

# DeArts



## DANCE STUDIO HANDBOOK

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2024 - 2025

FOR  
PARENTS AND STUDENTS

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## 1/ Introduction

It's our absolute pleasure to warmly welcome you into our family at the Delaware Arts Conservatory! Our team is thrilled to see many familiar faces return to the studio and to see some new faces join our community. We have created this one-stop handbook to hopefully shed some light on how things will run throughout the year, as well as answer a lot of queries you may have before the year begins. While we would love you to take the time to read this information carefully and keep your handbook in a safe place to refer to as you need, don't forget that our friendly office staff are always here to help and will happily answer any queries you may have. Nothing is too big or too small, we promise!



### QUICK REFERENCE STUDIO INFORMATION

**Address:** 723 Rue Madora • Bear, DE • 19701

**Phone Number:** 302-595-4160

**Email:** [info@delarts.com](mailto:info@delarts.com), [delartsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:delartsoffice@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.delarts.com](http://www.delarts.com)

**Owners - Laura Russo, Bryan Russo, Tracy Friswell-Jacobs, Scott Jacobs**

**Our Office is open Monday through Thursday from 5pm - 9pm, and Saturdays from 9:30 - 1:30.**

## 2 / Studio Mission

The mission of the Delaware Arts Conservatory is:

**To create a nurturing environment where artistic instincts, individual imagination and creativity are encouraged, where artistic products of quality are displayed and / or performed, and where the arts are a vehicle to stimulate personal growth.**

**To inspire a passion of music, dance, theatre, and visual arts in all students and their families so as to help develop self-discipline, academic success, and self-confidence.**

**To be the leading educational facility in preparing those desiring a professional career in the arts.**

**To prepare our students for future involvement in the arts, as a patron or a participant.**

**To provide life-long guidance and direction to all students, no matter what path they choose.**

**To provide significant performance opportunities in which to showcase artistic abilities and passions of our students alongside professionals in the industry.**

**To advance the knowledge and appreciation of the arts in the community and region through instruction, performances, and outreach programs.**



It's important to us at DelArts that all members of our faculty and staff share our vision, our purpose, and the philosophy that encompasses everything we do both in and outside of our classes. This is a vision that is shared and demonstrated by the directors, teachers and staff members at our studio and is the driving force behind every interaction with our students and their families.

DelArts is place where kids of all ages, shapes, and sizes learn to dance, sing and perform. This is a studio where creativity, individuality and self-expression is encouraged and has a community of teachers, students and families who are passionate about performing and visual arts. Our goal is to create a positive and happy experience for all of our students. We strive to nurture and develop talent, celebrate the achievements of all students and inspire a love and appreciation of all styles of dance and the arts. We are committed to providing a safe and positive environment in which all students can feel empowered, comfortable and free to express themselves.

### 3/ Registration

Before slipping on those jazz shoes, it's important that all students and/or parents – whether returning or new - complete the registration process and sign all registration paperwork. All of our registration information is kept online on a secure website, and must be kept updated. Each family has access to the Parent Portal, through which payments may be made at any time. See the **Parent Portal** section below for more!

Our early registration offer means that you will get 1/2 price registration and ensures that, in the event of classes reaching capacity before the new year kicks off, you will be guaranteed a place in the class(es) of your choice.

**You can register in person and take advantage of the early bird special at the DelArts Open House, normally held in mid-July. Following that date, registration can be done at our front desk or online.**

Our annual registration fee is \$30 per student, with additional students within the family paying \$15, and must be paid in full at the time of registration. After January 1, the registration fees through May 2025 are \$20 per student and \$10 for each additional immediate family member. Summer registration fees are \$25 and are separate from the yearly registration. Make sure you get your payment in via Credit Card (in person or online), Cash, or Check, as failure to pay your registration fee may result in losing your place in the class.

A credit or debit card must be on file. One tuition installment is required at the time of registration, and is applied to Payment 10 of your payment schedule. This is similar to renting an apartment, where your last payment is made up front as a security deposit. Payment 1 is due at the time of registration or at any time prior to the start of classes in late August.

We encourage all of our students and families to try a variety of dance styles and we are more than happy to accommodate trial classes for existing students who want to try something new. Please contact the front desk if you would like to try a new class and we will happily fit you in for a trial (provided the class has not reached capacity).

Classes are available on a first come, first served basis. Once you are registered, a space is reserved for you in that class. Please notify us immediately if you need to drop or change a class, so that your space may be provided to another student. Because a position in class is reserved for each student regardless of attendance or absenteeism, tuition fees are non-refundable. The Delaware Arts Conservatory does not offer deductions or credits for missed or discontinued classes.

Private lesson students must pay a yearly registration fee in addition to private lesson fees. Private lesson fees must be paid prior to each lesson. Private lesson fees are at the discretion of the teacher. All music tuition payments are due at the time of the lesson. Every DelArts family must have a credit card or bank debit card on file with us. Payments for tuition can be made via cash, check, bank debit card, or credit card at our front desk, in the drop box in the lobby, via snail mail, or through our online portal. If payment is not made in person by cash, check, or charge by the time the private lesson is over, your card on file will automatically be charged.

#### 4/ Withdrawal Policy

At DelArts, we understand that we are working with children, and that their passions change as they grow. To that end, we have developed our withdrawal policy to be as pain-free as possible for our hard-working families! However, please know that we have been teaching for a long time, and we find that many children will wish to stop attending classes at some point, generally in the spring when it starts to get warmer and they see their friends outside playing after school. This does cause problems for the class, because many times recital dances will have already started. We recommend that you speak with your child and explain that it is important to see a commitment through to its end, which in this case would be the final recital performance, because it is a valuable life lesson to finish what you start. If, after the show is over, a student wishes to discontinue their study, let us know and we can remove them from the system. However, we almost always find that the students learn that the pay-off of the performance - applause and kudos from family and friends - was well worth sticking it out, and come back year after year!

Should it become necessary to suspend or discontinue classes for any reason (a family move, a sports conflict, or just because your child no longer wishes to pursue their course of study), we ask that you notify DAC in writing with 2 weeks notice. You are financially responsible for those two weeks worth of tuition payments from the date such notification is received. Should you choose to enroll yourself / your child again at the Delaware Arts Conservatory after discontinuing classes, you will be required to pay a new non-refundable registration fee of \$30.00 due at the time of registration (\$20.00 after January 1st).

Should it become necessary to suspend or discontinue classes due to medical circumstances, you must notify DAC in writing and must provide an official Physician's note. You will not be responsible for any further tuition payments from the date DAC receives your written notice and Physician's note. When it is medically appropriate for the student to return to class, tuition payments will begin again at the start of the next month with classes prior to that being billed at the per hour rate. In order to return to class, a written medical release from the treating physician must be presented. This will be kept on file.

