



Student and Parent Handbook  
2023-2024

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*Ephesians 2:10*

*“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,  
so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.”*

## Mission Statement

***To provide excellence in dance education that is rooted and grounded in Christ's love, training both the body and the spirit for glory of the Lord!***

His Masterpiece Dance is a Christ-centered dance school in Boardman, Ohio offering quality, individualized dance training. We exist to not only train up dancers who are technically skilled but to encourage and mentor them in their walk with Jesus.

Our mission is best expressed by 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 where Paul likens our need for spiritual discipline and training to that of an athlete preparing for a race. We know that in whatever we do here on earth, we are ultimately focused on the heavenly prize that awaits. So let's run (and dance) to win!

But our mission doesn't stop there! We are passionate about taking dance outside of our four walls and into our communities to spread the Good News and love of Jesus through outreach and ministry opportunities.

Ephesians 2:10 lays out the foundational beliefs and mission of His Masterpiece Dance:

- 1. We are created by God, unique and valued by our Creator.**
  - A masterpiece is defined as “a work of outstanding artistry, skill, or workmanship.”
  - We find joy in cultivating the unique gifts and talents of every student and helping both our students and audience members discover their great value in Jesus.
- 2. It is by faith in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection, that we are saved.**
  - Worship is the overflow of our grateful hearts for Christ's immeasurable sacrifice.
  - We train our students in the technical elements of dance in order to use dance as a powerful expression of praise and worship to our King.
- 3. God has a specific plan and purpose for every person's life.**
  - As followers of Christ, our highest calling is to love God and share the Good News of the gospel with as many as will receive it.
  - We take this Good News to our community in the form of dance and drama to spread His love and utilize the gifts He has given to us.

## School Culture

Love and respect are key to developing and maintaining a healthy learning environment and culture at His Masterpiece Dance. Our instructors work hard to both exhibit and instill these values during every class so that each student feels safe, valued, and loved. We also want our students to develop strong friendships with their classmates and learn how to encourage and celebrate each other without feeling the need to compete with one another.

His Masterpiece Dance has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying. Any observation of this type of behavior (including but not limited to physical, verbal, social, and cyber bullying) will be dealt with immediately and at the discretion of the director.

## What to Expect

Simply stated, your child will receive solid, technical dance training rooted in the care and compassion of Christ's love at every class. Dance is a discipline and requires focus and attention to detail. However, dance training should also be fun! So don't be surprised when you hear ripples of laughter coming from the studio.

Depending on the day, class may begin or end with a few minutes of worship where students are encouraged to express themselves through improvisational dance and movement.

We believe in the importance of gentle hands-on training and corrections during instruction. As movements are learned and practiced, students develop what is called "muscle memory." It is imperative that dancers practice movements with the correct execution and technique so that their bodies "memorize" the feeling and action of performing the movement correctly. This is also necessary for the health and safety of dancers' bodies and joints as they learn new steps. An example of a hands-on correction might be a light touch on the shoulders to remind a dancer to drop her shoulders away from her ears while balancing. If you have questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to ask.

## Dance Studio & Common Area Rules

Please review the following studio rules to keep our space clean and safe for all dancers:

1. No street shoes in the dance studio.
2. Only water is permitted in the studio - no gum or food is allowed.
3. Please do not touch the mirrors or lean against them.
4. Ballet barres are only to be used with the teacher's permission and never to be used as a jungle gym. Please refrain from hanging or swinging on the barres.
5. No cell phones are to be used during class. All electronics should remain on silent with a parent or secured in a dance bag.
6. Dance bags are permitted in the studio but must be placed in the cubbies or neatly against the designated wall so as not to cause any trip hazards.

Please review the following common area rules:

1. We are blessed to be sharing space with Trinity Fellowship Church. Please be respectful of the church's property and remain only in the designated areas - waiting area, restrooms, and studio room. Please do not wander around the building.
2. Please be respectful of others while waiting and refrain from using the volume on any electronic devices.
3. Keep our common areas neat and tidy.
  - Food should be eaten at the tables in the cafe area and garbage disposed of properly.
  - Please leave the space and furniture as you found it.
4. **Children and siblings in the waiting areas must be closely watched by a parent or guardian at all times.**
  - Running, rough play, and throwing toys/balls is strictly prohibited.
  - This is first and foremost a church building - please help us to maintain a calm and quiet space for all.
5. The entrance doors will be attended by a staff member or parent volunteer. Please do not prop the doors open at any time.

