



POLICY



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Q:	Is PEARLfect Dancers a dance organization?
A:	No. PEARLfect Dancers is a comprehensive dance program that provides students with opportunities to explore different dance styles, grow as dancers, and potentially compete at a higher level.

Q:	Is there a contract or disenrollment fee?
A:	No, we allow parents to disenroll their child at any time. We have a customer-friendly policy. It acknowledges that circumstances may change, and parents may need to make decisions about their child's dance participation based on various factors. Parents must inform the Director within 3 days prior to the autopay date if they wish to discontinue their child's enrollment. This condition aims to give the dance studio sufficient time to process the disenrollment request and update records accordingly. If the Director is not informed within the specified 3-day window, parents will not be refunded. This condition aims to encourage parents to communicate their disenrollment intentions promptly to avoid any unnecessary financial transactions.

Q:	Are parents required to enroll in autopay?
A:	Yes. Parents must enroll in autopay, which means the dance class fees will be automatically deducted from their chosen payment method (e.g., credit card or bank account) on the 30th of each month. The deduction will be on the last day of the month for months with less than 30 days.

- **Extenuating Circumstances:** In case there is a valid reason preventing parents from enrolling in autopay, they may be exempt from this requirement. Extenuating circumstances could include situations like financial difficulties, technical issues, or any other legitimate reason.
- **Late Fee:** If parents choose not to enroll in autopay and fail to make the payment on time, a \$30 late fee will be assessed on the 2nd of the month. This late fee is meant to incentivize timely payments and cover the additional administrative effort of processing late payments.
- **Full Payment Prior to Next Class:** To participate in the dance classes, parents are required to settle their outstanding balances in full before the next scheduled class.
- **One-Time Waiver:** While the late fee is typically non-negotiable, the policy allows for a one-time waiver of the late fee. In other words, if a parent pays late on one occasion, the late fee may be waived as a gesture of goodwill or understanding.
- **Importance of Autopay:** The policy emphasizes the importance of enrolling in autopay to avoid the risk of incurring late fees. Autopay ensures payments are made on time, eliminating the need for manual payment processing, and reducing the likelihood of late payments.

Q:	What months are considered a dance season.
A:	A dance season is considered August through July Dance seasons are made up of two dance terms. August through December and January through July.

Q:	Do you operate on the Northside Independent School District (NISD) school schedule?
A:	Yes. When the NISD is closed for student holidays/staff development, breaks, weather closures, dance classes for students are also not held. Also, February 20th is considered a Student Holiday/Staff Development Day. Parents are not refunded for the days the classes are not held, and there are no make-up classes scheduled. Click here to view the NISD school calendar: 2024 Calendar .

Q:	Are you closed on federal holidays.
A:	Yes. We observe federal holidays and the day prior. If the federal holiday is on a Monday, the studio is closed for weekend classes. Parents are not refunded for the days the classes are not held, and there are no make-up classes scheduled.

Q:	Does PEARLfect Dancers require auto-pay?
A:	Yes. We require auto-pay to prevent charging late fees to parents who forget to pay on time. We simply want to avoid accessing unnecessary fees to our families. If there is an extenuating circumstance that does not permit parents to enroll in autopay, parents will be assessed a \$30 late fee on the 2nd of the month. The late fee will be waived once. It is important to enroll in autopay for this reason. Balances must be paid in full prior to class attendance.

Q:	Is there an insufficient funds fee when autopay is charged and there are no funds available?
A:	Yes. There is a \$30 fee per family when funds are not available when assessed. Parents will be assessed a \$30 insufficient funds fee on the 2nd of the month. The fee will be waived once. Balances must be paid in full prior to class attendance.

Q:	Do you offer private lessons?
A:	Yes, speak with the owner if interested. Note: If students miss two classes in one month, students are required to participate in one private session before returning to the next class.



COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PEARLFECT DANCERS

Q:	How much is tuition?
A:	Tuition is determined by the time students are in class. 30-minute classes (\$45 per month), 45 minutes (\$60 per month) and 1 hour (\$75 per month). These prices are consistent with other local dance studios.

Note: Tuition is subject to change next dance season (2024 – 2025), if local market tuition rates or inflation associated with any aspect of management of the studio increases. Parents will be notified prior to next dance season enrollment. There will never be tuition changes during the dance season.

Q:	Is there a registration fee?
A:	No, but there is an \$25 - \$35 enrollment fee. It will be applied to parents' accounts the month following enrollment. The 2024 – 2025 enrollment fee is \$25.

Q:	Do all students participate in Recitals?
A:	Yes. There is a \$35 recital participation fee. This fee will be assessed on October 15 th and March 15 th with the partial performance costs payment. See the next Q & A.

Q:	Are there other costs associated with recitals?
A:	Yes. There will be a flat-rate of \$150 - \$200 for performance costs. This cost consists of the costume, accessories, and costs associated with the production. 2024 – 2025 performance costs are \$175. The performance costs will be split into two payments. Fall/Winter will be assessed on October 15 th and October 31 st and for Spring on March 15 th and April 15 th .

Q:	What if I have multiple children do I pay the recital fee for all?
A:	No. The recital fee applies to one student, and other students in the family are exempt from being assessed a recital fee.

Q:	What if I have multiple children do I pay performance costs for all?
A:	Yes. PEARLfect Dancers is sensitive to the financial challenges that families may face when they have more than one student enrolled in the program. To accommodate such situations, the studio offers the option of setting up personalized payment plans. To establish the personalized payment plan, parents are required to request an in-person meeting or a video call with the studio staff. This meeting should be held before the start of the dance season to discuss the payment options and reach an agreement.

Q:	What if I have one student in multiple classes or in multiple performances? Will I need to pay the full performance costs for all the classes?
A:	One student's performance costs are paid. For the remaining students or the additional classes, parents are responsible for covering the cost of their respective costumes. The flat-rate costume cost is \$75. This amount includes the outfit, accessories needed for the performance, and

garment bag. To accommodate such situations, the studio offers the option of setting up personalized payment plans. To establish the personalized payment plan, parents are required to request an in-person meeting or a video call with the studio owner. This meeting should be held before the start of the dance season to discuss the payment options and reach an agreement.

COMPETITION (optional participation)

Q:	Are there competition fees?
A:	Yes. The competition fees will be calculated once the dance studio secures the specific competitions in which they will participate. This cost is inclusive of two competitions. The approximate range for competition fees is stated to be between \$400 to \$500. The costs include the jacket, costume(s), competition fees, and a fixed \$25 administrative fee for each participant for each competition to cover administrative expenses related to competition arrangements. One competition is hosted in the Fall and the other in the Spring. It's important to note that the actual cost may vary depending on the specific competitions and related expenses.

Note: The policy of using costumes for both competitions and recitals benefits parents by reducing the overall financial burden of dance-related expenses.

Q:	Do all classes participate in competitions?
A:	<p>No. Unlike some dance programs that have separate classes specifically focused on competition preparation, this program does not have a dedicated competition class. Instead, students who are ready to compete will be selected from their regular dance classes. We encourage parents to communicate this achievement incentive clearly to students. This dance program creates a positive and goal-oriented environment that fosters growth, self-motivation, and a strong sense of accomplishment among the participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achievement-Based Participation: Students are required to demonstrate a certain level of dance achievement to be eligible to participate in competitions. This means that only those students who have attained a certain skill level and proficiency in their dance will be considered for competition. ▪ Competition Checklist: The attached competition checklist outlines the specific requirements that students must meet to be eligible for participation. These requirements encompass technical proficiency, performance skills, and other important aspects of dance training.