The last day to withdraw from classes for the regular dance season (August - June) is April 15. Withdrawing past this date does not entitle the family to a June tuition refund. Students who withdraw from classes prior to the completion of the season will not be eligible for promotion. If you and your child committed to performing in the recital and you withdraw after April 15, there will be a \$50 restaging fee for each dance. This fee will be charged to your card on file. After June 1, if a recital conflict arises and you cannot attend one of the committed performances, we will remove the child from all shows and a \$50 restaging fee will be charged to your card on file.



## 5/ Parent Portal / Account Access

DelArts is happy to provide our customers with an online Parent Portal. Through this, parents can do a variety of tasks including:

- register or withdraw from classes
- make online credit card payments
- update your contact and payment information
- add new students
- view your account balance and all transactions
- check your student's attendance
- view your class schedule

The Parent Portal is accessed through the [delarts.com](http://delarts.com) website, and is located under the "Parents" tab. It is listed as Parent Portal. Access is granted by using the email address associated with the main payer on the account. The first time you use this system, you will need to click the "Forgot your password or need to get started?" At that time, the system will email you a computer generated password, which you may change to one of your choosing once you have accessed the Parent Portal.

If you would like to learn more about how the Parent Portal can help you, please take a moment to watch the video on the Parent Portal home page!



## 6/ Communication

By now you have probably noticed that we are BIG on communication here at DelArts! It is our promise to respond to all enquiries within 36 hours, and we will never leave a query unanswered. Our friendly office staff can be contacted at 302-595-4160 during our office hours (see Section 1).

For convenience, our primary means of communication is via email. You will receive regular important information via email, so please ensure you have provided the studio with an up-to-date email address that is regularly checked. We are, of course, happy to include multiple email addresses per family if you would like your correspondence sent to numerous recipients. Don't forget to add our email addresses - [info@delarts.com](mailto:info@delarts.com), [delartsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:delartsoffice@gmail.com), and [delartstracy@me.com](mailto:delartstracy@me.com) - to your contacts so we don't end up in the dreaded Spam folder!

In the infrequent case of urgent information (for example, unexpected class cancellations or performance changes), we will send an email to all families and post the information on our website and/or Facebook page. Please make sure the phone number and email address you have provided to the studio is correct and up-to-date so that these crucial emails will reach you.

Facebook is a great way for us to keep in touch with a large number of people at once, so we encourage all families to join our Delaware Arts Conservatory Facebook group. This group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/delartsconservatory> and will be monitored to ensure all content is appropriate and relevant.

Important information, dates, and studio details may also be on display on our bulletin boards in our lobby, so please have a quick look when dropping off and picking up in case there is anything you may have missed. We are always happy to chat in more detail about communications you may receive from the studio, so if you need any clarification please don't hesitate to email or call to chat with one of our helpful team members.





## 7/ Important Dates

We understand wholeheartedly how busy the lives and schedules of our dance families can get as the year rolls on, so we have tried to get all of our important dates organized and ready for you so that you can plan other commitments. Below we have listed some of our most important "Save the Dates" with more information (including times, costumes, requirements, etc.) to be communicated via email as we get closer to the events. If you know ahead of time that your family will be unable to attend these events due to planned vacations or existing commitments, please let our front desk staff know at your earliest convenience. The dates below are as of mid July 2024. Always check the calendar on [www.DelArts.com](http://www.DelArts.com) for additions and changes! Team and company dates are online only.

August 23 - Classes Begin

August 30 - Sept 2 - Studio closed for Labor Day Weekend

October 31 - Studio closed for Halloween

November 5 - Studio closed for Election Day

November 22 - No classes for Open Ballet

November 22 - 24 - Grier Weekend - Company members

November 27 - December 1 - Studio closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 10 - No classes - Snow Queen Dress rehearsal at DelArts

December 13 - 15 - No classes - Snow Queen Performance Weekend

December 23 - January 1 - Studio closed for Holiday Winter Break

January 2 - Classes resume

January 20 - No Classes - MLK

January 31 - February 2 - NYCDA - Company mandatory, team members optional February 26 - Dancer holiday - No Classes

April 4 - 6 - Royal Dance Competition - Team members

April 10 - Dancer holiday - No Classes

April 18 - 25 - Studio closed for Spring Break

April 26 - Classes resume

May 23 - 26 - Studio Closed for Memorial Day Weekend Holiday

June 2 - Last night of classes

June 3 and 4 - Showcase Dress Rehearsals at The Tatnall School

June 6 - 9 - Showcase Performance Weekend at The Tatnall School

Competition dates are being finalized and will be added soon. Please check our website for updates.

## 8/ Code of Conduct

To ensure the smooth, safe running of DelArts, and to have an enjoyable experience by all, below you will find our code of conduct. We are open to feedback, so if any of the requirements outlined below are unclear or concerning, please give us a call to discuss further. Following a formal meeting, we do reserve the right to dismiss or take disciplinary action on any students or parents who breach our studio's code of conduct.

Families who do not comply with their fee or costume payment obligations may be charged a late fee, and/or excluded from performances. External debt collection may occur when fees remain overdue, and this will be at the expense of the client. Costume expenses are the responsibility of the parent, and costumes will not be issued to students with unpaid class fees.

All parents must wait in one of the two lobbies until classes have been dismissed. No classes (including private lessons) or teachers are to be disturbed unless it is an emergency. Parents are not to approach teachers or students during class. If messages or food/drink/medication needs to be passed on to a student, it must be done through a front desk staff member.

We are unable to take responsibility for our students before or after their scheduled classes, nor can we supervise them effectively between classes if they have a break. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure their child is picked up and dropped off on time. In the case of an emergency or unavoidable delay, please contact the studio immediately to inform us of the situation so we can keep your child calm and safe until they can be collected. SHOULD A PARENT OR GUARDIAN SHOW UP MORE THAN 15 MINUTES AFTER THE LAST CLASS HAS ENDED FOR THE DAY, AN AFTERCARE FEE OF \$15 WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.

Parents should walk their child/children to and from the facility. Should parents choose not to do this, DAC accepts no responsibility or liability for students left unattended or for students leaving the building.

Any questions or complaints must go through our front desk. Parents and students are not permitted to contact DelArts teachers via phone, in person, or via email / social networking with studio issues unless it has been broached with a Studio Owner first. Personal meetings with the Studio Owners can be arranged via the front desk.

In the rare case of a parent or student showing disrespect or defamation to any parent, staff member, or student, a meeting will be called immediately and dismissal may be considered at the discretion of the Owners. Physical, mental, emotional or cyber bullying by parents, staff, or students will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the studio.

