

# **Feel The Rhythm Policies and Procedures**

Please take the time to read through the following pages with your child.

We hope that your time at Feel The Rhythm will surpass your expectations and that your dancer will thrive with FTR,

Thank you for choosing us!

## **FOR OUR FTR STUDENTS**

The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Respect for the teachers is essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed at you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience. Make yourself stand out in the class in a positive way. We encourage every student to be a star, we can give our students all the necessary tools, but it ultimately has to come from within. You have to want it for yourself.

## **FOR OUR FTR PARENTS**

We believe that children's success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child's dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty and students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the faculty—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect among our faculty and our students' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your child 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.

Some parents may compare their child's progress or class placement to another child's. Watch for this behavior in your children as well and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments.

Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow students, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will imitate a parent's behavior with other adults or authority figures.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring behavior patterns through their example. Our school's faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It's Feel The Rhythm's values to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully toward their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education (such as progress or class placement), please discuss them with your child's teacher or the director. Talking only to other parents can lead to misinformation and confusion. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Michelle to set up an appointment to come in; If you do request an in person conference, please listen carefully to what your child's teachers have to say. They spend a significant amount of time with your child and offer expertise in the field of dance education.

## **Tuition and Costume Policy**

- Tuition is due the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.  
**If payment is not made by the 15<sup>th</sup>, a \$20.00 late fee will be assessed, and for each additional month thereafter.**
- Any NSF check written will result in a \$30.00 processing fee to your account.
- **Family Discount:** Full price for your oldest child and receive a **50% discount** off regular tuition amount for any additional child.
- There will be no refunds for missed classes. You are responsible for the tuition regardless of absences.
- If dance is canceled for 2 or more weeks in any given month there will be a discount given which can be applied to the following month's tuition. (Ex: Snow cancellations and Christmas break)
- This discount will **NEVER** apply to families with more than one child attending classes because you receive a discount all year for your second child.

- NO discount will be given for a student missing class due to their own personal reasons. (Medical reasons are negotiable and must be discussed with Kaylee)

- Initial costume deposit is due the last first week of October 2019.  
Remaining Balance is due the week before Thanksgiving Break.

***If not paid in full before Christmas break an additional \$50 per costume will be applied to your remaining balance.***

- Once costumes are ordered they are nonrefundable...regardless of the reason
- If you are having difficulties paying do not hesitate to speak with Kaylee about establishing a special payment plan. Please do not let financial problems be the reason your child does not get the chance to dance in the recital. I am ready and willing to work with anyone who is willing to work with me!

### **Attendance**

All students are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes. Each class offers a step forward in the educational process. A missed class could leave a child one step behind the other students. During the months of January through May, choreography for the recital will be taught and rehearsed. It is important for children to feel completely confident with the choreography and the year-end performance. Missing class during this period could result in frustration for the students and their teachers and classmates.

### **Make-ups/Privates**

Everyone gets one free make-up lessons a year, after that a charge per additional make-up will go into effect. No student will receive a make-up lesson for missing only one class, unless suggested by the instructor. In addition, if a student misses two of their regular classes in a row it is mandatory they receive a make-up lesson, so they don't fall behind the rest of the class.

1 hour.....	make-up	\$35.00
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***\*Make-ups will not be taught by the lead instructors...student teachers will teach privates. The only time a lead instructor will teach make-ups/privates is if no one else can or if the instructor makes the suggestion.***

**Make-Ups due to weather cancellations will be rescheduled for a different day at the lead instructors discretion. These classes are nonrefundable and all students are expected to attend.**

## **Class Placement**

Class assignments for this upcoming year will be based off of previous year's attendance, in class performance (not recital performance), ability, and in class conduct. We know your child would like to be with their friends, however these decisions made are ultimately what we feel is best for every single one of our students. Please understand that we work with these children every week for a solid 9 months a year. We are very mindful as to what they are capable of doing, we know how hard or easy things come to each of our students, and we do take into consideration how serious our students are about dance as well. It's not about age, grade, seniority, or years dancing. It's ultimately based off of level of ability, maturity, and individual class performance.

Placement decisions are derived from our teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident, in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some students who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with students who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex. I want the kids to be good dancers AND enjoy learning as much as I love teaching them! Please know that I strongly believe ALL of our students are wonderful dancers and that each child just develops at a different speed, which is completely okay....(some maturity wise, some emotional wise, and others dance wise) There is no reason why class placement has been given such a negative tone. It's meant to help each student not hurt them and gives them the opportunity to develop at their own pace. Keep in mind, friends can be made in any class and the main reason we are all here is to DANCE :-) So, I ask that you please work with us on encouraging the girls no matter what class they are assigned. If we are positive about this the kids will be too!!!

## **Line and Formation Placements**

Year after year we are asked the same questions about lines. Therefore, we have decided to address these concerns before they arise. This is so that our students and their parents are well aware of what we look for and know exactly what to expect. We work hard to teach your children so we expect them to work hard when learning. There are several different things we consider when we go about line placements.

- Attendance does play a role in lines...so try your very best not to miss.
- It's obvious which students take dance seriously versus those who take socialization more seriously. This is not a problem, but it is a concern if you're child is worried about line placements as well as future class placements.
- Where a student places themselves in class when learning choreography shows us as instructors that that's where they feel most comfortable dancing. Which most of the time translates into where they are placed for lines.
- We know for a fact that we have very intelligent students that are more than capable of remembering their dances. Therefore, a strong knowledge of the all dances is a requirement not a suggestion. If a student desires a certain placement they HAVE to know their dances. This has nothing to do with making mistakes...we ALL do that ;-) It is solely based off knowing the choreography by the assigned time.

