



2025-2026

DANCE SPECTRUM
STUDIO CULTURE HANDBOOK



4705 Transit Road
Depew NY 14043
716.668.1954
www.dancespectrum.net
office@dancespectrum.net



Welcome to Dance Spectrum

We are thrilled you are a part of our Dance Spectrum family to celebrate our **47th season**.

At Dance Spectrum, we believe in the transformative power of dance and are committed to providing a nurturing environment for students of all ages and skill levels to discover the joy of movement. Whether you're a beginner looking to explore the world of dance or an experienced dancer seeking to refine your technique, our team of highly trained instructors is here to guide you on your dance journey.

Whether you're aiming for a professional dance career or dancing for fun and fitness, Dance Spectrum has something to offer you. Our caring instructors create a supportive and inclusive atmosphere, ensuring every student feels encouraged to reach their full potential.

Apart from regular dance classes, we also host workshops, performances, and recitals, providing our students with opportunities to showcase their talent and build their confidence on stage.

Welcome to the Dance Spectrum family and experience the magic of dance in a friendly and welcoming environment.

Let's dance together at the Dance Spectrum, where passion meets creativity, and dreams take flight!



Referral Program

Help Us Spread The Word! Do you know of a child who can't stop dancing around the house? Does your child want to dance with their cousin or friend? Looking for the perfect gift?

When you refer a new family for a full season program you will receive a \$50.00 credit to your account and you will be entered in a raffle to win 2 front row seats to the 2026 Dance Recital, June 13, 2026.

The new family must be active for at least 3 months in order to receive your \$50 DS Credit! After 3 months, a \$50 referral credit will be posted to your account. This credit has no cash value and can be used on most DS transactions.

When you refer a new family to the Dance Spectrum be sure to have them note your name at the time of registration.

Save The Dates

2025-2026 Important Events

Summer Camps - July 7-August 1, 2025

Summer Dance (Ages 18 months-8 years) - July 12-August 9, 2025

Summer Dance Competitive Week #1 - July 14 & 16, 2025

Summer Dance Competitive Week #2 - July 29 & 31, 2025

Summer Intensive - August 18-21, 2025

Classes Begin - September 15, 2025

Last Day Of Class - June 6, 2026

2026 Recital Dates

Studio Rehearsal - Sunday, June 7, 2026 @ Dance Spectrum

Competitive Dress Rehearsal - Tuesday, June 9, 2026 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ 5:30pm

Recreational Dress Rehearsal - Wednesday June 10, 2026 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ 5:30pm

Children's Dress Rehearsal - Thursday June 11, 2026 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ 5:30pm

Children's Showcase - June 13, 2026 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ 10:00am

Recreational Showcase - June 13, 2026 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ 2:00pm

Competitive Showcase - June 13, 2026 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ 6:00pm

2025-2026 Studio Closures

Indigenous Peoples Day- October 13, 2025

Halloween - October 31, 2025

Veteran's Day- November 11, 2025

Thanksgiving Break - November 24-29, 2025

Holiday Break - December 22-January 3, 2026

Staff Development Day - January 28, 2026

February Break - February 16-21, 2026

Spring Break - March 30-April 11, 2026

Staff Development Day - May 21, 2026

Memorial Day Weekend - May 22-25, 2026



**More Important Dates
Coming Soon**

Parent/Guardian Participation Week

March 2-7, 2026

Participation Week gives you the chance to “step” into the classroom and see firsthand what the classroom experience is like for your child.

Yearbook Photos

Dates TBA

Dancers will have individual photos taken for our end of the year yearbook.

Picture Week

May 4-9, 2026

Class photos will be taken at the Dance Spectrum during regular class times by Jessica Popovich Photography. Dancers will have an individual photo taken as well as a group photo. There is no obligation to purchase photos.

Recital Tickets

May 17, 2026

To create an organized and professional atmosphere, we use reserved seating. Each audience member must have a ticket. Children must have a ticket as Shea's does not allow children to sit on adults' laps. Our recitals are considered family entertainment and enjoyable for all.

Tickets for the 2025 Recital will go on sale at the Shea's box office and through Ticketmaster. Detailed ticket information will be available in the Spring.

