

# **DANCE IMAGES**

## **PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK**

*Welcome to DANCE IMAGES...  
a learning institution where students have fun!*

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## **PHILOSOPHY/REQUIREMENT**

The curriculum at DANCE IMAGES requires that all students be enrolled in a Ballet technique class, along with any other dance discipline he or she may be interested in studying.

This philosophy can be explained as such:

An elementary school student must be capable of reading before he or she can understand a textbook.

Ballet is learning “how to read”, and our other dance disciplines are “the textbooks”.

We also tell the children the barre work in a ballet class can be compared to sharpening a pencil.

Your work with a sharpened pencil is easier to read, more pleasant to the eye. A dull pencil creates blurry symbols, smudges on the paper, generally messy and difficult to comprehend.

Exercises at the barre help “sharpen our pencils, the instrument in the art of dance.”

## **TUITION**

Each new family is assessed an annual \$25 registration fee; returning students who are preregistered will be charged \$10.

Monthly tuition rates, due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, are as follows:

Unlimited classes, \$250;

45 minute classes and pointe, \$45;

60 minutes, \$48; extended time classes, \$55.

All accounts will be assessed a \$10 late fee

if the payment is made after the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Multiple discounts apply: 2-3 classes, 5%; 4 or more classes, 10%.

New students are initially requested to pay two months tuition.

### **There are no refunds.**

Also, a monthly \$12 concert fee will be charged to each family’s account.

This payment entitles the family to 5 tickets for our annual concert plus one Dance Images Concert T-shirt.

Once a student is properly enrolled, an invoice that documents your tuition account will be forwarded to you.

Please review this invoice and immediately let us know of any discrepancies.

In addition, should there be a need to take a sabbatical from your classes for a month or two (medical or school commitment), you will still be responsible for tuition payments, and therefore would be entitled to make up classes.

## **CHANGE OF CLASS PROCEDURES**

If a student would like to drop/add a class, it is necessary to complete a “Change of Class Form”.

An updated invoice will then be emailed to you so that your tuition account will be properly documented. This form is available from your student's instructor. There may come a time, sadly, when your dancer may be leaving DANCE IMAGES in the middle of the school year. If this becomes necessary, we ask that you email or call the studio to inform us of your student's change of interest.

Otherwise, you may be billed for the remainder of the school year.

### **DRESS CODE**

All young ladies enrolled in the ballet division are required to wear black leotards, pink tights and pink slippers (**no skirts please**).

As a student enrolled in the discipline of ballet, the body is the instrument and should not be hidden with loose clothing, or distracted from with bright colors.

Jazz and tap attire includes leotards, tights, and shorts.

Jazz shoes are to be worn in jazz class; tap shoes for tap class.

Items are available for purchase at DANCE IMAGES, including our exclusive **"This Dancer Fights Cancer"** apparel, **the only shorts permitted in class**. Hair must be pulled back, away from face, ponytails and/or buns requested, **mandatory for ballerinas**.

### **TARDINESS AND ABSENTEEISM**

Students are requested to come to class on time.

Anyone arriving more than five minutes after class has begun may be asked to view only.

This rule has been established for the physical well being of the student.

Any absence may be made up within a four-week period.

Please inform instructor when student will not be in attendance (a phone message or email), and then you may request a make up class.

There is a limited amount of permitted absences from January – May.

For Jeweled dancers, further information is available in the section that specifically relates to the Intensive Program.

### **NOTEBOOKS**

All students enrolled in our ballet program (this does not include Preschool and Kindergarten) will receive a notebook to be used in class. Instructors may request the dancer write notes regarding definitions, choreography, or special interests relating to the day's class content.

These notebooks are provided by DANCE IMAGES, and are stored at the studio for reference.

We do not encourage taking them home.

