



CONTEMPO School of Dance

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7/21/17

Dear Parents and Students,

For the first time in three years, our tuition rates are slightly increased, but still include discounts for multiple classes. Please read this entire letter before you call or email with questions. Attached is the Sept. 2017-May 2018 class schedule.

What's new?

- *We now accept payment by debit and credit cards (with a convenience fee for credit) as well as cash or check. We are excited to have 2 new teachers joining our staff-
- *Ms. Chloe Knight- a certified member of the Royal Academy of Ballet, and was a Contempo substitute teacher.
- *Ms. Julia Leck- a member of our competitive senior dance team and an assistant teacher for several years.

Please note:

* **Ballet is the most important foundation for all dance training.** Students of all ages excel in all dance techniques when they continue their ballet training. We strongly recommend ballet class to improve in any dance technique. Mini-Hip Hop, Mini Jazz, and Mini-Acrobatics are intended to compliment but not replace combination classes in which dancers will receive their technical base for all future dance techniques. **Ballet is required for Jazz 6-7 and Jazz 3-5 Teen. Ballet or Jazz class is required for Musical Theater. Mini Jazz classes require Combination II or III class. Pointe (by teacher recommendation only) and Lyrical classes both require Ballet 7 or higher.**

*Ballet 5 Teen and 6 Teen students are required to take the Ballet Technique class. Ballet Technique class is also recommended for Ballet 3 Teen and Pointe students who want to improve their technique.

*Our *Banana Splits Club* tradition continues! To encourage dancers to work on flexibility daily at home, we will have an ice cream party for dancers who have accomplished a split on both legs (or one split and a straddle) by Jan. 1st.

***Dress Code:**

Please read the current dress code (on our website) before purchasing shoes and dancewear. Leotards and tights are mandatory for all dance classes. **Students may not wear leotards/skirts with glitter.** Hair must be up for every class. Please donate dance shoes that your children have outgrown to our **shoe exchange** box. Dancers are welcome to use shoes from our exchange box free of charge for the whole season or even to borrow if you forget your own shoes.

Dance Shoes: **Dancers should never wear dance shoes to and from the car.** It damages shoes and our marley floors. Dancers will not be allowed to wear shoes in the class that have been worn outside. No street shoes on the dance floors. **Dancers may not wear tap shoes in the waiting area.** Dancers will put on and take off their tap shoes inside the classrooms. If registering for Pointe for the first time, parents should attend the first class with dancers. Do not wear or sew on ribbons before your instructor checks your first pointe shoes. Please see the dress code for requirements before buying any new dance shoes or dancewear. To ensure the proper fit, we recommend trying on shoes in a store instead of purchasing online.

Food and Drink: Food and drink are allowed in the lobby but not in the studios. Only water bottles, not sports drinks, soda, or juice, are allowed inside the classroom. Parents are responsible for cleaning up after their children in lobby.

Smoking policy: Smoking is prohibited inside and outside of Contempo. Parents who are smoking in their cars--please don't use our sidewalks, parking lot, and mulch areas for an ashtray.

Waiting area rules: Students and siblings may not run, yell, or skate in the waiting area. Parents must supervise children at all times in the waiting area and especially in the bathrooms. If you plan to stay during class, please bring a quiet activity for siblings (not toy cars or other objects that slide across the floor). **Electronic games, tablets, dvd players, etc. with audio may only be played with headphones or earbuds.** Dancers may not be dropped off more than 10 minutes before a class or picked up more than 10 minutes after a class. Parents will be charged \$1 per minute if students are left after the last class of the day, causing an employee to stay late after work.

Make-up classes are only for student illness - not vacations, parties, etc. Parents must call to schedule a make-up class. No refunds for missed classes. No make-up classes for scheduled holidays.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices during class. All devices must be kept on silent.

RECITALS: In order to have enough audience seating for each family and to keep recitals a reasonable length, recitals are divided by classes/ages. Families who have students in Level "1" classes for age 7-11 will have the choice of junior or senior recitals by registering for class on certain days of the week. See below:

Junior Recital I: Combination I-III and Mini classes on Mon./Wed./Fri., plus level 1 classes and Boys Hip Hop on Fridays.

Senior Recital I: Level 2-8 classes and all teen classes on Mon./Wed./Fri., plus level 1 classes on Mon. and Wed.

Junior Recital II: Combination I-III and Mini classes on Tues./Thurs./Sat., plus level 1 classes on Thurs. and Sat.

Senior Recital II: Level 2-8 classes on Tues./Thurs./Sat., plus level 1 classes on Tuesdays.

Recitals/Rehearsals will be May 30-June 5th at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High School. Once we have high school graduation dates, we will assign specific recitals to specific days. Recital costumes will be ordered in Dec.

Teacher-approved levels:

Your teacher-approved levels will be sent in a separate e-mail. It will take some time to email over 600 students separately for levels. Your child's teacher has evaluated each student and approved a level for your child that will be appropriate for their age and level of skill/technique. These levels are important for students to be challenged but not frustrated. **Please keep in mind that levels are designed for most students to remain in that level for 2 years.**

Although we understand about busy family schedules, we are unable to move your child to a higher level class because of a personal schedule conflict. If you wish to register for a class not listed in your teacher-approved levels, you must get the director's approval first by emailing your request to Ms. Lani at Lgunn@ContempoDance.com. Please make your request early enough to allow time for a response before your registration date.

Registration:

As you probably know, classes fill up quickly. **Please register in person at the studio on your designated day to hold a place in the desired classes.** If you can't make it on your registration day, you may not register over the phone, but you may register by mail if payment is enclosed (indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices in case classes are full). If you register by mail, we will enter your class choices on your designated registration day. Mailed-in registration requests will be processed after the people waiting in line have been helped. We want to give our current students first choice of class times before new students register. To register for classes, you will pay tuition for the first month, Sept. and last month (May 2018).

To withdraw from class, your last months tuition (May) will cover the 30-day withdrawal notice. Remember that when you register for a class, we are saving a place for you (and turning away others) so you are responsible for tuition until you give a written 30-day notice to the office manager (not the teacher). In May, you will not have to pay tuition when there will be other optional expenses, such as recital tickets, pictures, and dvds. No tuition refunds.

Current students: We have indicated separate days to reduce wait times at registration. If the time indicated is not convenient, you may register any time listed after (but not before) your designated day. **Do not include this coming 2017-2018 school year when calculating years.**

Families that have been at Contempo for 5 or more consecutive years: Email class requests (include name of classes, day and time) by July 30th and pay by mail or drop off check during registration hours by Aug. 4th to hold a spot. You will receive an emailed class confirmation. Classes unpaid by Aug. 4th will be dropped.

Families that have been at Contempo for 4 consecutive years:

Mon. July 31st in person 5-7 pm

Families that have been at Contempo for 3 consecutive years:

Tues. Aug. 1st in person 5-7 pm

Families that have been at Contempo for 2 consecutive years:

Wed. Aug. 2nd in person 5-7 pm

Families that have been at Contempo for 1 full year:

Thurs. Aug. 3rd in person 5-7 pm

Families that have been at Contempo for less than 1 year:

Fri. Aug. 4th in person 5-7 pm

New student registration:

Mon. Aug. 7th - Fri. Aug. 11th 5-7 pm

We sincerely thank all the families who have recommended our studio to their friends and newcomers to the area.

We appreciate your continued support and trust. We look forward to our 23rd year. Thank you!