ticket Policy: All tickets are reserved seating. Tickets go on sale the first Monday in May and the cost is \$20.00 per seat.

Props: All props are the property of Nevada School of Dance and are to be returned to the backstage prop master after the performance. Props include such items as canes, parasols, beach balls, etc.

Summerlin Library/Theater
1771 Inner Cir, Las Vegas, NV 89134