**Confidence comes from knowing the choreography first. If one does not know what they are doing they cannot and will not do a dance to their full potential.**

- We do realize many of our students are involved in other activities, which is great!!! However, we do have students that are solely dedicated to dance and practice their dances several times a week. And those students will be placed accordingly.

Please understand...dance is just like anything else. It takes hard-work and dedication. We believe in every single one of our students and want them ALL to shine individually. Which is why we as teachers do everything possible to give all our students an equal opportunity. All the dances are either placed on YouTube or the girls/parents are given the choice to videotape us in class, so they can practice out-side of the studio. Believe me, if we could have dance instruction a few times a week with all our of classes, just like other sports, we would. However, we know and understand that many children these days are busy every day and making one class a week is challenging enough at times. Thank you for continuing to help us grow as a studio and instructors with your ideas, insights, and concerns. We truly do appreciate your understanding and cooperation with this particular topic.

### **Dance Class Etiquette**

- **All cell phones, iPods, and iPads must be left in dance bags on vibrate through the duration of class. They are very disruptive and cause students to break attention from what is being taught.**
- No food or drinks are permitted in the studio rooms. ONLY water. If the kids bring snacks they must remain in their bags until break time.
- Students must show respect for dance instructors and other students at all times. Bullying, gossiping, rude back talking, vulgar language, and/or abuse of any kind are not permitted and will not be tolerated. Our students are expected to always conduct themselves with good manners while at the studio. We want to maintain a fun and comfortable environment where all our students can enjoy the fine art of dance. Encouraging each other instead of talking about one another is a requirement...we are a family. \*\*\*\*Disrespect to instructors will NOT be tolerated. All we are requesting is that attitudes, differences, and outside frustrations are left at the door. The studio should be EVERYONE'S "happy place". Which is why we as teachers go above and beyond to try to make everyone happy by providing great instruction, positive reinforcement, fun, and tons of encouragement. Negative energies are poison to a successful class and tends to bring everybody's morale down. Our job is to instruct our students on how to dance and the student's job is to worry about themselves and concentrate on what is being taught. Our hope/goal is to share our passion for DANCE with our students. We love teaching and hope for our students to love learning just as much :-)

### **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 owner to terminate a student's enrollment. Every effort will be made to correct a problematic situation before terminating enrollment. Reasons for termination of enrollment include the following:

- Disruptive or dangerous behavior by students or their parents
- Bullying or abuse of other children, staff, or property
- Obscenities, inappropriate or vulgar language or actions will not be tolerated
- Inability of FTR Dance Studio to meet the child's needs

## **Dress Code**

**Hair is to be securely pulled back!** Every student must wear appropriate dance apparel. This includes clothing such as, dance tights, leotards, tank tops, and dance pants, shorts, or capris. No t-shirts, jeans, or non-dance pants of any kind will be permitted during dance instruction. **PLEASE NO BAGGIE CLOTHES!!!**

## **Annual Recital**

Additional rehearsals may be scheduled for students at the discretion of the teacher/choreographer. Parents and students will be notified of additional rehearsals at least two weeks in advance. All students are encouraged to participate in the recital every year.

- **Please note that all students must participate in the non-dress AND dress rehearsals. These are mandatory in order to perform in the recital. There are no exceptions to this policy!**

The recital offers our students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to the community, their families, and their friends the results of a year's hard work, dedication, and progress. All students perform both nights of the recital in each of the styles of dance they are registered for.

A big part of dance training includes learning through performance. 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. 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 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.

## **Staying Informed**

We work hard to make the dance experience as organized as possible. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please always read all newsletters, handouts, and other school information.

- Parents, please be sure that your child goes to the restroom prior to coming upstairs for dance class. This makes things much easier on the teachers, and helps minimize disruption during dance instruction.
- Our dance year starts the beginning of September and goes through mid June.
- The best way to stay informed is to visit our website [www.feeltherhythmdancestudio.com](http://www.feeltherhythmdancestudio.com) and log-in to our parents section. Password will be given the first week of classes. All information sheets and studio updates will always be posted in this section.

**Please be sure to log-in to the FTR parents portal at least once a month.**

- In the event of a cancellation due to winter weather please watch KDKA , Facebook posts, or email the studio for definite confirmation. Cancellation will be posted @ 4:00pm at the very

latest. If weather does get bad while we are conducting classes we will contact parents to pick up their children ASAP!

- We try our very best to answer emails on an every other day basis, except on weekends. Please don't hesitate to email us with questions anytime: [feeltherhythmdancestudio@gmail.com](mailto:feeltherhythmdancestudio@gmail.com)
- **Facebook Page [www.facebook.com and search for Feel The Rhythm Dance Studio]**  
“Like” the FTR page on Facebook to receive daily updates on school events. Please invite your family and friends to “like” the studio too.

Please do not post questions on the school’s Facebook page. Instead, please email or private message FTR directly.

- Dance School Phone#: 724-268-0233  
Physical Address: 230 McKean Ave. Charleroi, PA 15022  
Mailing Address: PO Box 571 Belle Vernon, PA 15012

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

Email: [feeltherhythmdancestudio@gmail.com](mailto:feeltherhythmdancestudio@gmail.com)

**Please go LIKE us on FACEBOOK ;-)**

***WELCOME to Feel The Rhythm Dance Studio.  
We are looking forward an exciting and rewarding year with all  
of our fabulous students!  
Can't wait to get started 😊***