DelArts management reserves the right to change teachers or class schedules when necessary at any time throughout the year.

Choreography and studio policies remain the intellectual property of DelArts and may not be reproduced or sold by any students, parents, or staff without permission of the Studio Owners.

Student use of cellular telephones, iPads, iPods, and similar devices during class is prohibited. Students are welcome to bring their devices with them into class but they must be turned OFF, not muted. Parents and / or legal guardians can always leave a message or get in touch with a student immediately by calling DelArts at (302) 595-4160.

Students will be placed in classes with respect to proficiency. Placement will be made by the instructors and these decisions must be respected.

## 9/ Age Groups and Class Offerings

### **Youth Classes**

Creative Movement, for ages 1.5 - 3, is an introduction to ballet using creative, imaginative role-playing and fun props. This class may involve pretending to be animals, playing instruments to learn rhythm, learning balancing, skipping, and running, and techniques using costumes and ribbons, or picking up “diamonds” (shhh...they’re actually just feathers) from the ground to develop their hand-eye coordination. This class is suitable for both boys and girls who are having so much fun that they don't even realize that they are learning the fundamentals of ballet technique along the way.

Tot Dance is a great class for our 3 - 4 year olds. We use music they know and love while learning beginner dance moves with a ballet and tap basis. We learn all about warming up, stretching, nursery rhymes, and imaginative play to foster a love for dance and enhance gross motor skills.

Kindercombo is a tap and ballet class, with a touch of jazz dance thrown in, for our older preschoolers who are 4 - 5 years old and about to enter or are in Kindergarten. The music for this class is fun and familiar to them and expands on the techniques learned by our younger classes. We do some warming up, stretching, progressions across the room (including skips, kicks and basic turning skills) as well as putting together a dance for the recital/concert.



### **Technique Classes**

Ballet A - Adv and Recreational: In these classes, our dancers build on their ballet technique. Each class follows a specific, written curriculum designed to primarily focus on the Royal Academy curriculum, but we also teach some Vagonova and Cecchetti technique so that our dancers are well-rounded and prepared to participate in any summer program, college dance program, or company in their future. Level D and above require 2 ballet classes a week, or a dancer may switch to one class per week in the recreational track.

Pre-pointe studies can begin at ballet level C2. Once a dancer has completed the Pre-pointe curriculum, a promotion to Ballet D requires taking 2 classes a week to continue the study of pointe.

Jazz A - Adv: Students build on the basics of jazz technique to popular and age appropriate music. Some examples of the techniques our jazz students will learn include turns, kicks, leaps and body isolations. A written curriculum is followed to ensure that every step we teach is developmentally appropriate.

Tap A - Adv: In this class, students learn the basics of tap technique as well as build on their sense of rhythm and their confidence when it comes to performances. Our tappers love dancing to popular, age-appropriate music and getting LOUD! We offer Hoofing, Rhythm, and Broadway tap styles in our classes. We also provide students with Tap history, showing occasional videos/performances of classic tap dancers so that they are familiar with the styles and skills that came before them.

Modern - Beginning - Advanced: Modern dancers will learn the technique and styles of a variety of Modern creators, primarily Horton, but also touching on Graham and Limon. Modern dance is a required style for many collegiate dance programs, so DelArts is focused on providing solid modern technical training. Modern is also encouraged for dancers who wish to pursue Contemporary dance, Jazz, and are considering a collegiate study in Commercial Dance.

Partnering: DelArts is proud to offer Partnering class to our pre-professional ballet levels, Ballet F and above or by invitation and teacher approval. This class will prepare the students for summer intensives, Snow Queen performances, and even help them pursue jobs in Musical Theatre, theme parks, cruise ships, and more!

## **Style Classes**

Lyrical - Beginning to Adv: Lyrical dance is based on a ballet technique, and primarily focuses on connecting to the style of music and/or the lyrics to help communicate or tell a story. Lyrical dancers are required to study ballet, as the technical aspects of dance are not taught within the context of this class.

Contemporary - Beginning to Adv: Contemporary is a newer dance style, which uses the techniques of ballet, jazz, modern, and interpretive dance. It requires a solid foundation in these styles, and therefore our Beginning level is designed for dancers who have reached a C level of Ballet in our curriculum.

Hip Hop - Beginning to Adv: Hip Hop at DelArts is based in a jazz technique called jazz-funk, but also pulls in many elements of street dance. There are no prerequisites for Hip Hop, and we allow dancers as young as 5/6 in our Beginning Hip Hop class. Age Appropriate music and costuming is used in all classes.

Musical Theatre - Beginning to Adv: Based in the styles of jazz, the Musical Theatre class is meant to both introduce students to various Broadway shows, but to also teach acting, singing, and dance. Our younger performers learn acting improv games and dances, while our older dancers focus on learning

Broadway repertoire and becoming triple threats. Musical Theatre B and above require a dance background in ballet and jazz.

## 10/ Safety

With the safety of our families a number one priority, DelArts is very serious about upholding Child Protection laws and policies within the studio as well as at public performances and in the online arena (website and social media).



As part of your registration, you will have read and signed an Assumption of Risk, which includes a media waiver, allowing us to proudly use images and video footage of your child for advertising and promotional purposes. Should you have any concerns whatsoever with signing this declaration, please see our reception staff who will happily assist you.

Our teachers also work in public schools or at multiple studios, and have undergone official checks allowing them to work with children.

The directors and staff at DelArts are educated in the negative impact of inappropriate music and costume selection when it comes to performing dance routines and are wholeheartedly committed to ensuring children in all of our dance routines are not subjected to any inappropriate songs or costuming. We recognize that songs with sexist, explicit, violent, racist, homophobic or criminal content may influence our dancers and/or audience and will strive to avoid using such music. We are committed to restricting costumes that are not age appropriate.

DelArts takes no responsibility for any stolen or misplaced property on the studio premises and we encourage our families to avoid bringing valuable items into the studio whenever possible.

## 11/ Privacy

When you purchase or hire a product or service with DelArts, the information we may collect from you includes your name, address, telephone numbers, email addresses, medical information and perhaps credit card or bank details. It may also include details of the products and services we provide to you as well as the status of your enrollment. We only collect information directly from our students or their parent/guardians primarily for the purpose of providing services and products to you and to administer and manage invoicing and debt collection.

We may occasionally use your information to promote and market to you information which we consider may be of interest to you unless you contact us and tell us not to do so. This may include upcoming performances, summer camp opportunities, or notable events happening locally.

We will never sell or pass on any of your information to third parties unless required by government authorities or in the event of debt recovery. Any information passed on will be done so with appropriate privacy and confidentiality protection.

