

Diversity in Dance

Parent/Student Handbook



Address: 4440 FM 2351, Friendswood, TX 77546
Email: info@diversityindance.net
Website: www.diversityindance.net
Owners: Chasless Yancy and Anais Flores
Artistic Director: Madelynn Moreno
Asst Artistic Director: Stephanie Morales

This handbook contains information about classes, the studio, and student and parent (for non-adult students) expectations. All of the teachers and staff at DiD are dedicated to making sure our customers' experience is positive. We look forward to making this year at DiD successful!

The DiD Philosophy – More Than Just Great Dancing

The DiD staff participates in annual training on topics to help keep students physically, emotionally, and mentally safe while in our care. As indicated by our name, DiD values diversity and inclusion in all aspects. Students are encouraged to be their full, authentic, best selves.

All teachers are background checked prior to hiring. We teach choreography, use music, and choose costumes that are age appropriate and that present an overall experience that reflects DiD's values and standards of a safe-space and inclusive studio. We are committed to body-positive language that is mindful of tone and content and aims to avoid body shaming in any capacity. Our staff conducts itself in a professional manner at all times. DiD staff and leadership communicate and attend trainings continually to uphold these standards. DiD staff are first-aid and CPR trained and certified.

DiD also believes in the importance of exploring other art forms, engaging in community outreach, and fostering a supportive dance community that celebrates diversity and collaboration. Remember, being a well-rounded dancer involves focusing on more than just the steps; it's about cultivating a lifelong passion for the art and embracing personal growth along the way.

Dance Year and Important Dates

Regular Classes

The regular DiD Dance Year is split into two seasons – Fall/Winter and Spring. Unless otherwise noted on the calendar, the Fall/Winter Season begins the day after Labor Day and ends after the third complete week of December; and the Spring Season begins the first Monday after New Years Day and ends the last week of May/ first week of June. Dance should be considered a full-Dance Year commitment.

Diversity in Dance generally follows the Friendswood ISD calendar for holidays/closures.

Optional classes, camps, master classes, and intensives will be offered in the summertime. To best accommodate summer travel schedules, most summer classes will have a “drop in” option, and dancers can purchase Drop-In Punch Cards from the Dance Studio Pro Portal or our website at a discount on the drop-in rate.

Adult Classes

Regardless of season, all adult classes will have a registration or drop-in option. Registered students may change their enrollment type for the subsequent month prior to the beginning of the month. Drop-in students for adult classes must pay for classes upon arrival.

Parent/Student Handbook

2024-2025 Season Important Dates	
Monday, June 10th	First Day of the 2024 Summer Season
Friday, June 21st - 23rd	Hip-Hop/Jazz Intensive (ticketed event)
Friday, June 28th - 30th	Princess & Knight Mini Dance Camp (ticketed event)
Thursday, July 4th	Independence Day (Studio Closed)
Friday, July 5th - 7th	Ballet/Contemporary Intensive (ticketed event)
Monday, July 29th - 31st	Superhero Mini Dance Camp (ticketed event)
Tuesday, September 3rd	First Day of the Regular Season Open House / Meet the Teachers
Thursday, October 31st	Halloween (Studio Closed)
November 25th - 30th	Thanksgiving Week (Studio Closed)
December 23rd - January 4th	Winter Holiday (Studio Closed)
Monday, January 20th	MLK Day (Studio Closed)
Monday, February 17th	Presidents Day (Studio Closed)
March 17th - 21st	Spring Break (Studio Closed)
Friday, April 18th	Good Friday (Studio Closed)
Monday, May 26th	Memorial Day (Studio Closed)
Friday, May 30th	Last Day of the Regular Season Recital Dress Rehearsal
Saturday, May 31st	Recital
June 2nd - August 29th	Summer Session

Studio Communication

Parents/Adult Students must sign up for the Dance Studio Pro (“DSP”) Portal and ensure that all contact, financial, and student information is kept up to date. DiD sends out newsletters and other announcements via email and/or the DSP Portal. For the fastest and most thorough answer to any questions you may have, please contact us via email at info@diversityindance.net or via text message/SMS at (832) 674-1477. We will do our best to respond to all emails within two business days. We encourage you to use all available resources (i.e., our website, DSP Portal, social media sites, Handbook, etc.) to find readily available answers to your questions prior to emailing the studio. Please add “admin@diversityindance.net” to your contacts to avoid emails going to your SPAM/junk folders.

Incident weather closings and other urgent announcements will be published on social media sites and through text messages/SMS. Please follow us on our social media accounts for up-to-date information.

