Not Your Ordinary Dancers – FAQ’s

These are questions that we are frequently asked, if you have other questions please let us know

Do you offer classes for preschoolers and can they be in the recital?

Yes! We offer classes starting at 2.5 years (students do not need to be potty trained). We offer Intro to Ballet/Creative Movement and Tiny Tumblers to this age group. Students are introduced to basic dance skills, music, listening and classroom skills. In Tiny Tumblers basic tumbling skills are also introduced. Our teachers use a variety of creative teaching methods and props with this age group. Classes for this age are offered in a studio where there are viewing windows; teachers will also occasionally invite parents in at the end of the class to see what they are working on.

If your pre-school age child is a bit reluctant to go into class without you the teacher will work with you and your child on the best solution to have the child join the class. In some cases this may take a couple weeks, we have a high success rate in getting children to eventually fully join the class. In no case would a child ever be forced into class without their parent if they uncomfortable with that, dance should be a fun experience!

Students in our pre-school classes have the opportunity to show their family what they have been working on at our Winter Showcase and our Spring Recital.

Are students required to wear specific clothing to class?

Our Pre-School Classes are designed to promote learning in a fun and creative environment and we encourage our students to show us their personalities with their dance outfits. Our pre-school students can wear any color dance outfit they wish. If a child doesn’t like a certain color we certainly wouldn’t want to force them to wear that color week after week. Hair should be pulled off the face but in whatever style you chose (ponytail, clipped back, etc). An occasional tiara, a Cinderella costume and other assorted fun accessories have also been known to show up our pre-school classes 😊

In all of our other classes students should wear dance clothes that allow them freedom to participate in class and hair should be pulled back off the face.

Our Ballet Technique classes do require traditional ballet clothing which is black leotard, pink tights, black skirt optional and hair in a bun.

What happens if my child misses class, can they make up the class and can they still be in the recital?

We understand that children get sick, you might have required school activities, etc. and that occasionally your child might miss class. Your child can take any other class that is their age/level as a make-up. There is no requirement that your child not miss classes in order to be in the recital. If your child needs some extra practice for their recital dance our teachers will gladly make a video of the dance for you to take home.
Do you offer “real” ballet classes?

Yes, we offer a comprehensive ballet program where children can progress from pre-ballet classes to our Advanced Pre-Professional level ballet and pointe classes. Our primary ballet teachers have extensive ballet training and are former professional ballet soloists. Students have the choice of staying in our ballet basics program and performing a ballet recital dance or at starting at age 7 they can move into our ballet technique classes where they can progress through ballet technique classes with the potential opportunity to participate in our yearly classical ballet production which is featured in our annual spring recital.

Our comprehensive ballet program has produced students who each summer are accepted at exclusive summer intensives including the Bolshoi Ballet, Gelsey Kirkland, Walnut Hill, Joffrey Ballet, The Rock School, Princeton Ballet, Colorado Ballet and ABT. Several of our students have also been offered year round trainee positions in the Joffrey Ballet and the Joffrey Jazz & Contemporary program.

We have heard you are a competition school, are you anything like “Dance Mom’s” on TV?

We do offer competition team classes to our students who love to perform and are looking for more performance opportunities beyond our annual recitals. We are not like “Dance Mom’s”, the show bends reality quite a bit and we honestly aren’t aware of any local area school that has a competition team that is run like the television show 😊 We are constantly amazed each week at what they dream up!

The same teachers that teach our recreational classes teach our competition classes; our competition students just take more classes weekly than the typical recreational student. The majority of our competition students tend to be students who excel in academics, are heavily involved in school activities and want to take dance to the next level in a team environment.

Unlike the television show our teams do don’t learn new dances each week and they don’t get new costumes each week and we don’t have a pyramid. We also don’t select students for solo/duo/trio’s, they sign up for them. Our students don’t compete against other, they compete as a team. As team they learn to work together for a common goal. To the disappointment of our competition students we don’t have a studio bus that drives us to competitions 😊. We also don’t have crazy teachers and we don’t have drama moms. Quite honestly our dance parents are very quiet and restrained compared to some of the other sports parents we have encountered.

We also offer a full range of recreational and ballet technique classes for all ages of students who want to train at a higher level but do not want to compete. We aren’t just a “competition school” but a dance studio that offers a full range of quality dance training with options for what works for your child and your family.

If you would like to learn more about any of programs (recreational, ballet technique or competition) please let us know.

Community Involvement

NYOD is heavily involved in the community and since we opened in 1999 each October our students “Paint the Studio” Pink in support of breast cancer research. We’ve held benefit auctions, dance-a-thon’s, dinners, Halloween parties all to benefit the “Dancers Care Foundation”. To date we have raise over $30,000 which has been donated to the Weill Cornell for cancer research. Our entire studio gets involved in this effort each year; we hope you can join us this year!