Information is stored securely on paper or in electronic form and is accessible only by authorized personnel, and by you through our parent portal. You may personally update your information at any time. There is also an option to opt out of our emails, but we highly discourage it, as you will then not be notified in the event of a weather closing or class cancelation.

## **12/ Promotions and Evaluations**

As a studio who values the growth and commitment of our dancers of all ages, it's important that we place each student in the correct technical level. To that end, we evaluate each dancer in their technique-based classes for placement each year, and throughout the year. For style classes, dancers will not receive an evaluation, but will receive a placement level for which to register in the coming year. Because dancers progress at their own speed, and sometimes differently in different dance styles, placement in classes is based on the individual dancer's technical skill level. This makes scheduling classes very challenging, as all dancers may be on different levels across disciplines. For example, a student who is in Ballet C may excel in tap and be placed in an E level class, whereas a friend in Ballet C may be placed in Tap B if they are newer to the style.

For most of our technique classes, we have 6 or 7 levels through which the dancers progress. It is important to note that a dancer may stay in the same level for more than 1 year, and that is totally normal!

We understand that technique evaluations can bring much joy and/or disappointment. Please remember that it takes many, many years for dancers to perform in proper technique and we encourage dancers to continue to work hard in their classes and apply the corrections given by the teachers.

Here are some FAQs that we often receive regarding evaluations and placements. If you have additional questions after receiving an evaluation or placement, you may schedule a meeting through the front desk, at which time a \$15 fee will be applied to your account. Both the parent and dancer must be present at the meeting, which can last from 15-20 minutes.

### **“I worked really hard in class this year. Why didn't I get moved up?”**

Thank you for your hard work! It has not gone unnoticed! Most dancers do not advance a level every year, and our curriculum is not designed that way. For example, we have 7 levels of jazz - if you started when you were seven and moved up each year, you would be in advanced jazz at the age of 13! Your teacher explains in every class what they need from you in order to advance. These are explained while teaching technique exercises, giving group corrections, and giving individual corrections. Your teacher has included on your evaluation what he or she has been working on with you over the year, but it is impossible to list every correction you have been given on every evaluation. We highly recommend and encourage our dancers to keep small notebooks in their dance

bags, and to take a moment to write down corrections given in class so as to work on them. Continue to focus on applying all corrections.

**“Why don’t dancers get moved up every year?”**

“Stand tall, hold your center, shoulders down, feet wide, rotate from the hips, knees over toes, chin level, arms strong....” Those are all the corrections given BEFORE a dancer even begins dancing! There is so much more to dance than doing 5 pirouettes or kicking your leg up to your head. Lots of people can do that, but can they do it showing proper technique and placement? Dance is a complex art form and it takes years to become a proficient dancer. The most important thing is to be patient. There has to be a solid connection between the mind and body in order to excel. You may think you understand the correction the teacher is giving you, but your body is not displaying that understanding just yet. Further, everyone’s body develops at its own pace, and growth spurts mean a change in your center and placement, often resulting in the need to rehearse steps your brain already knows how to do, but your new, longer limbs don’t! Don’t give up, keep working hard, and it will happen. It just takes time and determination to meet your personal goals.

**“Do I have to wait until next year to be reevaluated?”**

We are constantly evaluating the dancers in our classes. That is our job, after all! If we feel a dancer is ready to advance, we will contact them through their parent to let them know. Dancers may advance during or after summer classes, and even after the regular season begins. We love when our students set goals, apply their corrections, and blow us away with their improvement!

**“I’ve been dancing since I was three. Why am I only in Level A?”**

Every dance school has different criteria for the way they level their classes. At DelArts, we have Youth classes (Creative Movement, Tot Dance, and Kindercombo) and then we begin our training levels (Beginning, A, B, C, D) and by Level E, a dancer enters our Pre-Professional Division. A dancer who begins dancing at age 2 may already have 5 years of experience when they enter A level classes! A dancer who starts at age 7 may also be included in an A level class, because, while they are new to the dance training, their fine and gross motor skills are more developed than a Tot or Kinder dancer, and they pick up steps faster. Similarly, a dancer coming to DelArts from another studio must be evaluated prior to placement in our classes so that we can place them based on their technical proficiency, not on the years of training they may have had.

**“Why were my friends moved up, but I wasn’t? We started dancing at the same time.”**

We know it is fun to be in the same class as your friends. However, we do not base your placement on the level in which your friend was placed. We have found that some dancers progress faster when they are not in classes with their friends. There is less social distraction, and you are able to focus on your teacher, your technique, and your progress.

If your friend moved up a level and you did not, congratulate them for their progress and use that as motivation to keep working hard. Be kind to one another because there will be a day when you will be dancing together again and friendship is MUCH more important than level placements.

**“What do I need to do to move up a level?”**

Your teachers take a lot of time to give individual, personalized comments in your evaluations and in classes. Before asking this question of your teacher, please take a moment to read your evaluation, look back over any corrections you wrote down in your notebook throughout the year, and reflect on the things you can do to advance. We find it is also helpful for our dancers to look at videos of themselves throughout the year, so that they might view their technique in action critically and see areas where they might improve. Sometimes we think and feel like we are doing the steps correctly, but when we see it, it may not be what we thought!

**13/ Class Schedule**

Scheduling our classes is a HUGE task, and we take all care to ensure that children are given classes at an age-appropriate time without long hours that may lead to fatigue or disrupt home / school life. You can find our 2024/25 class schedule on our website under CLASSES in the navigation bar at the top of each webpage. Please contact us if you have any questions at all. You can also view the schedule by clicking on the following link: <https://www.delarts.com/class-schedule>

**14/ Dress Code**

At DelArts, we believe that wearing proper dance uniforms:

- Encourages discipline
- Helps identify non-students in the studio
- Diminishes economic and social barriers between students
- Increases a sense of belonging and school pride
- Improves attendance

Uniforms can be purchased year-round from any of the following local vendors:

Dance Station in North East, MD

Dancer's Dressing Room in Newark, DE

Brandywine Dance Shoppe in Wilmington, DE



Online sites for dancewear include:

Discount Dance - [discountdance.com](http://discountdance.com) - use Teacher Referral ID TP44295

Dancewear Solutions - [dancewearsolutions.com](http://dancewearsolutions.com)

**Please ensure all parts of your child's uniform are clearly labelled - individual shoes, socks, leotards, undergarments...you'll be amazed at the amount of lost property we generate!**

Dancers moving to or from Ballet should wear their ballet leotard for the entire night, and are not required to change to a black leotard for other disciplines. Further style-specific uniform requirements are as follows:

**BALLET** - Black leotard and pink tights through Level C and Recreational ballet. Dance shorts (fitted, black only) may be worn. Dance skirts are acceptable in pointe class only. Hair must be in bun or, for shorter hair, pulled back from the face and fastened. Long bangs (side bangs) must also be pulled off the face. Pink ballet shoes. Ballet leotard colors by level are: Ballet D - Light Blue / Copen / Powder Blue, Ballet E - Royal Blue, Ballet F - Eggplant / Plum, Ballet G - Navy, Advanced - Burgundy. Students in Company may choose the style / color of their leotard for that class only.

