

WELCOME

Welcome to a new year of dance at the Dora Ritter Wellness Center. We believe that dance can enhance everyone's life, and we love to share this philosophy with our students.

The Wellness Center provides a safe, comfortable, and fun learning environment. We teach proper terminology, posture, alignment, self-confidence, and the appreciation of a variety of dance disciplines and music styles.

If at anytime you have a question, concern, or comment do not hesitate to contact us. The only way we can grow is by communication.

We hope this handbook is helpful to you throughout the year.

DRWC Staff

DRESS CODE FOR CLASSES

HAIR

Hair should be put up, out of the dancers face. If you are unable to put your hair up secure it back as much as possible (clips or headbands). Be sure that it will stay up for the entire class. Always have extra hair ties in your dance bag for this purpose.

CLOTHING

Ballet: leotard, tights/socks and an optional dance skirt are encouraged; leggings and a tighter shirt are acceptable.

Jazz and Tap: dance shorts or dance pants may be worn with a leotard or tight fitting dance top. NO oversized clothing and all pants must be hemmed off the floor. *Absolutely no blue jeans!* This is for your safety and your ability to move. If it has a zipper it is not ok.

SHOES

PS & K : Pink **Leather** Ballet Slippers, Tan Taps (Black are okay)

K / Combo : Pink **Leather** Ballet Slippers, Tan Taps (Black are okay), Black Jazz shoes (slip on preferred)

Color Teams: Pink Leather Ballet Slippers, Black Jazz shoes, Tan Tap shoes

Do **NOT** buy any dance shoes prior to coming to shoe day. We have a lot of shoes available for free. We are in the process of transitioning to all tan tap shoes. If you need to purchase tap shoes please get tan ones. I will be able to order shoes, look to the Facebook group for pricing.

Please put your child's name on the inside of all their dance shoes.

What to put in your child's dance bag:

All dance Shoes

Hair brush

Extra thin Socks.

Hair bands

STUDENT RULES

+No chewing gum, candy, food or drinks on dance floor. With the exception of water. Any food or drink needs to stay on the perimeter of the dance room with caps tightly on bottles at all times.

+Students must clean up after themselves in the dance room. No food or debris should be left behind for the next class to deal with.

+ALWAYS wear proper foot and dance attire to class.

+Wear your hair appropriately for dance class.

+Leave ALL street shoes, book bags etc in hallway **against** the wall.

+No talking after class begins.

+Teachers and assistants are the only ones to make corrections.

+Ask permission to leave the classroom.

+Do not sit during class unless asked to.

+Speak respectfully to teachers and one another.

+Be positive in attitudes and responses.

+NO RUNNING!

+All cell phones need to be set to silent and are not to be used during class unless the teacher gives permission. If it gets out of control I will collect phones at the beginning of class. The same goes for smart watches.

+Regular attendance is necessary to assure progression in your dancing. Excessive absences make it difficult for a class to accomplish positioning and transitions. You may lose your position in the dance by excessive absences. If you need to miss a class please inform your teacher as soon as possible.

+When you are absent we do not re-teach the lesson you missed.

+Label ALL your belongings.

+Penalties for infractions=time out, push-ups, classroom chores and/or you may lose your position in a dance.

REHEARSALS AND RECITAL

Recital is optional for all students. Please inform your teacher if you or your dancer will not be performing in the recital by **November 1st**.

Costume costs are kept as low as possible. Prices range from \$65 - \$120+ depending on the type of class and number of dances/costumes. All costume and accessories charges are nonrefundable.

Recital pictures are optional to purchase. However students want their entire class in their photo so we encourage all to attend. More info will follow in your recital packet. (Recital packets come out in late spring)

Rehearsals for the recital are mandatory. If you are not at rehearsal you will not know exactly where to stand for your dance. More information will follow in your recital packet.

Canoe Fest Performance is highly encouraged for all dancers to attend. It allows the dancers to perform one last time and is a very different and fun atmosphere from the recital. Typically we perform Saturday evening of Canoe Fest

BITS AND PIECES

+In order to maintain safety, all dancers are instructed to wait inside and upstairs for their ride. If your child has your permission to meet you somewhere else please let me know at the beginning of the year. Please reinforce that when you drop off your dancer.

+Do not wear your dance shoes outside.

+**Keep noise in the hallway to a minimum**, if noise gets out of hand parents will be asked to wait with their child until class starts.

+Please limit absences to illnesses. Inform teacher of other necessary absences that may arise.

+Cell phones and any other electronic devices must be turned to silent in the dance area. **This includes all observers at watch week.**

+**If school is out for the day due to a holiday we still have dance unless noted on the Calendar.**

CANCELATIONS

If the Darlington School district is canceled due to weather dance is also canceled. All other cancellations will be posted on Facebook, if you are not regularly on

Facebook/messenger please let me know your preference for communication. One snow day has been built into the dance schedule. If your class is canceled more than once due to weather you will have make-up classes. Any class canceled due to teachers illness will be made up. We will try to ensure that everyone is contacted but please when in doubt reach out to Abby. In the event of a mid day cancellation I will try to ensure everyone is made aware ASAP, I will call the school and message groups. If you need a text please let me know. I will have a list of specific people with this need.

Miss Abby's Cell Phone: (815)440-3465

Web site: www.darlingtonwi.org/Wellness_Dance

Email address: drwcdance@gmail.com

Facebook Group Page: DRWC Dance

Dance Calendar 2025-2026

August Prepare for Registration. Use the online form prior to arrival. Try on those dance shoes. Bring shoes you would like to donate.	September 3 rd Registration 5-7pm 10 th Shoe day – 4-? By appointment, please contact Miss Abby by 6pm on the 9 th to setup a time. 15 All Classes Begin 29-4 Wear Old Dance Costume to Class
October 27-30 Wear your Halloween Costume (Must be able to dance in costume)	November 3-6 Pajama Week 17-20 Watch Week 26-27 No Classes (There is class Monday)
December 15-18 Dress for the Holidays (wear your fun holiday gear) 22-1 Winter Break	January 5 Classes Resume 19-23 Crazy Week (must be able to move in whatever they wear)
February 9-13 Dress for the Holiday or Team Week (wear your favorite teams colors)	March 2-5 Watch Week 11-16 Wear Green to Class
April 1-7 Spring Break 20-23 Pajama/Pillow Fight Week *bring your pillow to class*	May Pictures, Rehearsal and Recital are all TBA. Date will not be posted until 2026 once we have confirmed the schools availability. Tentative recital dates are the 15 th and 16 th .
June 10 Practice for Canoe Fest* Times TBA 13 Canoe Fest Performance *	July Enjoy your Summer. See you next year.

*Tentative dates AND times

*All Costumes, Jammies, etc. must allow dancer to move freely, with leotards or shorts under them.

*Always abide by the hair and dress code.

* Dates may change. You will be informed of any changes as soon as they occur.

***If Darlington School District is closed due to weather conditions we will not hold classes that day.**