Q:	Will the competition fees be paid upfront?
A:	Yes. Competition fees must be paid in a lump-sum 1 ½ months prior to the competition. For families with multiple students, to accommodate unique circumstances, the studio offers the option of setting up personalized payment plans. To establish the personalized payment plan, parents are required to request an in-person meeting or a video call with the studio owner. This meeting should be held before the start of the dance season to discuss the payment options and reach an agreement.

Q:	How much are recital tickets?
A:	<p>Recital ticket costs vary. The studio puts great emphasis on the quality and uniqueness of its recital events, tailoring them to specific themes and formality. Here's a breakdown of the factors that determine the costs of recital tickets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Venue Selection and Event Formality: The recital ticket costs are influenced by the venue

	<p>chosen for the event and the formality of the occasion. For the Fall/Winter recital, which is described as more upscale, the ticket prices are generally higher due to the selection of a venue that aligns with the formal nature of the event.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Inclusion of Food Service: The presence of food service during the Fall/Winter recital contributes to the higher ticket costs for that particular event. Providing food enhances the overall experience and adds to the glamour of the occasion. 3. Unique and High-Standard Events: PEARLfect Dancers is described as a studio with high expectations for professionalism and class in its events. The studio aims to create recitals that stand out from others, offering a unique and exceptional experience for the audience. 4. Different Ticket Price Ranges: The ticket costs for the Fall/Winter recital and the Spring recital differ to reflect the varying levels of formality and services offered. Fall/Winter recital tickets are generally priced between \$25 to \$30, while Spring recital tickets historically range from \$15 to \$20. 5. Different Recital Days: The Fall/Winter recital is hosted on a Sunday, while the Spring recital takes place on a Saturday.
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The detailed attention to event planning and the consideration of formality, venue, and services provided contribute to making PEARLfect Dancers' recitals memorable and distinct experiences. By offering a range of ticket prices and event styles, the studio aims to accommodate different preferences and provide an exceptional dance performance for the audience to enjoy.

Q:	What is your policy on behavior?
A:	Yes. PEARLfect Dancers takes a four-step approach; it is outlined in the attached behavior policy.

Q:	Can I help my student backstage at recitals?
A:	Yes, if in a formal volunteer capacity. Refer to the attached volunteer policy.

Q:	Is there a way for our family to contribute to the dance studio?
A:	Yes. PEARLfect Dancers will have a "Valentines Fun Day" contribution parents can opt to contribute to the studio. The contribution to assist with "Valentine's Fun Day" expenses. This day will be hosted in the month of February before Valentine's Day. "Valentine's Fun Day" acts as a "Parents Night Out" to allow parents to spend time together, while students spend time with friends. The Valentines Fun Day contribution will be deducted on 30 Jan. The parent determines the contribution amount. Parents will receive an email to advertise the upcoming contribution opportunity. Note: If parents are unable to contribute, students are still able to attend.

Note: If Valentine's Fun Day falls on a class day, it will be considered a student holiday. Parents are not prorated for student holidays and classes are not made up.

OTHER INFORMATION

The "Seamstress Day" at PEARLfect Dancers offers a solution for instances when costumes don't fit perfectly upon arrival. This special event provides an opportunity for adjustments to be made by a seamstress to ensure the costumes fit the dancers appropriately. Additionally, the studio incentivizes parents from the class in which "Seamstress Day" is hosted by offering them one free ticket for the Fall/Winter recital. If it is hosted during Spring recital, parents receive two free recital tickets. The number of tickets given varies because ticket prices vary for each recital. Here's a breakdown of this policy:

1. Purpose of Seamstress Day: Seamstress Day is organized to address any issues with costumes that don't fit perfectly. Costumes are a crucial part of performances, and ensuring proper fitting enhances the overall presentation and comfort of the dancers.
2. Participation on Class Day: "Seamstress Day" may take place on a regular class day. This makes it convenient for the dancers and their parents, as they are already at the studio for their scheduled class.
3. Incentive for Parents: As an appreciation for the parents' cooperation and understanding during Seamstress Day, the studio offers an incentive. Parents whose children are part of the class on the day of the event receive one free ticket for the Fall/Winter recital. If the Seamstress Day is in the Spring, parents will receive two free recital tickets.
4. Free Recital Tickets: The two free recital tickets given to participating parents can be used to attend their child's performance at the recital. This gesture not only shows gratitude but also encourages parents to attend and support their children during the event.
5. Encouragement for Participation: Offering free recital tickets acts as an incentive for parents to have their child's costume adjusted during Seamstress Day. This helps ensure that all costumes fit well and contribute to a polished performance.

