

Welcome to Combo Class!

The Combo classes are always such fun and so special to teach each year. We love watching them go from nervous little ones holding on to mom and dad's leg the first day to shining, confident stars on stage by the end of the year. Many of our older dancers who have been with us for years still talk about their first dance recital and who their first dance teacher was.

Whether this is your dancer's first, second or final year in Combo, there are a few things we wanted to make sure we cover so we can have a smooth and fun dance year!

How Combo Class Works

Combo classes are the foundation of our dance curriculum and we focus on making sure our youngest dancers are comfortable in a classroom setting following directions, taking turns, cooperating with classmates and expressing themselves. One of the most important thing to us is that our dancers are building a love of dance, having fun and using their imaginations while working on their dance and gymnastics basics.

Each week dancers should wait in the lobby with their classmates for their teacher or teaching assistant to come get them and take them to class. We recommend getting to class a few minutes early to have time to change shoes and encourage one last bathroom trip (since once one Combo dancer has to use the bathroom during class, an unstoppable chain reaction begins of all Combo dancers needing to use the bathroom). If a dancer needs to use the bathroom during class and needs help, their teacher or teacher assistant will first look to the lobby for their parent to take them. If your child is able to use the restroom on their own, or, if you are not staying in the lobby during class time, please let your child's teacher or the front desk know.

Dancers will start each week in their ballet shoes and, on week's they work on tap (usually every other), teachers and teaching assistants will help change everyone's shoes in the classroom. Most dancers use a small dance bag to carry shoes to and from dance each week and to keep everything together inside the classroom. Please label the inside of your dancer's shoes with their name or initials so when they're left behind we can get them back to you.

Combo 1 dancers will end each week with a coloring page to help solidify that week's lesson or new vocabulary word. After class, teachers or teaching assistants will always walk the class back out to the lobby and wait until each child is picked up.

In November and again in April all parents, siblings and grandparents will be invited in to class to observe for the hour for Watch Week. Some dancers may shy away, while some may be on their absolute best behavior or thrive in the extra attention. Pictures and videos welcome!

Starting in December or January your dancer will start learning the dance they will perform in the June dance recital. This is a great time to ask your child's teacher to send out the link to their music so your dancer can practice their dance at home and so you can hear the song again and again and again and again...

Around January your dancer's teacher will chose the dance recital costume and pictures including tights, shoes and hair style choices will be in the costume book kept at the front desk. In April costumes should arrive and in May all classes will be assigned a picture time slot and all class pictures will be included in the recital program.

A Few Things To Keep In Mind As Your Dancer Progresses This Year

Sometimes Combo dancers cry. Sometimes they don't want to come to dance that day. Sometimes they fall asleep in the car and you have to wake them and they try to sleep on the floor during class. It's okay. We're used to it 😊

Sometimes Combo dancers don't get the spot they wanted or don't get to be first in line. Sometimes their friend bumps in to them during class or they slip in their tap shoes and fall. It may lead to a meltdown and they may cry for mom or dad. Our teachers have worked with hundreds of Combo dancers and are experienced at doing everything they can to comfort them while keeping them in the classroom. So even if your little one is breaking your heart through the door, know their teacher and assistants are loving them and working to keep them through to the coveted sticker and coloring page part of class 😊

There will be a day when your dancer won't come to dance without a fight unless they can wear their giant sparkle tutu/princess tiara/superhero cape or bring a stuffed animal to watch them dance. It's okay. We'll make it work. 😊

At least one week you will get your dancer ready, packed up and to the studio before realizing you forgot their dance bag full of their dance shoes, or, they will tell you as you're getting their ballet shoes on for class that their shoes are too small and they'll refuse to wear them anymore. We have a constantly rotating bin of \$5 shoes of all types and sizes right outside the Combo classroom that hopefully will hold the shoes you need at the time you need them 😊 (Also, shoe donations always needed!)

Sometimes Combo dancers tell their teachers crazy or embarrassing things that their moms or dads do, or that happened at home. It's okay. We don't always believe them 😊

The first time you decide to run an errand during class, you will be stuck at the train on the way back and be late picking up your dancer. It's okay. We never leave Combo dancers until we see a parent has them and if not, we're really good at keeping them busy while they wait. Most of the time you'll come in 5 minutes late and they'll be reading with a teacher or coloring behind the front desk and they'll be sad they have to go. 😊

All of our Combo teachers have years of experience teaching and working with young children. They are excellent at keeping the kids involved and keeping them moving through the curriculum all while they are having a blast in class. We love kids, we think they're great and we all feel grateful to have a job that is so fun and rewarding.

If you ever have any questions, especially if this is your first year in dance, please ask the front desk or your child's teacher. Our other dance families, teachers and older students are also great resources and love to help, too.

It's going to be such a great year!