### **SCHOOL CALENDAR** **2013-2014**

**September 3, 2013: Fall classes resume**  
September 16-21, 2013: Bring a Friend to Class  
October 24-30, 2013: Halloween Costumes;  
Studio Closed on Halloween  
November 18-23, 2013: Open Viewing  
November 24-December 1, 2013: Studio Closed  
December 17, 2013: Tinley Park Food Pantry Fundraiser Performance  
December 22, 2013-January 5, 2014: Holiday Break  
January 2, 3, & 4: Winter Intensive; Jewel Dancers  
January 27-February 1, 2014: Viewing, Costume Fees Due  
Spring Breaks: March 23-30 & April 18-24, 2014  
***June, 2014, Concert Presentation***

### **COMPETITION TEAM**

DANCE IMAGES sponsors a competitive dance team, open to all Secondary Ballet dancers and above. Auditions for the team are held the week after our June Concert, and bids for participation are presented the following week. Rehearsals begin in the summer, and continue with class every Tuesday during the competition season, September - March. A schedule for all competitions and rehearsals is distributed prior to the start of the school year. Costs include a monthly studio fee, choreographer's stipend, registration requirements for all competitions, and minimal costume fees. Team members also purchase jackets to wear to all competitions. Mr. Steven Spanopoulos is the faculty sponsor for this program.

### **HOLIDAY PERFORMING GROUP**

During the Christmas Season, DANCE IMAGES Holiday Performing Group travels to various venues throughout the area, presenting a short, festive review of dances. In addition, the dancers perform during a fund-raiser for the Tinley Park Food Pantry. Participation in this group requires a one day camp, during which the students learn the choreography, plan costuming, and discuss performing options. Rehearsals are held during the month of November.

There is a small costume fee to participate.  
Ms. Diane King is the faculty sponsor for this program.

### **DANCE IMAGES STAFF**

***Ms. Diane M. L. King***  
Artistic Director

***Ms. Lindsay King***  
Office Manager  
Preschool, Kindergarten, Poms Instructor

***Ms. Brenda Langan***

Ballet Mistress

***Mr. Isaiah Alatoree***

Ballet, Modern Dance, & Contemporary Dance Instructor

***Mr. Steven Spanopoulos***

Musical Theater and Tap Instructor

***Ms. Bridget Wetzel***

Ballet Instructor

***Ms. Jessica Alatorre***

Modern Dance Instructor

***Mr. Brian Duncan***

Jazz Dance Instructor

***Ms. Nina Teresi***

Hip Hop Instructor

***Class Coordinators***

Parent Volunteer from each class, chosen by November

## **JEWEL BALLET INTENSIVE PROGRAM**

### **Levels of Study**

#### ***Sapphires***

Minimum 90 minutes of ballet instruction per week

Previous participation in Secondary Ballet Program or equivalent required

#### ***Pearls***

Minimum 180 minutes of ballet instruction per week; Saturday class required

Placement based on evaluation results

#### ***Rubies***

Minimum 180 minutes of ballet instruction per week; Saturday class required

Placement based on evaluation results

#### ***Topaz***

Minimum 180 minutes of ballet instruction per week; Saturday class required

Placement based on evaluation results

#### ***Emeralds***

Minimum 180 minutes of ballet instruction per week; Saturday class required

Placement based on evaluation results

#### ***Diamonds***

Minimum 180 minutes of ballet instruction per week; Saturday class required

Placement based on evaluation results

***Platinum***  
By invitation only

The **Saturday Technique Program** includes all non-performing classes: The classes meet through the end of the school year, and there is no time spent on choreography for a concert dance. The result is concentrated technique study. Any Saturday student, however, is invited to participate in the Opening Number for our end of the year show. Rehearsals are generally held late Saturday afternoons and/or Sunday afternoons.

**Evaluation Process**

In addition, all Jewel dancers are required to study throughout the summer, a minimum of 90 minutes per week. At the conclusion of summer study, all students participate in an evaluation class to determine level advancement, if any. It is not uncommon for a dancer to remain in a level for two or three school years. Likewise, there are occasions when a student may advance more than one level. All advancement is at the discretion of the Staff of DANCE IMAGES, based on the student's strengths and weaknesses.