Overall, Seamstress Day is an example of PEARLfect Dancers' commitment to providing the best possible experience for both dancers and their families. The event allows for costume adjustments to be made, and the incentive of free recital tickets encourages parents' cooperation and engagement in the process.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

We deeply value the individuality of each student who joins our studio and understand that discipline levels may vary. It is with utmost care and consideration that we outline certain actions that are not permitted during our classes. These actions encompass biting, kicking, hitting, spitting, bullying, as well as unsafe behaviors such as pulling or hanging on dance barres, flipping, touching, or hitting the mirrors, and excessive behavioral disruptions.

While we embrace the joyful nature of children, we also hold older students to a higher standard of discipline. We kindly request their cooperation in maintaining a positive and focused learning environment. In the event of any student actions that require attention, our commitment is to address the matter with sincerity and dedication. Considering the frequency and intensity of the student's actions, as well as any concerns raised by parents or fellow students regarding classroom behavior, we will make four genuine attempts to resolve the situation amicably.

FOUR-STEP APPROACH:

1. One documented notification will be sent to parents (including after class conversation with parent).
2. Second documented notification will be sent to parents (including after class conversation with parent).
3. If a student does not show substantial progress, a parent/owner conference will be held.
4. If there is no drastic change in behavior, there will be one final resolution attempt. Parents will be required to attend classes for the duration of that dance term. The student can attend only when the parent does. If concerning behavior persists into the second dance term, the student will be required to take a one-year hiatus (equivalent to two dance terms) before being eligible to reenroll in PEARLfect Dancers.

Unfortunately, if all four resolutions attempts do not show substantial progress, the family will be suspended from participation for the duration of that respective dance term. Dance seasons are made up of two dance terms. August through December and January through June. If the behavior continues in the second dance term, the student will have to wait one year (two dance terms) before reenrolling in PEARLfect Dancers.

Our primary focus is to provide students with a comprehensive dance education. Should any behavior impede the ability to deliver this education effectively, it becomes imperative to make appropriate adjustments to ensure a conducive learning environment for all.

At PEARLfect Dancers, we highly value collaboration with families to address and overcome behavioral challenges. However, when behaviors exhibit elements of bullying, pose potential safety risks, significantly disrupt the instructor and fellow students, and when parent complaints have been received without successful resolution through our four-step approach, suspension becomes the necessary course of action. This approach aligns with the standards upheld in both public and private educational institutions, and it remains consistent within the environment of PEARLfect Dancers.

VOLUNTEER POLICY

The safety and security of the children are of utmost importance at PEARLfect Dancers, as indicated by the volunteer policy provided. Here's a breakdown of the key points in the policy:

1. **Formal Volunteer Capacity:** Parents or individuals interested in volunteering at PEARLfect Dancers must do so in a formal volunteer capacity. Parents are offering their services in an official capacity, such as assisting with backstage activities during performances or events.
2. **Thorough Background Checks:** Volunteers are subject to a thorough criminal background check and a terrorist watch list check. These checks are conducted to ensure that the volunteers have no criminal history or connections to any terrorist activities.
3. **Parental Background Checks:** To ensure the safety of the children, parents who have not undergone background checks are not allowed to assist their children backstage during events or performances. This measure is in place to maintain a secure and safe environment for all participants.
4. **Flexibility for Military Members:** Military members, who have already completed a federal government background check, are exempt from undergoing an additional background check. The federal government background check is considered comprehensive and is deemed sufficient for volunteer participation.
5. **Notification to the Owner:** Individuals interested in volunteering should express their interest to the owner of PEARLfect Dancers. This indicates that the process for volunteering is organized and managed directly by the studio's owner or designated personnel.