Boys in ballet A through C2 should wear a plain white t-shirt and black athletic shorts, along with black ballet shoes. In level D and above, boys should be in a plain white shirt and black tights and dance belt, as well as black ballet shoes. If a dancer is taking a split level (ie. Ballet D and Ballet E), the leotard color should be the one that coordinates with the higher level. For example, if a dancer was asked to take a Ballet level F and a Ballet level G, they should wear a Navy leotard for Ballet level G.

**JAZZ / MUSICAL THEATRE** - Black leotard and tan tights or jazz pants. Dance shorts are optional. Hair should be worn in a bun or pony tail with all pieces out of the face. Tan jazz shoes, and/or character shoes. If you have ballet prior to jazz, you do not need to change from pink tights for class.

**TAP** - Black tap shoes (no split-soles from Capezio or Bloch) and comfortable dance or athletic attire. No jeans of any kind or school clothes. Pants must not cover the feet. Capri length is appropriate. Younger level tap classes (Tot Dance, KinderCombo, Tap A and B) should wear Mary Jane-style shoes. No patent leather shoes are allowed on our dance floors!

**HIP HOP** - Form-fitting top (tank, baby doll t-shirts, etc.) and jazz pants or capris. Hair should be worn so that it is out of the face. Dedicated sneakers and knee pads. No street shoes worn outside of the studio will be allowed on the dance floors.

**KINDERCOMBO & TOT DANCE** - Black leotard, pink tights. Pink ballet shoes, black Mary Jane-style tap shoes (no patent leather). \*Please make sure taps are screwed on to the shoe, not nailed, so as to minimize the amount of aluminum residue left on the floor from inferior taps.

**ART & MUSIC CLASSES** - Comfortable, age-appropriate clothing. The "best of" collection from a closet would not be the best option for students taking photography, painting, and / or drawing classes. Old shirts or smocks are recommended.

STREET SHOES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON DANCE FLOORS AT ANY TIME AND DANCE SHOES ARE NOT TO BE WORN OUTSIDE OF THE STUDIO! Oils and dirt from outdoor surfaces will cling to the shoes and result in damage to our dance studio floor. We also ask that dancers wear clothes - a dress, shorts, etc. - coming into and out of the studio, as studio attire is not appropriate streetwear.



## 15/ Fee Structure and Payments

Please find below the fee structure for 2024-2025. Payments are based on the total number of hours of class enrollment, with each class meeting 36 times per year. As each month has the potential for a different number of classes (i.e. December may only have 3 due to holiday break while another month may have 5), the tuition for 36 classes is divided into 10 equal payments. There is no extra charge for recital rehearsal and performance time. For example, a student taking one hour of class per week pays \$74/month, which is \$740 for the year, based on 10 payments. This breaks down to about \$21/class. The more classes a student takes, the cost for each individual class decreases.

All Dance and Visual Arts tuition payments are due on the 1st of each month, but no later than the 5th of each month, from September through May (Payment 10 is due at the time of registration). Every DelArts family must have a credit card or bank debit card on file with us. Payments for tuition can be made via cash, check, bank debit card, or credit card at any time through the 5th of the month at our front desk, in the drop box in the lobby, via snail mail, or through the convenience of our online portal.

Late Fees - After the 5th of the month, if tuition has not been paid by any of these methods, **the card on file will be charged** for the outstanding tuition plus a \$15 late fee. If the account is in arrears for more than 14 days, students will be withheld from all classes until the account is made current. If your recital costume payment is not paid in full by February 15, 2025, your card on file will be charged for the full costume amount plus a \$15 (fifteen dollar) late fee.

All Music tuition payments are due at the time of the lesson. Every DelArts family must have a credit card or bank debit card on file with us. Payments for tuition can be made via cash, check, bank debit card, or credit card at our front desk, in the drop box in the lobby, via snail mail, or our online portal. If payment is not made in person by cash, check, or charge by the time the private lesson is over, your card on file will automatically be charged.

Pay by Class is another option for class payments. Pay by Class is determined by the base rate of \$20/hour. Pay by Class students must pay prior to each class attended.

Should your credit card transaction be declined or your check returned for any reason, a service fee of \$30.00 (thirty dollars), for which you are responsible, will be assessed and billed to your account. To ensure non-interruption of classes, you are required to pay this service fee of \$30.00 (thirty dollars) and any past due tuition upon receipt of notice.

In the event that your credit card transaction is declined for a second time, your participation in the Automatic Monthly Credit Card Payments Plan will be terminated. If this occurs, to ensure non-interruption of classes, you are required to pay a service fee of \$30.00 (thirty dollars) and any past due tuition by cash or check upon receipt of this notice. In this instance, all future tuition payments must be made by cash or check and you agree to the Delaware Arts Conservatory's policies regarding these forms of payment.

If your credit card information should change for any reason, you need to notify the Delaware Arts Conservatory immediately either in person, by phone, or by changing it personally through the Parent Portal. At that time, you should provide the Delaware Arts Conservatory with updated payment information so that classes can continue without interruption. A new Automatic Monthly Credit Card Payments Form must be signed and dated.

You can also pay via Venmo - @delarts. Please leave a note stating what the payment is for.