Annual Recital & Rehearsals

Studio Rehearsal

June 7, 2026

This rehearsal allows the students to practice without mirrors, practice entrances and exits in the order of the show and it gives dancers a chance to dance in front of their peers. **NO COSTUMES!**

Dress Rehearsal

June 9 - 11, 2026

Competitive Dress Rehearsal - Tuesday, June 9, 2026 @ 5:30pm

Recreational Dress Rehearsal - Wednesday June 10, 2026 @ 5:30pm

Children's Dress Rehearsal - Thursday June 11, 2026 @ 5:30pm

This rehearsal allows dancers to become familiar with the theater surroundings and feel comfortable with their performance costume(s) and being onstage. Lighting, music cues and all other logistics for an organized and professional performance are rehearsed. For this rehearsal, dancers will wear their recital costumes, as well as practice their stage make-up and hair.

Recital

June 13-14, 2025

Children's Showcase - June 13, 2026 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ 10:00am

Recreational Showcase - June 13, 2026 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ 2:00pm

Competitive Showcase - June 13, 2026 @ Shea's Performing Arts Center @ 6:00pm

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. Our 2026 recital will be held at Shea's Performing Arts Center on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

For Recital Showcases, dancers will arrive backstage in their Recital costumes, hair and make-up. Dancers will remain in their assigned dressing rooms throughout the Showcase. More information on our Recitals and rehearsals will be provided later on in the dance season.



Registration Policies

Registration

All students should register for classes through the Parent Portal. Dance Spectrum offers a variety of classes for all ages and levels.

The Children's Program is designed for our youngest dancers, ages 8 & under.

The Recreational Program is designed for dancers ages 9 & up.

We also offer Competitive Programs for dancers ages 5 & up. Dancers must audition for placement into the Competitive Programs.

To learn more about our programs and available classes, visit www.dancespectrum.net.

Membership Fee

The non refundable membership fee and 1st tuition payment are due at the time of registration.

- **Standard DS Membership Fee** includes registration into the school, standard access to class registration & waitlists, livestream viewing access, private Facebook member group, participation in the recital at Shea's Performing Arts Center and all additional rehearsals, standard access to ticket sales, digital program book and insurance fees for our dancers.

Payments made with Cash or ACH

1 Dancer - \$155
2 Dancers - \$205
3 Dancers - \$245

Payments made with Credit or Debit

1 Dancer - \$161.20
2 Dancers - \$213.20
3 Dancers - \$254.80

- **Premium DS Membership Fee** includes everything listed in the Standard DS Membership Fee

-PLUS-

The 2026 Recital Show Shirt, digital download of the 2026 Recital, 20% off DS Retail, 20% off DS yearbook & Recital stuffie, premium prices for all in-house DS workshops and camps, priority registration for the 2025-2026 season, workshops & camps, priority waitlists for the 2025-2026 season and priority ticket sales for the 2026 Recital.

Payments made with Cash or ACH

1 Dancer - \$195
2 Dancers - \$245
3 Dancers - \$285

Payments made with Credit or Debit

1 Dancer - \$202.80
2 Dancers - \$254.80
3 Dancers - \$296.40

Tuition Policy

Dance Spectrum tuition is based on a full season, running from September 15, 2025, to June 13, 2026 (Recital). Tuition is a course fee, and all prices account for holidays. We do not prorate for late registrations.

Cash/Check pricing reflects a savings of 4% when you pay with cash, check, or electronically via a checking or savings account.

TUITION: All accounts must have a form of payment on file (CC, EFT checking or savings). Payments can be made anytime before the 1st of the month. Any unpaid accounts will be automatically charged to the payment method on file on the 1st of the month. Payment arrangements are available upon request - please contact the office.

LATE FEES: A \$10 Late Fee will be applied to your account for each charge category (tuition, costumes, private lessons, competition fees etc) paid after its due date.

OTHER POLICIES

- Family discounts include: 5% off for the 2nd child, 10% off for the 3rd child (some restrictions may apply). All students must reside at the same address to qualify for the sibling discount.
- Please Note: the total amount displayed in your portal reflects cash/check pricing for the 2025-2026 season.
- You SAVE 4% by paying with ACH (online) OR cash/check (at the office)
- There are no make-ups or refunds for missed classes.
- A \$30 service fee is charged on all returned checks.
- A \$20 service fee is charged for an ACH return.
- After 2 checks are returned for insufficient funds, your account must be paid with cash or credit only.
- Students with accounts more than two months past due will not be allowed to attend class until the balance, including late fees, is paid in full.

Costume Fees

All costume fees are due **November 1, 2025**.

Payments can be made anytime before the due date. Any unpaid accounts will automatically be processed on to your primary method of payment in file on November 1st.

