

FOREST HILL DANCE
INFORMATION: 2017-2018 SEASON

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Forest Hill Dance Program. Did you know Forest Hill Dance began as a program of the Forest Hill Recreation Council sometime back in 1989-1990? What was once a Ballet and Tap program with classes just a couple of nights per week has grown into a dance studio in high demand. Today, we serve the needs of over 200 dancers with eight instructors/choreographers and over seventy (70) classes. We continue to grow and add to our schedule allowing us to teach to all the levels of our dancers. Forest Hill Dance is run by a group of volunteers.

Classes: Classes will begin the week of September 12, 2017

Our program begins in September and culminates in the spring with a large end of year production in which all dancers ages 4 and up participate. This is different from some dance programs that run for a session of several weeks and just end with the final class. This requires a significant time commitment towards the end of our season and requires some additional costs to parents (i.e. costumes, recital tickets, photos). Our 3 year old classes end with an in-studio performance for their families.

All classes are held at the Forest Hill/Hickory Activities Center located at 2213 Commerce Road in Forest Hill. We have two studios each equipped with dance floors and mirrors with wall mounted barres.

Great effort is taken by our staff to ensure that dancers are grouped together in classes where all can learn the same technique and choreography. New dancers are placed based on their age and previous dance experience. After classes begin and our instructors begin working with a new dancer, they may find the need to adjust their class placement.

Dancers are taught the basics of dance which starts with a requirement for all to take a Ballet class. We also offer a variety of levels of Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, Lyrical, Hip Hop and Musical Theatre. The majority of our classes meet between 30 and 45 minutes each week with some meeting one hour or more weekly.

The numbering/naming system we use is simply a way for us to differentiate and organize our classes. The number/name of your dancer's classes may not have changed this year from last. The instructors teach to the capabilities of the dancers in each class – not the number. Do not worry about the number given for your dancer. Trust that our instructors are best suited to determine their class placement. All dancers will be more comfortable and learn more when properly placed according to their ability.

Registration & Pricing:

Registration is done entirely online with dancers being “pre-approved” for their appropriate classes. Pricing is based on the number of classes in which a child enrolls. Some classes have only one day/time option and some classes have an enrollment cap. Open enrollment begins on July 24th to dancers who were not enrolled this past year. If

FOREST HILL DANCE
INFORMATION: 2017-2018 SEASON

you are new to the program place your dancer at the age they will be on September 1, 2017. Please see **Class Descriptions and Dress Code** for information about our classes.

Registration balances are due by September 30, 2017 with payment options including online payment via credit card or checks. Checks made payable to Forest Hill Rec Council to Forest Hill Dance mailed to Forest Hill Dance, c/o Christine Boessel – Chair, 1115 Pericles Drive, Bel Air, MD 21015.

If your family has any difficulty in paying by this deadline, please contact me – I will work with you to ensure your child is able to dance. Discounted pricing is offered when enrolling 2+ children.

Attendance Policy: PLEASE READ - THIS POLICY IS ENFORCED

Attendance is taken by our instructors every week and is crucial not just to your dancer's ability to improve but to allow the entire class to progress and learn their choreography. Particularly at the higher levels, attendance will affect class placement. **Absences should be communicated to your dancer's instructor, not me (this is one thing I don't take care of).** Contact information for each instructor is on our website.

After January 1st, dancers cannot miss any more than 3 classes. Should this occur, the instructor will use their discretion as to the dancer's participation in the recitals.

Pointe dancers missing more than three (3) of their Ballet Technique classes are required to make-up these absences by attending another Technique class within our schedule in order to remain in their Pointe class.

Attendance of the technical and dress rehearsals and the recital(s) is mandatory. As soon as our dates are confirmed, they will be shared with parents/guardians. This often occurs as soon as the fall thus providing plenty of time to plan ahead. ***If your dancer has a sporting event (i.e. a game or practice) on the day of rehearsals, we respectfully request that they attend their rehearsals.*** We certainly understand that other family commitments may arise in which case we ask that you please inform your dancer's instructors so that we can deal with any conflicts on an individual basis. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the recital.

Tardiness: Arriving late for class is not only disrespectful to the instructor it is also a distraction to the rest of the class. We understand dancers may occasionally run a few minutes late however, if dancers arrive 10 minutes late or more, their instructor may request that they observe instead of participate. This is for the safety of the dancers as the

FOREST HILL DANCE
INFORMATION: 2017-2018 SEASON

first portion of class is spent warming up and preparing the body for more strenuous movements.

Costume Policy: A costume deposit will be required at the time of measurements. This deposit will be applied to the balance of the costumes once they have been ordered. Once costumes are ordered full payment is required from parents. Costume companies are not like retail stores; they do not allow for returns. Although we understand that some of the dancers may choose to drop out or families may move; however, payment is still required.

Communication:

With such a large program, email, our website (<http://www.foresthillrec.com/program.php?programID=65>) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Forest-Hill-Dance/139557589405461>) are our primary sources of communication; it is just too many families to call. It is important that you check these mediums regularly to stay up to date.

Our younger dancers progress in order from Creative Movement to Pre-Ballet to Beginner Ballet to Ballet 1/ Tap 1 and then to a Group 2 level which includes Ballet, Jazz and Tap. For each of these groups, please choose one of the two day/time options offered. All other dancers have been placed in specific class levels by their instructors all of which have **one** day/time option.

We are now offering open enrollment for new dancers to the program so be sure to register early as many classes have enrollment limitations. Payments can be made online via credit card or you can mail your check to me directly (we no longer accept checks online). Classes begin the week of September 12th and balances can be made until September 30, 2017. Please contact me if you need to make other arrangements. (Please see information above for mailing instructions.)

Classes have enrollment limitations. Once full the class will not be visible in your list of classes. Simply send me an email and I'll add your dancer to the waiting list.

I do have a request from our instructors. In your dancer's online profile, there are areas for medical conditions, allergies and comments. Please be sure to share with us any medical conditions, learning disabilities, etc. that your child may have or any medications they may be taking (or changes to their medications) as these situations may affect them in the studios. Prior knowledge is a great benefit to our staff as they work with your children. Please also let them know of any family situations that may occur during the year that may be relevant.

FOREST HILL DANCE
INFORMATION: 2017-2018 SEASON

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL FAMILY INFORMATION AND STUDENT INFORMATION IS ACCURATE. PLEASE INPUT ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP CODE, TELEPHONE, EMERGENCY CONTACT, DANCER'S DATE OF BIRTH, ANY ALLERGY INFORMATION, ETC. UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT PASSWORD.

EVERY DANCER MUST SIGN THE WAIVER PRIOR TO THE SEASON STARTING.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

See you in September!

Christine Boessel
Forest Hill Dance – Chair

We obtained your email address from your registration and/or interest for classes at Forest Hill Dance. Email is used to periodically send communications such as newsletters, class confirmations, reminders, cancellations, and other important business information. If you do not wish to receive future email communications from Forest Hill Dance, please contact us by email: christineboessel@gmail.com or by phone: 410-688-8071 and ask for your email address to be removed.