TOTAL HOURS	MONTHLY TUITION	YEARLY PAYMENT	TOTAL HOURS	MONTHLY TUITION	YEARLY PAYMENT	TOTAL HOURS	MONTHLY TUITION	YEARLY PAYMENT
.5 / .75	\$60 / \$68	\$600 / \$680	7.25	\$325	\$2,640	13.75	\$388	\$3,880
1	\$77	\$770	7.5	\$328	\$3,280	14	\$390	\$3,900
1.25	\$92	\$920	7.75	\$331	\$3,310	14.25	\$392	\$3,920
1.5	\$107	\$1,070	8	\$334	\$3,340	14.5	\$394	\$3,940
1.75	\$122	\$1,220	8.25	\$337	\$3,370	14.75	\$396	\$3,960
2	\$137	\$1,370	8.5	\$340	\$3,400	15	\$397	\$3,970
2.25	\$151	\$1,510	8.75	\$343	\$3,430	15.25	\$398	\$3,980
2.5	\$165	\$1,650	9	\$346	\$3,460	15.5	\$398	\$3,980
2.75	\$178	\$1,780	9.25	\$349	\$3,490	15.75	\$400	\$4,000
3	\$191	\$1,910	9.5	\$352	\$3,520	16	\$401	\$4,010
3.25	\$203	\$2,030	9.75	\$355	\$3,550	16.25	\$402	\$4,020
3.5	\$215	\$2,150	10	\$358	\$3,580	16.5	\$403	\$4,030
3.75	\$226	\$2,260	10.25	\$360	\$3,600	16.75	\$404	\$4,040
4	\$236	\$2,360	10.5	\$362	\$3,620	17	\$405	\$4,050
4.25	\$245	\$2,450	10.75	\$364	\$3,640	17.25	\$406	\$4,060
4.5	\$254	\$2,540	11	\$366	\$3,660	17.5	\$407	\$4,070
4.75	\$263	\$2,630	11.25	\$368	\$3,680	17.75	\$408	\$4,080
5	\$271	\$2,710	11.5	\$370	\$3,700	18	\$409	\$4,090
5.25	\$279	\$2,790	11.75	\$372	\$3,720	18.25	\$410	\$4,100
5.5	\$287	\$2,870	12	\$374	\$3,740	18.5	\$411	\$4,110
5.75	\$294	\$2,940	12.25	\$376	\$3,760	18.75	\$412	\$4,120
6	\$300	\$3,000	12.5	\$378	\$3,780	19	\$413	\$4,130
6.25	\$306	\$3,060	12.75	\$380	\$3,800	19.25	\$414	\$4,140
6.5	\$311	\$3,110	13	\$382	\$3,820	19.5	\$415	\$4,150
6.75	\$316	\$3,160	13.25	\$384	\$3,840	19.75	\$416	\$4,160
7	\$321	\$3,210	13.5	\$386	\$3,860	20+	\$417	\$4,170

## 16/ Attendance

Your child's attendance in class is very important, because it allows them to learn best with consistent training. As a member of the class, it is a commitment for you to ensure your child attends their classes on time each week and attends all lessons planned for them. Not only do absences impact the performance routines we create, it also impacts the social and confidence-building principals we work hard to foster in each age group. DAC is committed to your child and we ask that you, the parent(s), be committed to getting your child to class. Commitments made for other activities that conflict with scheduled classes will affect promotion and can result in removal from the current level of study.

If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent due to holidays / vacations, school trips or commitments, or family events, please let us know ahead of time so the class impact is minimal. If your child is too unwell to attend class, we ask that you inform our front desk as soon as you can so they can let the teachers know and preparations can be made to catch up on any missed work.

While we do not give refunds or credits for missed classes, we do allow students to make up missed classes. All make-up classes must be in the same discipline. For example, if a student misses a tap class, that student must make up that class in another tap class unless only one class level is offered in that discipline or the next lower level is offered at the same time as the registered class. In this instance, an alternate class attendance can be substituted with instructor approval.

Missed classes must be made up within 4 weeks of the absence at the same or lower level, or prior to the missed class if you know you will be absent in advance.

If a student arrives to a class more than 15 minutes late it will be considered an absence. If a student sits and watches 2 classes, that counts as one absence.

Each student is allowed to miss up to 6 classes per year without penalty towards their promotions/ placements. If any student misses more than 6 classes and does not make up those classes, they will not be eligible for promotion.

Students who withdraw from classes prior to the completion of the season will not be eligible for promotion.

For the recital / end of year performance(s), students may not miss more than 2 classes after April 1. This is due to the need for consistency and out of fairness to the other dancers in the class. If a student misses more than 2 classes during the rehearsal process, they may be removed from the piece. DAC will make an exception if the absence is due to a mandatory school commitment and DAC is given ample notice of this commitment. In this case, a letter from the school and / or teacher must be presented to DAC on the school letterhead for the student to be excused from class without repercussion.

Weather may also cause us to cancel a class. In the event of a weather cancellation, students are encouraged to follow our regular make-up policy, as there is no way for us to add another night of classes during the week.

## 17/ Social Media

The DelArts Social Media Policy refers to all social networking sites, video/photo sharing sites, blogs, micro-blogs, wikis, podcasts, forums, instant messaging and geo-spatial tagging (for example, Facebook check-ins). Please see below for our regulations regarding Social Media and feel free to contact our office staff if you have any questions.

- Please remember that your anonymity on Social Media is never guaranteed and to exercise particular caution when posts, images or videos identify children in your care.
- Remain mindful that your behavior on Social Media remains in keeping with the DelArts code of conduct as outlined in chapter 8 of this handbook.
- Any comments or posts perceived to be obscene, defamatory, threatening, harassing, discriminatory or hateful towards DelArts staff, students, or families may subject the owner to disciplinary or legal action.
- Should you wish to engage on Social Media while identifying as a studio volunteer or employee, you may only do so with integrity, respect, and adhere to privacy and confidentiality policy.
- Any content revealing or referring to sensitive studio information is not allowed to be shared online.
- Intellectual property laws (for example, costume design, choreography) must be observed by all when posting online. Please do not post dances or images from class, performance, or competition without the permission of the teacher/choreographer. If you have permission, be sure to identify the choreographer in the post.
- We will not tolerate any posts that are racially, sexually, physically or religiously offensive.
- All matters pertaining directly to the studio - whether it be fees, scheduling, placements, or performance opportunities - may not be communicated via Social Media. We have an open door policy and encourage all communication, complaints, and feedback to be communicated to the front desk staff directly.
- Families found to be engaging in 'hidden' or 'private' groups formed for the specific purpose of discussing studio matters will be encouraged to join our closed Facebook group for public discussion and warned against discussing Studio matters in their private online groups.
- You may not post photographs / videos that feature DelArts dancers other than your own online without the proven consent of their parent/guardian.
- Identifying information of any featured minors - including names, ages or location - should be removed when posting on Social Media.

## 18/ Our Teachers / Faculty

It is our pleasure to provide our students with enthusiastic, passionate, and dedicated teachers who are thrilled to be a part of your family's dance journey this year. We are truly looking forward to growing together to mold this generation of skilled, confident, genuine and unique performers.

Please visit our website, [delarts.com](http://delarts.com), and click on "Who's Who" under the About Us tab to learn about our teachers, their qualifications, professional credits, and more!

DelArts is unique in our area because we do not allow our current students to teach classes, nor do we hire anyone without significant training, professional credits, and an extensive history in their teaching field. Our instructors have performed on Broadway, in National Tours, on cruise ships, in Ballet Companies, in major events like the Liberty Bowl and at Lincoln Center, and more! Many of our instructors have degrees in dance, musical theatre, music, and acting, and we have many faculty with education degrees, as well. We encourage you to read about each of our teachers, as we are confident that we have a faculty like no other studio!



