

Pre-K Dance at Forte!

We are so pleased to welcome your child into our Pre-K Dance Program here at Forte Academy of Dance & Music. We are excited to watch them grow and succeed as the year progresses. The following information will give you an idea of the important skills your child will be learning this year and how you can support their experience.

Forte Academy of Dance & Music Pre-K Dance Classes are designed to introduce students to important aspects of life such as classroom etiquette, following directions, teamwork, listening, and communicating. In addition to learning dance techniques and creative movement, these skills are emphasized as equally important aspects of a child's success in the program.

In order to best assist your child's progression, it is important that we eliminate things that will distract them from their goals. Classroom doors will be kept closed, and parents/siblings should stay in the waiting area. This helps ease separation anxiety and enhances classroom focus. You are encouraged to peek into the class via our observation windows, but please be mindful of your child's reaction to you being visible through the window. In class, bathroom breaks are permitted if necessary, but please make sure your child uses the restroom before class begins to help avoid the distraction during class.

Ballet/Tap

Students will begin each class being asked to verbally communicate with their teacher and peers through a fun activity. During the ballet and tap portions of the class, they will be taken through many "follow the leader" technique exercises and will have an opportunity to ask and answer questions. Students will have an "across the floor" portion of the class where they will be asked to dance one at a time and wait their turn. Forte Academy of Dance & Music follows the Al Gilbert method for Pre-K tap technique.

Dance Combination

Students will work on a dance combination to the same song each week and will prepare a performance piece. Parents or other classes are invited into the dance room on special occasions to watch their practice performances and get students ready for the recital performance.

Creative Activities

At this level, there will be some activities that we call "games". These are specifically designed activities to give the students a "brain break" and allow a creative outlet in order for students to develop a love for dancing! Often times, these are used as an incentive for following the rules and a job well done earlier in the class.

Sticker Books

Students are issued a sticker book that they should plan to bring to each weekly class. Students will receive incentive stickers in this book based on attendance, participation, and behavior. No outside stickers should be put into the book. If a book is lost, the dancer will be given a new blank sticker book, but lost stickers will not be replenished. Please assist your child in taking care of their book and learning responsibility for belongings.

Attire

The studio dress code is strictly enforced and is an important part of acclimating students with the dance world. Our Pre-K dress code is: **hair in bun or ponytail, black leotard, no skirt except on last lesson of month, pink or tan tights, pink leather ballet shoes with laces tucked, and tan Mary Jane tap shoes.** Students may wear a colored leotard or dance skirt/tutu the last class of each month. We do not generally put out reminders about our monthly “skirt day,” so if it is important to your child, please mark your calendar!

Dress Rehearsal/Recital

Most students choose to participate in the end-of-season recital in June. This is an opportunity for the students to showcase all that they have learned throughout the dance season in a professional auditorium in front of family and friends. Students will be required to attend a mandatory dress rehearsal to help prepare for the show. Forte Academy of Dance & Music hires a professional babysitting service to keep the students safe backstage at recital and give parents freedom to watch the show from the auditorium. This babysitting fee will be collected in May via autopay. Tickets go on sale in May and recital DVDs are available for purchase in the lobby at recital.

Costumes

Recital costumes are exciting for both students and parents. Costume payments are made by November 15th and costumes are ordered at this time. These are selected by the teacher to coordinate with the recital dance theme and are not delivered until March or April. When a class has completed their recital dance, students and parents will get to see a photo of their costume, and when costumes arrive, students will try them on in class, so the teacher can confirm sizing before they are sent home. Please be aware that dance costumes are not intended to fit like street clothing and are meant to fit closely to the dancer’s body.

We look forward to working with you and your child towards a fun and successful dance season!

- Forte Staff