By implementing this policy, PEARLfect Dancers demonstrates a commitment to safeguarding the well-being of the children and creating a secure environment for all involved. The thorough background checks for volunteers and the exception for military members aim to ensure that individuals interacting with the children have a clean record and pose no safety risks.

COMPETITION CHECKLIST AND STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE READINESS

1. **Memorization:** Memorization is a crucial skill for dancers, as it enables them to perform with confidence and precision. Being able to perform the entire dance with 90% accuracy by themselves demonstrates a solid grasp of the choreography and enhances the overall quality of the performance. Here are some tips and benefits associated with dance memorization:

TIPS FOR MEMORIZING DANCE:

- **Repetition:** Practice the dance routine regularly to reinforce the movements and sequences in your muscle memory.
- **Break it Down:** Divide the choreography into smaller sections and focus on mastering one section at a time before moving on to the next.
- **Use Cue Words:** Assign cue words or phrases to specific movements or sequences to help trigger your memory during practice.
- **Visualize the Dance:** Mentally rehearse the dance routine, visualizing each step and movement in your mind's eye.
- **Teach Others:** Teaching the choreography to someone else can deepen your understanding and retention of the dance.
- **Record Yourself:** Film or record yourself performing the dance and review the footage to identify areas that need improvement.
- **Practice with Music:** Dance in sync with the music to strengthen the connection between the movements and the rhythm.

BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING DANCE:

- **Confidence:** Knowing the choreography by heart gives dancers the confidence to perform without hesitation or self-doubt.
- **Artistic Expression:** Memorization allows dancers to focus on expressing emotions and connecting with the audience rather than just remembering the steps.
- **Consistency:** When everyone in a dance group has memorized the routine, it leads to a more synchronized and cohesive performance.
- **Adaptability:** Once the dance is memorized, dancers can adapt to different performance spaces and environments with ease.
- **Creative Freedom:** When the choreography is ingrained, dancers can add their personal flair and style to the movements.
- Instructors should encourage students to prioritize memorization as an essential part of their dance training. While the 90% accuracy benchmark is a good goal to aim for, it's also essential to remember that perfection is not always attainable, and mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. What matters most is the commitment to practice and continuous improvement.

2. **Enthusiasm and showmanship:** Facial expressions play a crucial role in dance performance as they help convey the emotions, storytelling, and style of the dance. Each dance genre requires different facial expressions to enhance the overall performance and connect with the audience. Here's a breakdown of the facial expressions typically associated with some popular dance styles:

HIP HOP:

- **Boldness and Confidence:** Hip hop dance often demands strong, confident facial expressions to match the energetic and dynamic movements.
- **Intensity:** Expressions should be sharp and powerful, reflecting the strong beats and rhythms of the music.
- **Street Attitude:** Dancers might incorporate expressions that represent a sense of street attitude or urban culture.

CONTEMPORARY/LYRICAL:

- **Emotional Connection:** Facial expressions in contemporary and lyrical dance are vital for conveying emotions and creating a deep connection with the audience.
- **Vulnerability:** The dancers may express vulnerability and openness, reflecting the themes and narratives of the choreography.
- **Fluidity:** Facial expressions should be fluid and in harmony with the flowy and graceful movements of contemporary dance.
- **Jazz:**
- **Energetic and Happy:** Jazz dance often features upbeat and lively music, and the facial expressions should match that energy.
- **Smiles and Joy:** Dancers are encouraged to smile and exude joy, adding to the vibrant and celebratory nature of jazz.
- **Sassiness:** Jazz can also incorporate sassy and playful facial expressions, adding flair and personality to the performance.