**The Pointe Program**

Upon placement in the Rubies level, the dancer may be invited to study "on pointe". At this time, a meeting between the student, her parent, and Ms. King is called to explain the requirements and the responsibilities of a pointe dancer.

All Pointe classes include a Floor Barre warm up and  
are separate from the regular technique program.

The levels of pointe include: Intro, Pointe II, Pointe III, Pointe IV.

**CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Dance with Me! Program**

Dance with Me classes are available to students who are 18 months of age to 3 years, along with an accompanying adult who would love to dance with them! The use of props along with children's songs encourages fine motor coordination and gross motor skills, while offering a fun experience for all.

**Preschool Program**

Our unique preschool classes offer pre-reading skills through imagery and musicality. Class size is limited for the weekly, hour-long session, and students must be 3 years of age to join the program. The instructor's philosophy encourages positive learning, and her knowledge helps the young child mature and gain self-confidence while having fun and being physically active. The studio is equipped with viewing windows, there is a bathroom in the room the child will be working,

and an assistant is present in all classes.

### **Children's Program**

Our children's program is age-appropriate and ballet based. The primary and secondary ballet class content focuses on movements complimentary to the dancer's abilities and interests. The program also includes introductions to tap, jazz, hip/hop, and modern dance.

### **Jeweled Ballet/Intensive Program, Pointe Work**

See separate section in the Handbook.

### **Tap Program**

Tap dance involves rhythmic use of the toe and heel of the foot. Standard time and syncopation/rhythm tap will be demonstrated and taught using upbeat, contemporary music and show tunes.

### **Musical Theatre Program**

Musical Theatre dance is movement key to progressing the plot of a stage show or musical work, paying homage to some of the greatest American musical theatre pieces and choreographers.

### **Poms Program**

The ballet students in our Poms classes work on skills to enhance their jazz dance ability for tricks and stunts required when auditioning for various junior high and high school dance or poms squads. The poms student must be enrolled in a ballet class to participate.

### **Jazz Program**

Through our continuing jazz program, the dancers explore rhythmic movement through space with fluidity and grace. The Fosse Jazz program emphasizes the unique dance style of Bob Fosse, punctuating hand and hip movements.

### **Modern Dance Program**

The modern program is based on the techniques of Lester Horton and Martha Graham. The dancers explore concepts such as, but not limited to, contract/release, center control, floor work, and opposition.

### **Contemporary Dance Program**

Contemporary dance combines the disciplines of ballet, modern, and jazz technique to create extraordinary choreography that could be lyrical in nature, or just substance. A strong ballet background that includes technique class twice a week is required to participate in this program.

### **Dance Therapy**

Dance Therapy is a movement program for young people with special needs. This unique class, taught by a Special Education Teacher, incorporates music and props for a fun, learning experience.

## **DANCE IMAGES**

## **STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT 2013-14**

As a Jewel Dancer, I am prepared to enroll and attend all required classes. I agree to the absentee policy of no more than three per class from September through December, and no more than three per class from January through May.

For any student who has three or less absences overall from January through May, he or she will receive a scholarship to one of our Summer Intensives. If I cannot fulfill this commitment, **I agree to step down a level of study**, as my continued absence is difficult for my teacher, my fellow classmates, but most importantly, my well being and training.

In addition, if I fail to comply with the dress code on a given day or,

I am tardy or absent without prior notification,  
I agree to sit and observe class and not participate.

Once again, this is for my well-being,  
as well as the potential disruption to a class.

Most importantly, I understand I have been selected to participate in a level of study based on my current commitment and talent.

However, this may change at the discretion of my instructor and the director.

**After receiving notification, I may be asked to move up a level,  
or step down, based on my continued commitment or lack thereof.**

**STUDENT SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_