

the Dance Factory

November 2023 Newsletter

Please keep this newsletter in a safe place. It contains important information.

Dear Dance Factory Families,

We hope everybody has been enjoying their start to the year! Thank you for continuing to dance with us; we love seeing everybody's smiling faces in the studio!

This newsletter contains important information about upcoming events this year. **Please be sure to read and hold on to this packet as we have many events and important dates coming up.**

Dance Factory Calendar 2023-2024

STUDIO CLOSED:	Nov. 22 nd -26 th	Thanksgiving
Holiday Observation:	Monday, December 11 th – Saturday, December 16 th	<i>(details on page 2)</i>
STUDIO CLOSED:	Dec. 17 th – Jan. 1 st	Happy Holidays! <i>(Classes resume January 2nd)</i>
Audition Workshop:	Saturday, January 6 th	@ 2-4pm <i>(Registration required; details on page 5)</i>
Showstopper Auditions:	Sunday, January 7 th	<i>(details on page 4-5)</i>
STUDIO CLOSED:	Monday, January 15 th	MLK Day Observance
STUDIO CLOSED:	April 1 st – April 7 th	Happy Spring! <i>(Classes resume April 8th)</i>
Picture Day:	Sunday, May 19 th	
STUDIO CLOSED:	May 25 th – May 27 th	Memorial Day <i>(no regular classes)</i>
Regular Class (at Studio):	Monday, June 3 rd	
Dress Rehearsal (Patriots Theater):	June 5 th – June 7 th	<i>(no regular classes at the studio this week)</i>
Recital (Patriots Theater):	Saturday, June 8 th	
Recital Video/Awards Week:	Monday, June 10 th – Saturday, June 15 th	

2024-2025 Class Placement Recommendations (sent by e-mail): June 19, 2024

2024-2025 Class Registration (Returning Students): Thursday, June 20, 2024: 8-11 AM & 5-7 PM

2024-2025 Open House Registration: Friday, June 21, 2024: 5-7pm

Mark your calendars!

• **Intensive Program Dancers – Dancers in the Intensive Program are required to take at least 1 week of a Summer Dance Intensive.**

- o June 24-27, 2024: Summer Intensive Camp Week 1 Option
- o August 26-29, 2024: Summer Intensive Camp Week 2 Option

***The Dance Factory Intensive Program** is a recommendation-only program developed for students looking for a more serious and rigorous dance program. It is a curriculum-based program designed for the dedicated dance student. Students are placed into class levels based on experience, technique, and skill. Students are required to take a minimum number of classes per week including ballet classes. Students must comply with the course requirements specific to each level.

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Holiday Observation (December 11th – 16th)

At the studio during regular class time

Parents are invited into the studio to view their dancer's progress. The dancers work very hard to prepare for this day, please be generous with your applause and don't forget your camera! This will be a fun day for everyone so please try to attend.



This year we will be hosting a Holiday Drive in support of Safe+Sound Somerset (<https://safe-sound.org/>). Gift cards for Amazon. Walmart. Target. ShopRite. and Visa (any amount) will be accepted in our tuition box during Holiday Observation week.

We thank you in advance for your help and support in making the holiday season special for the clients of Safe+Sound Somerset. Because of you and your generosity, survivors of domestic abuse and their families can look forward to a brighter holiday season.

New Merch Alert! We will be selling brand-new Dance Factory sweatpants and tank tops! Get yours during Holiday Observation week!



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The Dance Factory Recital 2024

The finale for our dance season will culminate with our end of the year recital. Dance is a performing art and the recital gives the dancer the opportunity to show off their year of hard work. **The Recital will be held on Saturday, June 8th at the Trenton War Memorial Patriots Theater (Trenton, NJ).** There will be 2 shows: 1pm and 5pm. Each class will perform once in one show.

Dress Rehearsal at the Theater is June 5th – June 7th. Preparations are underway and details on the Recital, Dress Rehearsal dates/times and the upcoming schedule of events will be available within the coming months.

If you know of any school-related conflicts on the 5th, 6th, or 7th of June, please let us know before April 1st (dancefactory1@gmail.com).

Costume/Recital Fee

The costume/recital fee is \$150 per dance class. The costume/recital fee includes a costume with accessories, theater rental, stage hands, backstage help, lighting design, insurance, NJ state trooper security at all times, props, scenery, and the show programs.

COSTUMES

Starting November 13th, we will be measuring the dancers during class for their recital costume.

TICKETS

Each family will receive 5 recital tickets per dancer that are redeemable for either show time but **can only be used once**. Dancers will not need a ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased at \$20/ticket.