It's important for dance students to understand the emotional aspects of each style and practice their facial expressions alongside their choreography. Connecting with the emotions of the dance not only enhances the performance but also helps tell a more compelling story and captivate the audience. As with any art form, expressing genuine emotions through facial expressions will elevate the overall impact of the dance performance.

3. **Counting:** Counting and staying on beat are fundamental skills for dancers, and it's especially crucial to instill these habits early in young students (7–12-year-olds).

STRATEGIES FOR COUNTING IN DANCE:

1. **Clap and Speak Aloud:** Encourage students to clap their hands or speak the counts out loud while practicing the choreography. This helps reinforce the rhythm and timing of the movements.

2. **Break it Down:** Teach the choreography in smaller segments, counting through each part until students are comfortable before moving on to the next section.
3. **Slow Practice:** Start with slow practice, emphasizing the counts to ensure accuracy before gradually increasing the tempo.
4. **Practice with Music:** Have students practice the choreography with the music, counting along to stay in sync with the beat.

BENEFITS OF COUNTING IN DANCE:

1. **Musicality:** Counting helps students develop a sense of musicality and rhythm, allowing them to dance in harmony with the music.
2. **Coordination:** By staying on the beat, students improve their coordination, as they learn to time their movements with the music's tempo.
3. **Ensemble Performance:** When all students can count accurately, it leads to a more synchronized and cohesive group performance.
4. **Confidence:** Knowing the counts gives students confidence, reducing anxiety about forgetting the choreography during a performance.
5. **Transferable Skill:** Counting is a transferable skill that can be applied to various dance styles and disciplines.

Setting a goal of 90% accuracy for counting is reasonable for young students. However, it's essential to remember that every student learns at their own pace, and some may take more time to master this skill. Patience, positive reinforcement, and consistent practice will help students improve their counting ability over time.

Furthermore, incorporating creative and age-appropriate activities into dance classes will foster a positive learning environment, making the process of learning to count and staying on the beat enjoyable for the young dancers.

4. **Group dance:** Setting a higher expectation for group dance performance makes sense, as it emphasizes the importance of synchronization, teamwork, and collective effort. Dancing as a group requires not only individual proficiency but also the ability to blend seamlessly with other team members. Here are some points to consider regarding group dance performances and competition preparation:
 1. **Team Synchronization:** In group dance performances, achieving 100% accuracy with little to no errors demonstrates that the team has practiced diligently and worked together to create a cohesive and visually appealing routine. The aim is to present a polished and professional performance that showcases the talents of all team members.
 2. **Collective Responsibility:** Each dancer plays a crucial role in the overall success of the group performance. Knowing that they can rely on their teammates can boost confidence and encourage a sense of responsibility toward the team's success.
 3. **Practice and Dedication:** Attaining a high level of accuracy in a group dance requires consistent practice and dedication from all team members. Regular rehearsals and focused efforts during dance classes and at home are essential for improvement.



4. **Competition and Preparedness:** Competing in dance is an opportunity to showcase the results of hard work and dedication. Being selected to compete should be based on the team's readiness and preparedness to present a strong performance.
5. **Room for Improvement:** While 100% accuracy is the goal, it's crucial to recognize that perfection may not always be attainable. Even with dedicated practice, there might still be slight variations in execution. The emphasis should be on continuous improvement and striving for excellence.
6. **Learning from Experience:** Competing in dance competitions provides valuable learning experiences for students. It helps them understand the importance of teamwork, resilience, and the rewards of their efforts.
7. **Supportive Environment:** Creating a supportive and nurturing environment in dance classes fosters a positive attitude toward learning and growth. Encouraging students to learn from mistakes and supporting their progress will lead to better outcomes.

Ultimately, the goal is not just to win competitions, but to foster a love for dance, encourage personal growth, and develop life skills such as discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. By maintaining a balance between high expectations and understanding that mistakes are part of the learning process, students can continue to grow and excel in their dance journey.