



Dance Class Expectations

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Why we have expectations:

We want your dancers to be the healthiest, best dancer they can be! We want them to be able to use dance as an expression of worship and also as a form of communication that powerfully influences culture around them. Each expectation is for a specific reason that will add to their training in this. We believe it is important to communicate our expectations and the reason why. Please feel free to email us any questions you may have at info@sparkarts.org.

Schedule:

Each year, we publish our important dates on our [website](#). In general classes don't run on holidays and the school break for Christmas and March break. Spark dance classes are year-long classes running September to May (sessions 1-4). Following each 7 week session is an 8th week set aside for make-up classes or additional rehearsals, if needed.

Why:

By running full-year classes, Spark provides the opportunity for students to focus more heavily on technique in the first half of the year, with an expanding focus on choreography in the latter half of the year. A consistent group throughout the year fosters strong skill development and class connections.

Dress code:

**For those looking for a place to purchase dance attire that complies with the list below, Spark students have shared they've had a positive experience with FreeStyle Dancewear in Guelph and Kitchener. Freestyle has our dress code on file. We have also partnered with Inspirations Dancewear Canada for a [Spark online store](#) where you can buy your attire and have it shipped directly to your house. Note, online orders can take some time depending on inventory availability.*

Girls (all dance classes)

- No jewellery
- You may bring a bottle of water into class but all bags are to be left outside the studio

Girls (Ballet)

- Hair must be in a bun that will not fall out
- Pink ballet tights
- Black sleeveless bodysuit (little black skirts permitted for tot and kid classes)
- Pink leather ballet slippers (preferred no elastic strings but if elastic strings, please tie in bow and tuck in before each class as children can trip on the strings)

- For adult students, please wear black leggings or shorts, and a black tank top or t-shirt
- Leg warmers and other warmup clothing can be worn if coming early to stretch but should be removed before the beginning of class without being asked by teacher

Girls (Jazz/Hip Hop)

- Hair must be in a bun that will not fall out (Jazz)
- Black sleeveless bodysuit
- Black spark sweatpants
- *Solid black dance sneakers (hip hop)
- *Black jazz shoes (no laces preferred)

*If your jazz/hip hop class is a combined class, please confirm with Spark on which shoes will be needed.

Girls (Tap)

- Hair must be in a bun that will not fall out
- Black sleeveless bodysuit
- Black Spark sweatpants
- Black tap shoes (no laces preferred)

Girls (Acro)

- Hair must be in a bun that will not fall out
- Black sleeveless bodysuit
- Pink convertible tights (optional)
- No shoes needed for this class

Boys (all dance classes)

- Black plain t-shirt
- Black Spark sweatpants
- You may bring a bottle of water into class but all bags are to be left outside the studio.

Boys (Ballet)

- Black ballet shoes (preferred no elastic strings but if elastic strings, please tie in bow and tuck in before each class as children can trip on the strings)

Boys (Tap)

- Black tap shoes (no laces preferred)

Boys (Jazz/Hip Hop)

- *Black jazz shoes (no laces preferred)
- *Black dance sneakers (hip hop)

*If your jazz/hip hop class is a combined class, please confirm with Spark on which shoes will be needed.

Boys (Acro)

- No shoes needed for this class

Why:

- Pink tights in ballet make it easier to see the little muscles around the knees and ankles that are important in prevention of injury.
- We select dress code items that are often used for the performance, reducing costs at performance time.
- Leather ballet slippers help strengthen feet.
- Spark trains dancers to focus on individual growth and teaches dancers how to overcome comparison. This is a skill that is useful in all areas of life. Uniforms make this easier to teach.
- Jewelry can cause injury to students and damage to the jewelry.
- Anything other than a water bottle will be left in the waiting area for safety in the studio.
- Student's adjusting hair and tripping on untucked shoe elastics is the number one time waster in class!

Injuries & Lates:

- It is encouraged to arrive early for class as it allows time to stretch and feel prepared to learn.
- Parents/Students are requested to inform us about physical ability, injury, or ailment that may affect the safety of the student or the safety of others before class.
- If you are injured or more than 15 minutes late you may be asked to sit out and work on an age appropriate project.
- If you are injured please come prepared to class with pen + paper for an in-class assignment.
- If you have sat out more than 6 times in a semester you may be asked to complete a larger assignment at home.

Why:

- Being late can be harmful to a dancer's body as they could miss the essential body warm up for the bigger moves towards the end of class.

- The dance assignments are fun and have been proven to increase learning of ballet history and technique.
- This is not a punishment but an opportunity to learn through another platform.

Missed classes, Payments, and Withdrawals:

- We ask that you make class attendance a priority especially before performance.
- If you are sick or planning to be away, please let us know by emailing info@sparkarts.org. Missed classes will not be reimbursed.
- You may be asked to complete an assignment that you will turn in at the beginning of your next class.
- Dance class fees are typically paid in three payments. The first portion is paid at the time of registration and is non-refundable. The subsequent two payments are due August 1 and December 1. After the 3rd week of class (in September), the student is committed through the year (to May).
- As a community of artists we value the big picture (and the little details) of the events we put on. We strive to be able to use quality costumes for our performances throughout the year while also saving Spark families money in the long-run. To accomplish this, we charge a costume rental fee for each class. The fees are calculated each year to estimate what the costs will be for the year. Costume fees are pooled and used to clean and maintain costumes we already own and purchase new costumes for the studio. Since most costumes cost more than the fee charged, we will try our best to reuse costumes so we can keep our fees down.
- We reserve the right to move students if there is another class that will be a better fit for them.
- Class cancellations due to instructor illness will be rescheduled to another day as the studio schedules allows.
- Class cancellations due to low enrolment will be 100% refunded. As much as possible we will try to find another class for your student.

Why:

- Much like a sports team, dancers learn to work together and each member is important for spacing, timing, and communication.
- Assignments are not a punishment but an opportunity to learn.

Parent participation:

- The most important thing you can do is pray for their growth as a dancer.
- Helping your child feel prepared for class by arriving on time with everything they need.

- Ask them to show you what they have learned. This can be done by going through their dance folder or by watching them practice.
- Ask them what they are communicating and why that is important.
- Communication will be sent home with your student in their dance book with information for you as well as take home practice sheets for them please check it often.
- Spark has chosen to have lots of windows for teacher accountability, parent curiosity and natural light. We ask that in waiting room you try hard to not distract the dancers (be sneaky when you sneak a peak).
- There are also many practical ways you can be involved as a parent at Spark.
- We would love to see you use your gifts as well.
- Parents will honour the knowledge of the teachers and studio directors and accept the placement of the student in specific levels and classes

Why:

- So much of your child's development as a student and an artist can be supported by parents.
- Being a part of their journey will create another form of communication between you and your child.
- You will be blessed as you see the improvement and growth of your child in ways you couldn't imagine.

Performance, competition, exams, outreach

- Spark will focus on creating opportunities to use dance to bless others through community performance.
- We will not be participating in competitions or exams.

Why:

- Dance is an amazing form of worship, communication and expression.
- It teaches discipline, creativity, coordination, emotional control, and self awareness. All while developing both sides of the brain and conditioning the body.
- We want to focus on the health of your child's body through good technique and the health of their mind by encouragement, kindness and wisdom.
- We also want to teach them that their gifts are from God and given to bless others.
- So with all this packed into a class we have decided to not do competition or exams.