HALF OF THE RECITAL FEE IS DUE DECEMBER 15TH. This is **non-refundable** and will be reflected in your December invoice. The costume companies will not allow us to cancel orders after they have been placed and processed. The second half of the recital fee will be due on January 15th.

All accounts are automatically charged a recital fee per class unless you notify us by e-mail prior to December 15th that your dancer is not participating. If you will not be participating in the recital, you must let us know by e-mail (dancefactory1@gmail.com) by December 15th.

Other than appropriate recital tights and dance shoes, you should not have any other expenses. Each class will perform one dance and need only one costume. All accounts must be paid in full to receive your costume. For Pre-school and Kindergarten classes the teacher will decide which style is performed based on class ability.

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Performance Opportunities

Our dance programs are performance-based rather than competition-based. In addition to our holiday observation program in December and our recital in June, we continue to offer the following opportunities for our dancers to perform:

The Dance Factory Summer Tour Team 2024 will take place from July 22th- July 26th. Dancers will rehearse at the studio from Monday through Thursday and perform at local nursing homes, Fal-Rooney Camp, and the Somerset Patriots Game on Friday! **All dancers currently in 2nd grade or older (3rd grade in 2024-2025) and currently taking a Jazz class are eligible to participate.**

[Click here to access the Summer Tour Team registration form.](#)



The Showstopper Dance Company is a team of high-caliber, well-respected performers from the Dance Factory Intensive Program*. Showstoppers perform in both recital shows! We will hold auditions on January 7th, 2024 and an Audition Workshop will be offered on January 6th (audition and workshop information can be found below).

***The following Intensive Classes are eligible to audition for the 2024 Showstopper Dance Company— Jazz Classes: Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm, Wednesday 8:15-9:15pm, and Friday 4:30-5:30pm; Tap Classes: Tuesday 8:30-9:15pm and Thursday 7:45-8:30pm; Funk Classes: Tuesday 4:45-5:30pm, Wednesday 3:45-4:30pm, Thursday 4:45-5:30pm, and Friday 3:45-4:30pm**

[Please click here to view the sample Showstoppers contract. This document contains important information, including dates and times, dancer requirements, and Showstopper Mom requirements.](#)

Please send us a letter via email by December 20th if there are any conflicts you may have during the weekends of April through June 2024. Only mandatory school functions will be considered—family vacations will not be considered. Conflicts will be reviewed but are not guaranteed.

There will be no rehearsals on the following dates: 5/12, 5/25, 5/27

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Audition Workshop – Saturday, January 6th (2-4pm)

Don't miss out on this opportunity! Brush up on your performance skills. This workshop will be Jazz-based.

Workshop Cost = \$35; Checks (payable to Kelly McDermott) can be dropped in the waiting room tuition boxes or PayPal to keliack11106@aol.com or Venmo to @Kelly-Stretch

Advanced registration for Audition Workshop required by Jan. 4th using sign up link:

<https://forms.gle/YTcWpazUoLFXNnAV8>

Showstoppers Auditions – Sunday, January 7th

Showstoppers Auditions Schedule: Jazz: 1:00-2:30pm; **Hip-Hop:** 2:45-3:45pm; **Tap:** 4:00-4:45pm

***The following Intensive Classes are eligible to audition for the 2024 Showstopper Dance Company—**

Jazz Classes: Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm, Wednesday 8:15-9:15pm, and Friday 4:30-5:30pm; **Tap Classes:** Tuesday 8:30-9:15pm and Thursday 7:45-8:30pm; **Funk Classes:** Tuesday 4:45-5:30pm, Wednesday 3:45-4:30pm, Thursday 4:45-5:30pm, and Friday 3:45-4:30pm



Audition Cost: We will be accepting gift cards in support of Safe+Sound Somerset (<https://safe-sound.org/>). Gift cards for Amazon, Walmart, Target, ShopRite, and Visa (any amount) will be accepted in our tuition box.

Advanced registration for Showstoppers auditions required by Jan. 5th using sign up link:

<https://forms.gle/GefS6L14kvkx9xKZ9>

The Dance Factory on Social Media

We encourage our dancers and families to follow the official Dance Factory Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/thedancefactory1>) and Instagram ([@thedancefactoryinsta](https://www.instagram.com/thedancefactoryinsta)) pages and to like our posts, photos and videos! We also use social media to post studio announcements, updates, and closures in case of inclement weather.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Keep Dancing!

Miss Kelly and the Dance Factory Instructors