Parent/Student Handbook

Registration

Registration for new and returning members is easy via our DSP Portal enrollment link. This can be found on our website at www.diversityindance.net or directly at <https://dancestudio-pro.com/online/diversityindance>. Please take note that registration is not “completed” on the DSP Portal until the waivers are signed and classes are added, so be sure to complete all steps!

An Annual Registration Fee covers non-tuition essentials such as music licenses, studio communication, and administration and helps keep monthly tuition costs lower.

We reserve the right to cancel any classes with insufficient registration. If classes are full and demand is high, DiD may, within its discretion, create an additional class and split the larger classes. Faculty members may be subject to change.

Concurrent enrollment in a Ballet class is required for Pointe classes and highly encouraged for those enrolled in Contemporary and Leaps/Turns classes.

For questions regarding enrollment please contact us via email at info@diversityindance.net.

Fees and Tuition Rates	
Annual Registration Fee	\$30, individual dancers \$50 per family
Tuition Rates by Class Number	
1	\$80
2	\$150
3	\$195
4	\$240
5	\$280
6	\$325
7 or more	\$350
Discounts	
Multiple Siblings	10% off tuition for each additional sibling
Military / Educator	5% off with valid identification proving status

Tuition

Tuition is based on the nine-month dance calendar and is the same amount each month regardless of the number of classes per month. Tuition is due each month regardless of attendance.

The first month’s tuition plus the Annual Registration Fee is due at the time of enrollment. For students registered in or after the third full week of a month, tuition for the first month will be prorated accordingly.

Parent/Student Handbook

Parents/Students must have a credit card or bank account on file via the DSP Portal. Tuition will be automatically charged to the account on file on the first of each month (September-May). A \$25 fee will be assessed to any failed or incomplete charges, and an additional \$25 late fee will apply to any accounts with balances not paid in full before the 10th of the month. All payments must be up to date and balance paid in full in order for a student to receive apparel or merchandise, or before participating in class, any special event, showcase, recital, or competition.

Service fees are applicable to all payments made by credit card or Venmo.

Drop-in classes are \$25/class in the Summer and \$30/class during the regular season. Drop-in punch cards may be purchased at a 10% discount on our website or the DSP portal.

Attendance and Punctuality

Encourage your child in their dancing. Impress upon them the importance of commitment and taking lessons for the entire year. Dancing requires perseverance.

Please email us (admin@diversityindance.net) as soon as possible if your student is/you are going to miss class for any reason. There will be no make-ups for missed classes.

Classes will begin at the scheduled time. Latecomers are disruptive to other students. Students should arrive prior to the scheduled class time, prepared, and ready to begin. Please call the front desk if your dancer/you will be more than 10 minutes late.

If your student/you must leave class early, please let the front desk know ahead of time. For minor children, a staff member will arrange to have your student pulled from class when you arrive.

Withdrawing Enrollment

Parents and students should view dance as a season-long commitment. However, we understand that lifestyle changes do happen. If you or your student decides mid-year not to continue with a class during the Fall/Winter semester, DiD must be notified in writing no later than the 10th of the month prior to withdrawal. Any withdrawal notifications received later than this date will still be subject to the following month's tuition payment. **All withdrawal notifications must be sent by email to admin@diversityindance.net. Any other types of communication to withdraw from class (including, but not limited to, verbal requests to a DiD staff member), are not effective.**

Any class withdrawals on or after February 1, 2025 may result in the remaining tuition (February-May) balance due in full.

Class Cancellations

DiD may cancel class due to inclement weather or other emergencies. We will send out an email and update our studio's social media accounts and the DSP Portal. Check all outlets for the fastest and most accurate information. Canceled classes will not be refunded. Any rescheduling of canceled classes will be solely at the discretion of the teacher.

Parent Observation

For the safety of our students and to maintain order in the classroom, parents are not permitted to enter studios at any time during class hours, unless invited by the instructor.

We understand that adjusting to the first few classes may be difficult for some of our Creative Movement or Littles Combo students. We permit parents to join students for the first few classes until dancers warm up to their teachers, peers, and surroundings. Parents are not permitted in Creative Movement / Littles Combo classrooms one month after their dancer's enrollment, absent teacher invitation.

Parent/Student Handbook

Lobby Expectations

Be considerate of other families as well as our students while in the lobby or viewing areas of the studio. Just as you can hear some of the instructions coming from inside the studio, dancers and instructors inside the studio can hear loud noises from the lobby. Siblings or children of students must be supervised at all times within the walls of Diversity in Dance. There should be no running, yelling, or playing with merchandise in the lobby. *Parents/guardians accompanying minors in the lobby may be responsible for purchasing any merchandise removed, altered/soiled, or destroyed by such minors.*

Any parent desiring to have a private conversation or conference with DiD staff or instructors may request a closed room for such discussions.