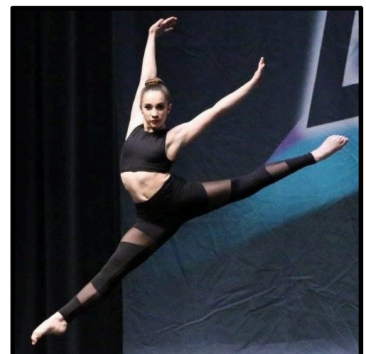
## 19/ Company and Performing Team

We are pleased to offer our motivated performers the opportunity to improve upon their dance and performing skills by participating in our Performing Teams and / or Company.

DelArts is different in that we allow students to audition for teams in a variety of dance styles, all of which meet separately during the week. Students can audition to be a part of a Ballet Ensemble, a Tap Team, a Hip Hop Team, and / or a Jazz Team (where they may also perform in styles that include lyrical, contemporary, or musical theatre). These teams are also separated by technical level, so that dancers perform with others of their age and ability level. The audition aspect is important to this process, because it allows us to place dancers in a group that will look and work well together, in addition to providing students with a solid audition experience to further their arts education! Auditions are held in mid-June and in mid-August each year. Team members compete at 3 to 4 competitions per year, can attend major dance conventions, and are often asked to perform at local events. Being a team member allows our students to grow as performers, get feedback from professionals in the field, and learn how to work effectively in an ensemble situation.

Our Ballet Company, Tap Company, and Contemporary Company is made up of our advanced dancers, those who make a solid commitment to be the best they can be! These dancers are invited to our company when our Faculty feels that they have displayed excellence in technique, performance, and personal responsibility for their craft. Company members attend major dance conventions, perform in Dance Festivals, and compete at both national and international events, like the Youth America Grand Prix, where we have been invited 3 times to the finals in New York City!

Company and Team members are held to a high standard in terms of attendance and class participation. Information on auditioning for Team is offered at a Parent Interest Meeting each spring in June, following our recital. For more information, please ask at our front desk!





## **20/ Summer Maintenance Requirements**

Summer training provides an opportunity for continued progress to be made in ballet technique and gives students a chance to build upon skills learned. This time helps to maintain strength gained throughout the year, preventing injury for the upcoming season.

To meet the summer maintenance requirement, Ballet B through C2 must take 6 of 8 classes offered, while Ballet D and above must take 8 classes. If a student does not take maintenance over the summer, they will not meet the promotion requirements for the fall and will need to start the year in the level in which they finished the previous season until they regain the strength and placement lost over the summer, at which point a promotion may be considered.

We understand that summertime can be busy with vacations and trips, but consistency in training is imperative. Missed classes can be made up in a level lower than a student's current ballet level, but the majority of classes need to be completed at the assigned promotion level to count. Ballet E and above students can attend the Thursday Open Technique class as a make-up. This class can also be taken in addition to their regular maintenance class. (If motivated dancers take both Monday and Thursday, they will obviously have more than 8 classes, so they have well met the requirement.) Students, for an additional fee, can arrange a private lesson with a teacher, which counts for ONE missed maintenance class.

Intermediate and Advanced Students who attend 5 or 6-week summer programs at ballet companies or universities will automatically meet the maintenance requirements, but we encourage you to come in August upon your return to Delaware to maintain the progress made over the summer. These programs must be approved in advance by studio ballet faculty to count toward maintenance, as we must ensure that the program meets our training standards.

Students who take the Young Dancer Intensive or the Pre-professional Intensive can use that involvement to apply as 2 maintenance classes.

Ballet classes, whether maintenance, intensives, or private lessons, must be distributed over the 3 months of summer to ensure consistency in maintaining training levels.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@delarts.com](mailto:info@delarts.com). Our focus and concern is always on dancer health and safety, and making sure they start the new year at the same point or better than when they ended in the spring!

## **21/ Parent Observation**

DelArts understands that parents are anxious to see their children in class, to see what they are learning and how they are behaving! We offer 2 times during the year when we invite parents into class to watch their dancers, see the teacher in action, and view how our classes are run. On special occasions, our young dancers may have times where parents are invited back at the end of class to see a fun dance that has been taught. This will be communicated in advance to you, so that you can plan to be there!

Many parents ask us why we don't have viewing windows, why we don't have closed circuit viewing of the classes for parents sitting in our lobby, or why parents aren't allowed to sit in class weekly to watch. The best answer is that children behave differently when a parent is in the room, or when they know a parent is watching. When a parent sends their child to a friend's house, they often worry about if the friend's family will be treated to the same meltdown the parent experienced that morning,

or the snippy tone they got after asking if their child had brushed their teeth. Most of the time, your child comes home and you get nothing but glowing reports about how your child's manners were amazing, and how they were a joy to have over, right? Well, this is what happens at dance class! When you send your child into our dance room, the teacher's rules are established and the teacher's position of authority within the room is without question. As soon as a parent enters the room, the dancer's attention and loyalty in focus will understandably be split and confused with both teacher and parent in the room. Is mom or dad watching me? To whom do I listen? Sometimes parents feel the need to correct their children's behavior during observation, and again, that undermines the teacher's authority within the room. DelArts strives to provide the best learning environment possible for each dancer, and minimizing distractions is the best way for us to honor your time and monetary commitment.

## **22/ Private Lessons**

Private lessons are available in all art forms at DelArts, from visual art, to music, to dance. Private lessons fees are paid outside of our traditional tuition chart, as each class is individualized and designed specifically for each private student.

For private music lessons, you must register yearly at our front desk. Each teacher manages his or her own schedule, and therefore, upon registration, you will be put in touch directly with that teacher to set days and times for lessons. Each teacher will notify you of their private lesson fee, which is then payable at the front desk prior to each lesson.

For private art, acting, or dance lessons, please inform the front desk of your interest and the teacher desired, and a message will be given to them to contact you directly. Each teacher has a private lesson rate, which is payable directly to them by cash or check.

For all private lessons, an additional studio rental of \$10/hour will be applied to your account and is payable at the front desk. Because private lessons are based on teacher and studio availability, each teacher will schedule lesson times with the student and their parent directly.

### **23/ Performances - Spring Showcase and Snow Queen**

DelArts is pleased to offer a number of performing opportunities for our dancers! Each year, our classes participate in the recital, generally held the second weekend in June. This is an opportunity for parents and family members to come see the progress our performers have made over the year. As a technique based studio, we focus on teaching technique all year long, and don't start recital pieces until the spring, usually only taking the last 15 minutes of class to work on the dance.