PreSchool, Boys Ages 3-6 & Mini Program

\$80 per class (Cash or ACH)

\$83.20 per class (Credit or Debit)

Kinder Program

\$90 per class (Cash or ACH)

\$93.60 per class (Credit or Debit)

This is will be a 2-in-1 costume for a 45 minute Kinder and its connect with class

Recreational Program Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Adults & Boys Ages 7-18

\$85 per class (Cash or ACH)

\$88.40 per class (Credit or Debit)

\$10 Late Fees will be applied after 11/1/2025.

Please Note: the total amount displayed in your portal reflects cash/check pricing for the 2025-2026 season.

General Policies

- Dancers are expected to attend all classes. Please contact the studio to inform us of any absences.
- Please remove all street shoes and boots at designated locations.
- Dancers should always have a water bottle with them in class. Please label your dancer's water bottle.
- Only water is allowed in the studios, No food, drinks, or gum is allowed in class.
- Student must act respectfully and appropriately while on any possible scheduled breaks.
- Cell phones may not be brought into class. Please turn cellphones and watches to silent mode to not interrupt class.
- Smoking and vaping are prohibited on the Dance Spectrum property.

Stay Connected

If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact the office at 716-668-1954.

Season hours - Monday through Friday 3:00-8:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am-12:00pm.

We answer emails on a daily basis. Feel free to email questions to the office at office@dancespectrum.net.

Email

Please make sure we have your most up-to-date email address on file on your dance account. Newsletters & updates are emailed often.

Website - www.dancespectrum.net

We are constantly updating our website. Calendar of events, news, and important parent and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is available to all current DS families. Access your account by creating a user name and password. The Parent Portal provides you with 24/7 access to your child's information. With a Parent Portal account, you may log on at any time to view information regarding your families account, child(s) class schedule, tuition information, and ability to make payments and register for workshop classes online. Visit www.dancespectrum.net for instructions into your Parent Portal.

Social Media

Follow us on our social media platforms. We often post photos and videos of our students in class and other Dance Spectrum events. Find us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. **Please join our DS Members only Facebook group.**

Zoom Into Class

Due to our Safety Policies, our Waiting Room is closed. Parents have the opportunity to view classes via Zoom. Zoom ID numbers change monthly and are emailed. Log in with your dancer's name and please mute your microphone.

Weather Cancellations

School closures due to severe weather conditions will be announced by 3:00pm on that day. Notifications of weather cancellations will be posted on the Dance Spectrum app, emailed, posted on the website, the Facebook page, and announced on the school's outgoing voicemail message. Weather cancellations will also be posted on local TV channels.



DRESS CODE

PreSchool 3 - Option 1

- Attire: Leotard & Tights (Any Color)
- Shoes: Pink Ballet Shoes

PreSchool 3 - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Form-fitted Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Black Ballet Shoes

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face in a bun or pony

PreSchool 4 - Option 1

- Attire: Leotard & Tights (Any Color)
- Shoes: Pink Ballet Shoes & Black Tie Tap Shoes

PreSchool 4 - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Form-fitted Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Black Ballet Shoes & Black Tie Tap Shoes

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face in a bun or pony

Acro - Option 1

- Attire: Form-fitted dance clothes (leotard, leggings, shorts, etc)
- Shoes: None

Acro - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Form-fitted Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: None

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face in a bun or pony

Ballet - Option 1

- Attire: Black leotard & Pink tights (Ballet skirts are permitted)
- Shoes: We recommend split sole canvas shoes

Ballet - Option 2

- Attire: Black joggers & Black form fitted tee shirts
- Shoes: Black Split Sole Ballet shoes

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face in a bun or pony

Hip Hop - All Dancers

- Attire: Comfortable street clothes - No Jeans
- Shoes: Clean Sneakers

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face in a bun or pony

Jazz - Option 1

- Attire: Form-fitted dance clothes (leotard, leggings, shorts, etc)
- Shoes: Black (Slip on or tie up) Jazz Shoes

Jazz - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Form-fitted Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Black (Slip on or tie up) Jazz Shoes

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face in a bun or pony

Lyrical - Option 1

- Attire: Form-fitted dance clothes (leotard, leggings, shorts, etc)
- Shoes: Barefoot, Ballet Slippers or Jazz Shoes

Lyrical - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Form-fitted Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Barefoot, Ballet Slippers or Jazz Shoes

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face in a bun or pony

Tap - Option 1

- Attire: Form-fitted dance clothes (leotard, leggings, shorts, etc)
- Shoes: Black Hard Sole Oxford Tap Shoes are recommended

Tap - Option 2

- Attire: Shorts or Joggers & Form-fitted Tee Shirt (Any Color)
- Shoes: Black Hard Sole Oxford Tap Shoes are recommended

Hair: Pulled back & away from the face in a bun or pony

OUR CLASSES

Offered for Boys & Girls

PreSchool 3 is a program designed for 3 year olds that teaches more than just dance!! This class incorporates engaging music, interactive props and presents a classroom structure (following directions, taking turns, spatial awareness as well as developing friendships) all while introducing beginning ballet curriculum, rhythm, balance and gross motor skills.

