



DFD Academy Guidelines

At DFD, we believe young students can reach a higher potential if they're taught advanced choreography at an early stage. To successfully do so, we keep high expectations for our students, but understand that the same is expected of us as teachers. That's why we have created specific guidelines to provide transparency to students on what is expected of them, as well as what we will provide them feedback on to help them grow as dancers.

Expectations from Students:

- **Attendance:**
 - We normally send emails about any classes that are mandatory before a show, but all classes throughout the year should be taken just as seriously. At DFD, we do not run classes for the shows, we run classes for the students. That's why we run them throughout the year and are selective about which shows we take on; so that we have the opportunity to focus on the growth of our dancers first.
 - We completely understand if you need to miss a class here or there, but please know that when students are missing from a class it often sets the whole class behind. If students do need to miss a class, they need to use the videos to catch up to the best of their abilities. Their teacher will then help them on the details when they come back.
- **Practice:**
 - We know how much our students love to perform; so we will try to get them the best opportunities to do so. However, the only way it'll be possible for us to take on better or more shows is if students are consistently practicing on their own time.
 - With our choreography there's a lot of detail involved and mastery is only going to come from practice. Students should remember that they are dancing with a group, so coming to class unprepared is going to affect everyone.
- **Focus:**
 - Selection for shows, leads, or any other special responsibilities will be heavily dependent on the students focus in class and ability to take and implement feedback.
 - The most successful students are the ones that pay attention to not just the teachers but everyone around them. They listen to other students' questions, they ask their own, and they are committed to every move no matter if they are in the back or the front of the formation. Simply put, you'll get the most out of the classes if you put the most in.
 - Lastly, it's important for students to be patient. Not everyone is going to get everything at the same time, so they should continue to practice on their own or help each other during breaks. As we like to say, "you're not just classmates, you're a team." Teamwork is a big part of our classes and your dedication to helping your teammates grow, shows your dedication to the art.

Focus Areas for Class Levels:

At DFD, we teach similar or, many times, the exact same choreography across all levels. The difference is the criteria we focus on when teaching it and the pace at which we teach. Below are the levels defined by these focus areas so you have a better understanding of what we'll be providing students feedback or pointers on.

	Technique	Expressions	Formations	Commitment
Junior	Musicality (variation in rhythm)	Lip syncing and smiling	Spacial awareness (keeping the shape)	Focus in class. Consistent Practice outside of class. Ability to apply feedback.
Intermediate	Dynamic movement (grace vs power) Awareness of body (control, placement etc.)	Understanding the unique mood/vibe of each song	Geometric movement (straight lines, point A to point B)	Focus in class. Consistent Practice outside of class. Ability to apply feedback.
Senior	Precision. Attention to detail. Energy. Presentation.	Understanding emotional variation within a song	Conceptual movement (more ambiguous/teamwork-based)	Consistent practice outside of class with attention to detail and ability to adapt quickly to changes in choreography. Ability to apply feedback.

*Please note, while it's normal to move up a level every year in academic schooling, in the arts it's not. In dance, it's normal to stay at a level for some time while you perfect your skills. We do our best to ensure students have the resources to do so and continue to keep them challenged regardless of which class they are in.

Anti-Bullying Policy

As an institution that encourages learning beyond dance, we want to make sure we are creating an environment that will allow kids to grow both artistically and personally, and for that we need a safe, responsive, and caring environment. With that said, it's not only the instructors that have to create that positive environment for the students, but also their peers. DFD Academy expects students to follow the DFD Codes of Conduct which include respect, inclusion, and collaboration. DFD prohibits any form of bullying and is committed to preventing and taking action against it. For more information on the code of conduct and our bullying policy, please see the full DFD Anti-Bullying Policy at dfdacademy.com/fagsandpolicies.