Here are some FAQs that are often asked about the Spring Showcase:

#### **“Do I have to do the Spring Showcase? Do I have to perform with every class I take?”**

Our Spring Showcase performances are not mandatory! If you have a conflict with the dates, or if your child is not interested in performing in every class, that is OK! We have a Spring Showcase Commitment form that goes to all dancers in October. On this form, we ask you to indicate if your child will be performing. If they are not performing, or if you have decided to participate only in certain dances/classes, this must be indicated on the form so that we don't order spring showcase costumes for you.

If a dancer is unable to attend one of the 4 performances, it is imperative that you request permission to miss a show from Laura Russo no later than February 15. It is difficult to schedule around a dancer who can only participate in only one of the 2 shows for their dance, and participation is then at the studio's discretion. This may mean that your dancer is on the end of the row or in the back, so as to minimize formation issues in the dance. It may also be that it isn't possible to create two different versions of the dance, one with and one without your dancer. Please understand that DelArts would love to have your child perform, but if it will impact the other dancers in the class that are fully committed for the weekend, it may be in the best interest of the masses to deny the request.

#### **“What fees are associated with the Spring Showcase?”**

Unlike many studios, DelArts does not charge a Spring Showcase participation fee. We may order costumes for your dancer, in which case we try to keep the expense of the costume low - generally around \$45 - \$75. In some classes, though, we don't purchase costumes at all! Instead, we may costume with things DelArts already owns, in which case there will be a rental fee of \$25, or we may ask you to provide pieces from your child's existing wardrobe - in which case, the costume is FREE! For example, for ballet, the dancers may wear their ballet leotard and add on a skirt, or our tap dancers may wear jeans and a tie-dyed t-shirt. It is all dependent on the class and song chosen, and teachers will let you know mid-year what will be needed.

The only other expense associated with the Spring Showcase is the cost of tickets to see the show! Ticket sales cover the cost of the facility rental, the technician to run sound and lights, the flooring that we take for each performance so that the dancers have a safe dance surface, and, of course, the teachers who work backstage, ensuring the safety of our dancers and running the show.

**“Will my dancer be in all 4 shows? How are your classes divided into performances?”**

At DelArts, we have 6 dance studios running simultaneously on any given day! That means we have a TON of classes to schedule into a show. While some studios put all of their classes into one exceptionally long show, we have chosen instead to divide all of our classes into two separate show orders, keeping our show length below 3 hours. This means that you may have all of your child's classes in one show, but you might also find that their classes are divided over both show orders. It is impossible to divide the classes so that it works for everyone to only be in one show, and of course, the more classes a dancer takes, the more likely that the classes are divided among two show orders. Show 1 is generally performed on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. Show 2 is generally performed on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. We do our best to have most of our young dancers perform in the first half of the show, and Creative Movement, Tot Dance, and Kindercombo dancers ONLY who are finished performing prior to intermission are able to be signed out at intermission. All dancers from A level and above participate in our closing number and finale, which is

a theatrical tradition. All dancers get to take a bow! This is a mandatory part of the show, and is an excellent way of teaching our dancers about theatre expectations.

**“Can I watch dress rehearsal?”**

DelArts has a closed dress rehearsal policy, which means that only faculty and scheduled dancers are allowed inside the theatre during the rehearsals. We do this because students are very aware of when their parents are watching, and they get more nervous and less focused. Dress rehearsal is a quick 8 minutes per dance where we can make sure dancers are aware of the spacing and where we can quickly review choreography, make sure the sound levels are set for each dance, and so on. Further, if a child makes a mistake or forgets part of the dance, we have had parents in the past get very upset with their child. This defeats the purpose of rehearsing! This is where mistakes should be made, where corrections can be done and given, and where we have our last chance to perfect the performance.

**“Can I take pictures?”**

We have a strict no-photos or video policy during our shows. Using cameras, phones - and some have even tried to video on full sized iPads! - is exceptionally distracting to the guests in the audience, who have paid for tickets to see their children in live action. It is best to watch you dancers in true HD - with your own eyes! Furthermore, all of the choreography is the intellectual property of the choreographers, and is not to be recorded or shared without their express approval. OK Video records our shows and those DVDs are also available for purchase. We also discourage taking photos in the dressing areas backstage for obvious reasons.

**“Are parents allowed backstage? Can parents be with their children during the show?”**

We do not allow every parent to be backstage during our performances, because there simply is not room. We do, however, have volunteer sign-ups prior to the show so that parents willing to help during a show can offer to do so. Some parents are placed in the lobby to help with concessions or flower sales, some help as ushers, and some are placed backstage with a group of dancers to help supervise and assist with costume changes. We have over 300 families involved in a show, so we do try to share the load by ensuring that our volunteers get at least one show where they can help. We

cannot, however, guarantee that you will be in the same room as your child. Unless there is a medical reason for you to be backstage with your child, chances are you will be assigned to ONE of the 4 performances in a dressing room to help. If you are helping with a class backstage (not in the lobby or ushering), we do allow you, while your dancer is performing, to watch quietly from the side of the stage, after which you must return to your room and group. Parents may not be in the stage area otherwise.

### **“Can we bring food and drinks into the dressing areas or backstage?”**

We do NOT allow food or drink, other than water, in the dressing areas or backstage. We have had parents “sneak” things in, and have ended up with red Gatorade on white costumes, chocolate streaks on a lyrical dress, and coffee spilled on ballet shoes! If you are helping backstage, you MAY NOT have drinks or food - other than water - backstage with you.

## **Snow Queen**

*Snow Queen* is a DelArts original production, conceived by Priscilla Payson and choreographed by many of our outstanding DelArts faculty members and guest artists! *Snow Queen* is unique in that it incorporates many of the dance styles taught at DelArts. We feature Ballet, Tap, Contemporary, Musical Theatre, and Jazz dance styles, all telling this classic tale from Hans Christian Andersen. We encourage all dancers to participate in the production because it is a completely different experience and training opportunity than a recital. This production is run like a professional show, taught outside of class time, and is dependent on the story line and casting. Every dancer should have the opportunity to participate in a professional production!

*Snow Queen* is open to all dancers, ages 5 and above, and is not limited to DelArts dancers! Auditions are held normally on the second weekend in September, and are separated by age groups/technical levels. There is an audition fee based on the technical level of the dancer, as well as a participation fee, which covers all costumes and rehearsal time. Rehearsals are held on Saturdays in the fall, and are scheduled a week to two weeks in advance. The show is typically held on the second weekend of December at The Tatnall School in Wilmington. Visit [delarts.com](http://delarts.com) for more information.