PreSchool 4 is a continuation of the PS3 program or for brand new 4 year olds. This class maintains and builds on ballet basics and strengthens gross motor development. The tap portion of class will help further develop rhythm, balance and coordination.

PeeWee Acro is for 3-4 year old Boys & Girls. Acro is based on safe and effective progressions in five areas; flexibility, strengthening, balancing, limbering and tumbling, similar to floor gymnastics.

Acro (ages 5 & up) is based on safe and effective progressions in five areas; flexibility, strengthening, balancing, limbering and tumbling, similar to floor gymnastics.

Level 2: Dancers must be able to execute skills such as both side cartwheels, backbends down & up, front limbers and backbend kickovers.

Ballet (ages 5 & up) is a Classical dance form demanding strength, grace and precision. Ballet is used as the foundation in all dance forms.

Hip Hop (ages 5 & up) is best described as high energy and original. Strengthening and conditioning will help build a solid foundation for Breaking, Locking, Housing and more.

Level 2: Dancers 9 years old & older with 3 or more years of experience in each style. Years of experience starts after dancers complete the Mini Program and are a part of our Recreational Program.

Level 3: is an invitation only Recreational program for any dancer who is 14 years old & older with multiple years of experience in each style.

Jazz (ages 5 & up) dance combines the technique of Ballet and Modern dance with the current forms of popular dance. Jazz has its own vocabulary ranging from isolations to the movement of the entire body. The Jazz curriculum includes stretching, jumps, rhythm and various styles of movement.

Level 2: Dancers 9 years old & older with 3 or more years of experience in each style. Years of experience starts after dancers complete the Mini Program and are a part of our Recreational Program.

Lyrical (ages 7 & up) is a fusion of Jazz and Ballet styles with a concentration of Ballet technique. Lyrical focuses on fluid movements and expressive emotion. We highly recommend all Lyrical students take a weekly Ballet class.

Level 2: Dancers 9 years old & older with 3 or more years of experience in each style. Years of experience starts after dancers complete the Mini Program and are a part of our Recreational Program.

Level 3: is an invitation only Recreational program for any dancer who is 14 years old & older with multiple years of experience in each style.

Musical Theater (ages 5 & up) is a combination of dancing and acting, similar to what would be seen in musicals and Broadway shows. Dancers learn to incorporate personalities & story lines into their story.

Tap (ages 5 & up) is a percussive style of dance. Its name comes from the tapping sound made when metal plates on the dancer's shoes touch the floor. Students will learn to understand rhythm and timing while working on footwork and agility.

Level 2: Dancers 9 years old & older with 3 or more years of experience in each style. Years of experience starts after dancers complete the Mini Program and are a part of our Recreational Program.

Boys Crew is our boys only program. We have 2 levels, ages 3-6 & ages 7 & up. In our Boys Crew, ages 3-6, dancers will work on Hip Hop and Acrobatic skills. In our Boys Crew, 7 & up, dancers will work on their Hip Hop skills.



OUR SAFETY POLICIES

The safety and well-being of your child is our highest priority. At Dance Spectrum, we are dedicated to creating a secure, healthy, and supportive environment where every dancer can thrive.

Safety at a Glance:

Certified Staff – All faculty and staff are trained in CPR, First Aid, and AED use. An AED machine is conveniently located near the front desk.

Age-Appropriate Instruction – We take pride in providing age-appropriate choreography, music, and costuming to ensure a positive and respectful learning experience.

State-of-the-Art Facilities – Each studio is equipped with sprung floors for injury prevention, top-tier sound and tech equipment, and ceiling fans with HVAC systems featuring MERV 10 filters for air quality.

Fire & Emergency Preparedness

- Fire extinguishers are stationed at the front and back of the building.
- Smoke detectors and emergency lighting are installed throughout the facility.
- There are four exits in the front of the building and two in the back for easy evacuation.