Classroom Expectations

Students are to be ready to enter class **on time**, have used the restroom, with hair up and out of their face, and in the appropriate dress code for the class they are preparing to enter. If your student is not in the appropriate attire as it is stated in our studio's dress code, the necessary attire may be charged to your account on file, and they will be asked to leave class to change. Students are given a two-week grace period after registering for a class to obtain the proper attire for that class. We understand that some students may require time transitioning dress codes between classes. A grace period of five minutes will be allowed for dress code changes. That grace period time is not to be used for cell phone use, snacks, conversations with other students, or any other usage that has not been previously authorized by the class instructor. Students who abuse the grace period for class transitions may be subject to discipline at the instructor's discretion.

Students are expected to be kind and respectful to others, which includes other students, teachers, DiD staff, and other studio guests. Repeated classroom disruptions or words and behaviors that cause mental or emotional distress in others will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, unenrollment without refund.

Dress Code

It is important that your dancer/you follow(s) our guidelines for dance attire and footwear within the walls of our studios. The DiD Dress Code was created to keep your dancer/you safe, prevent injuries, and ensure that they receive the best dance instruction possible. Copies of the DiD Dress Code are available from the front desk, on the DSP Portal, and on the DiD website. Most attire required for classes, other than shoes, is available for purchase or order in the DiD Boutique (located in the front lobby) or through our website and the DSP Portal.

Student Evaluations & Level Information

Staff and teachers at DiD reserve the right to place students in the appropriate level. Students ages 6 and up will be placed in levels based on technical ability and maturity in addition to their age. Students are evaluated every Fall and Spring. In the Spring, an email will be sent with recommendations for the following year prior to early-enrollment in April. Students in Level I/II classes should plan on spending at least two years at such level before continuing to the next level. Teachers are more than happy to provide additional feedback via the Parent Portal to help students develop and succeed in their dance goals. If during the Fall/Winter Season, a teacher feels that your student has improved past the Spring recommendations, we will contact you to reassess such class level.

Recital Information

DiD may hold a Winter Showcase in December to showcase the on-going progress of your dancer.

The annual dance recital will be held in late May/early June, with a full dress rehearsal the day prior. This is a more elaborate showcase of all the skills your dancer has made throughout the year. Each family will receive a digital information packet with detailed information in March or April. We ask that you read this information completely and thoroughly. Recital season is incredibly busy and we dedicate many hours to putting on an incredible and unforgettable performance for your family and your dancers to remember for years to come.

Parent/Student Handbook

Costumes

There will be no costumes for the Winter Showcase. Parents will receive information regarding the theme and style of dress for each class prior to the performance.

All classes except for Leaps & Turns, Technique/Conditioning, and Acro will participate in the Recital. Students will be sized for costumes during the month of February. All measurements will be adjusted to account for growth before your student receives the costume. Costumes will be sent home throughout the month of May. We will not send home costumes until all class costumes have been received. No costumes will be sent home unless the dancer's account, including all Recital Fees, is paid in full at the time of distribution; costumes will be distributed after all payments are received.

Recital Fees

We want your dancer's day to be as special as possible with a professional performing experience. A Recital Fee of \$175 for the first class and \$100 for each additional class includes the dancers' costume, recital t-shirt, a digital program, administrative costs, and a participation award or gift. Recital fees can be paid in full or split into three equal monthly payments in December, January, and February.

Each family will receive two complimentary tickets to the Recital. Additional tickets are available for purchase via the DSP Portal during the month leading up to the big show. More information regarding complimentary tickets will be included in the Recital Packet. Recital fees are non-transferable or refundable.

DiD Company and Private Lessons

For those dancers desiring more than recreational dance, there is the DiD Company, our competition team for ages 4+. The DiD Company participates in several competitions and conventions throughout the Spring Season and early Summer Session. Additionally, the DiD Company engages in bonding activities, community service events, and special performances throughout the year. Auditions will be held annually every May and June; however, a private audition may be requested any time May through December.

DiD also offers private lessons and studio rentals. For dancers who would like to rent studio space for private lessons from one of our DiD instructors, please contact the front desk for pricing and availability.

The DiD studio is also available for rental for other events, including private parties (with or without dance instruction), photography use, and meeting space. Please contact DiD's legal counsel/owner for more information at legal@diversityindance.net.