

INTRODUCTION TO FOREST HILL DANCE

2018-2019 dance season



Welcome and thank you for your interest in Forest Hill Dance! We serve the needs of over 200 dancers with six instructors/choreographers and over seventy (70) classes. We continue to grow and add to our schedule allowing us to teach to all levels for our dancers. Forest Hill Dance is run by a group of volunteers. 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 sprung dance floors and mirrors with wall mounted barres.

Classes:

Classes will begin the week of September 11, 2018

Our program begins in September and culminates in the spring with a large end of year production in which dancers from Beginning Ballet 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 Creative Movement and Pre-Ballet classes end with an in-studio performance for their families.

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, Pointe and Hip Hop. 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. 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.

Our younger dancers progress in order from Creative Movement to Pre-Ballet to Beginner Ballet to Level 1 Ballet/Tap and then to Level 2 Ballet/Jazz/Tap.

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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 23, 2018 to NEW dancers. If you are new to the program place your dancer using the **2018-2019 Age Determination Table** which can be found on our website. Please see **Class Descriptions and Dress Code** for detailed information about our classes.

Classes have enrollment limitations. Once full the class will not be visible in your list of classes. You can add your dancer to the waitlist for classes that have reached their max capacity.

Registration balances are due by September 29, 2018 with payment options including online payment via credit card or checks. Make checks payable to Forest Hill Rec Council (“FHRC”) and can be 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 the Program Chair. We will work with you to ensure your child is able to dance. Discounted pricing is offered when enrolling 2+ children.

Pricing Example:

Auto Registration Fee:	\$10.00/per dancer
Class Deposit:	\$25.00/per dancer (not per class) due at the time of enrollment (will be applied to balance due for tuition)
Class Fee:	\$175.00-\$550.00 (cap) for the 2018-2019 season (Sept-May) – registration set to stop at \$550.00/dancer per season
Costume Costs:	\$28.00-\$50.00/max per costume
Costume Fundraiser:	\$12.00 per fundraiser card sold deposited directly into the dancer’s account to off-set costume costs (applied to costume and event/performance fees only) – fundraiser is optional
Event/Performance Fee:	\$25.00/per dancer - \$40.00/max per family
Recital Tickets:	\$5.00-\$8.00/each per individual/per performance

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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 the program chair. Contact information for each instructor is listed below and can be found on our website.

Instructors:

Shana O'Brien	(443) 834-9315	shana.obrien@gmail.com
Rebecca Ostrowski	(443) 388-3706	rsostrowski98@gmail.com
Jessa Rosenberger	(410) 652-2829	jessa.rosenberger@gmail.com
Stacey Royal	(585) 305-8586	staceyroyal83@gmail.com
Anita Samek	(410) 299-2682	anitasamek@gmail.com
Lexie Saunders	(443) 226-1700	saunderslexie5@gmail.com

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 in early 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.

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

Costume Policy:

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.

Once costumes are ordered you are responsible for the cost. Costumes are ordered from professional costume companies who produce the costumes based on orders received and once ordered, they do not allow for refunds. Costumes are ordered in early December and the costume costs are then added to your dancer's account. An email will be sent once all costume costs have been entered. Use the Parent Portal in Studio Director to access your account and pay for your costumes. If you participated in the costume fundraiser your account will reflect the money you raised. If your dancer decides to drop out of the program after costumes are ordered, whether it's by choice or a family moving out of town, you are still responsible for the costume cost. The costumes cannot be returned. This Costume Policy is sent to all dancers in the program. Creative Movement and Pre-Ballet do not get a costume.

Communication:

Our primary sources of communication are our website Forest Hill Rec – Dance (<http://www.foresthillrec.com/program.php?programID=65>) and email. It is important that you check these mediums regularly to stay up to date.

We will occasionally post on our Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Forest-Hill-Dance/139557589405461>)

Emergency Contact Information:

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

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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.

Participant Agreement:

Parent/Participant also acknowledges and agrees (1) to permit the use of participant's/my child's likeness (e.g. photos) and/or name in advertisements and literature and/or to be posted on the website for the above program; (2) to pay all costumes fees in full pursuant to the Costume Policy as detailed above for the above program; (3) to pay all program costs by the due dates for the above program.

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.

Thank you for your interest in Forest Hill Dance.

Best,

Christine Boessel
Program Chair