Security Measures

- The front desk is equipped with a panic button, activating a warning light in each studio to signal a lockdown if necessary.
- Every studio has two entry/exit points with deadbolt-secured doors.
- An intercom system connects all rooms, and each studio has an emergency bag with first aid supplies.
- Regular safety drills are conducted, including fire, lockdown, lockout, and active shooter procedures.

Why Is the Dance Spectrum Waiting Room Closed During Classes?

At Dance Spectrum, the safety and well-being of every dancer is our highest priority. To maintain a secure, healthy, and supportive environment, we have implemented policies that allow us to focus on the protection and development of our students.

We have taken extensive steps to ensure that our facility is equipped to handle emergency situations:

- **Secure Exits:** Our building has four exits in the front and two in the back to allow for quick and efficient evacuation if necessary.
- **Panic Button System:** The front desk is equipped with a panic button that activates warning lights in each studio to signal a lockdown if needed.
- **Controlled Studio Access:** Each studio has two entry/exit points, both secured with deadbolt locks to prevent unauthorized access.
- **Intercom Communication:** An intercom system connects all studios, allowing for instant communication in case of an emergency.
- **Emergency Preparedness Kits:** Every studio is stocked with an emergency bag containing first aid supplies.
- **Routine Safety Drills:** We conduct regular fire, lockdown, lockout, and active shooter drills to ensure staff and students are prepared.

Why Close the Waiting Room?

To uphold these safety measures and create the most secure environment possible, limiting public access to the building during class time is essential. By keeping the waiting room closed:

- We reduce unnecessary foot traffic, ensuring that only authorized individuals are present.
- We maintain a focused and distraction-free atmosphere for our dancers.
- We enhance emergency response efficiency, allowing staff to account for everyone inside the building quickly.

Communication

Illness

If you observe any signs of illness or contagious conditions in your child, please keep them at home and inform the office, 716.668.1954 or office@dancespectrum.net

Medical Information

Parents should notify the Dance Spectrum office if your child may require the use of an inhaler or any other medications during their time at the Dance Spectrum. It is also important to inform the office of your child's existing medical conditions at the time of registration and throughout the school year. **Please share with us any information to help our instructors give your dancer the best experience possible.**

Injury

If your child obtains an injury which restricts their participation in class, parent should notify the office.

Did You Know?

The DS Dream Team is made up of an incredible group of professionals, bringing expertise from a wide range of fields:

Dance & Performing Arts: A former Broadway professional, alumni of The New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, and five certified Progressive Ballet Technique (PBT) instructors.

Healthcare & Wellness: Two Doctors of Physical Therapy, a Licensed Practical Nurse, a CATT Scan Technologist at Oishei Children's Hospital, and a Mental Health Counselor.

Education & Business: Two certified elementary teachers, an elementary teacher assistant, a graduate student in Early Childhood Education, a graduate in secondary adolescent education, an MBA in Communications, a graduate in Economics & Finance, and a graduate in Business Administration.

Specialized Skills: A trader with three NASD licenses, a notary public and a fashion makeup artist with a degree in special effects.

OUR DREAM TEAM



Patty Neal

Studio Owner & CEO
patty@dancespectrum.net



Aubrey Neal

Studio Manager
Recreational Program Director
aubrey@dancespectrum.net



Lauren Zerkowski

Studio Manager
Competitive Program Director
lauren@dancespectrum.net



Lynne Johnson

PreSchool Program Director
lynne@dancespectrum.net



Jennifer Keicher

Office Manager
office@dancespectrum.net



Jill McKay

Assistant Competitive Program Director
jill@dancespectrum.net



Abby Catlin
Faculty



Lindsay Colbert
Faculty



Renee Fitzsimmons
Faculty & Office Staff



Liz Franklin
Faculty



Maddie Flanigan
Faculty



Maddie Kline
Faculty



Julie LaMancuso
Faculty



Katie Miga
Faculty



Gary Marino
Faculty



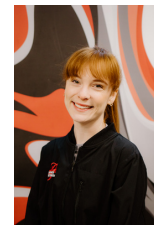
Beverly Pajak
Faculty & Office Staff



Jeremy Powalowski
Faculty



Lauren Russo
Faculty



Alex Sherry
Faculty



Joyce Stencel
Office



Emma Wade
Faculty



Karen Washbon
Faculty



Jordan Wasinski
Faculty



Danielle Wendel
Faculty