## Attendance

Please arrive at the studio at least 5-10 minutes before the start of your child's scheduled class. This will allow time for putting on dance shoes and taking a bathroom break BEFORE class begins.

The studio will open 15 minutes prior to the first scheduled class of the day. Students under the age of 10 must remain with a parent or guardian until the start of their scheduled class. Parents are expected to pick their children up within 15 minutes of the end of their class. In case of emergency or if you will be late picking up your child, please call 330-398-3368 and leave a message informing the instructor.

Consistent weekly attendance is key to your child's progress. Each class builds upon the next, and frequent absences will put your child behind in their technical advancement and in learning choreography.

If your child is sick or a scheduling conflict arises, please call the studio to inform the instructor as soon as possible. When students are absent, classes are live-streamed on our BAND app and available for viewing for 30 days. Full monthly tuition is still required.

If an illness or situation requires an extended leave of absence, accommodations will be made per the discretion of the instructor.

## Weather/Cancelled Classes

Please check the BAND app and/or social media accounts (Instagram and Facebook) for notification of cancelled classes due to unsafe weather conditions or studio closure due to instructor illness.

Local school cancellations may not necessarily mean classes are cancelled as weather conditions may improve as the day progresses. Cancellations will be posted at least 2 hours prior to the class start time.

If a class is cancelled due to weather, instructor illness, or space scheduling conflict, a makeup lesson will be scheduled for another day or at a different time.

## Holiday Studio Closures:

9/4	Labor Day
9/30	Closed due to family wedding
11/22 - 11/26	Thanksgiving Break
12/23 - 1/2	Christmas & New Year's Break
3/29 - 4/5	Easter Break
5/27	Memorial Day

## Class Placement and Observations

Class placements are dependent upon several factors including but not limited to age, maturity, experience, and/or technical ability. Within the first several weeks of instruction, if the instructor feels that your child would benefit from a different level, a recommendation will be made to move your child into a different class placement. Moving levels (whether up or down), will be to the benefit of your child to ensure that he/she is properly challenged and engaged in the coursework.

Parents/Guardians are not permitted in the studio during classes and rehearsals. Dance requires a tremendous amount of focus and concentration, and limiting distractions in the studio is necessary. \*There will, however, be 2 scheduled observation weeks throughout the year in which parents/guardians will be invited into the studio to observe their child's progress.

**Fall Observation:** Week of November 13-18, 2023

**Spring Observation:** Week of March 18-23, 2024

## Class Descriptions

\*Ages listed are only for reference - determination of readiness for the class is at the discretion of the instructor. Please discuss your child's options with the instructor.

**Creative Movement** (ages 3-6) - Introduces students to basic dance and movement skills in an environment of creative exploration and play. Age and developmentally-appropriate activities for young movers are based in the elements of dance. Students develop creativity and self-expression while learning body control and classroom etiquette.

**Ballet** (ages 5+) - A foundational study for most all forms of dance. Students learn the techniques and traditions of the Russian (Vaganova) style of classical ballet through exercises at the barre and center floor. French terminology and movement vocabulary are emphasized along with anatomical and kinesiological discussions aiding in the proper execution of movements. Different levels (1-4) are offered depending upon age and technique level.

**Pointe** (ages 13+) - For advanced dancers at the discretion of the instructor. Dancing en pointe requires several years of technical ballet training in order to develop the physical strength, musculature, and balance to safely execute movements on the tips of one's toes. Classes focus on learning proper body placement and carriage while executing steps and combinations at the barre and center floor.

**Modern** (ages 9+) - A form of dance that grew out of a movement to return dance to a more "natural" state rather than the "forced" positions of ballet. Students will learn various styles based on the techniques of modern dance pioneers such as Limón, Horton, and Graham. Emphasis is on floor work, manipulation of the spine and torso, and the give and take relationship with gravity. Different levels are offered depending upon age and technique level.

**Jazz** (ages 6+) - A highly stylized and energetic form of dance that finds its early roots in the African dance aesthetic while borrowing much of its basic movement vocabulary from ballet. Emphasis is on isolations of body parts and stylized variations of leaps, jumps, and turns. Different levels are offered depending upon age and technique level.

## Dress Code

Please review the following dress code for each class that you and/or your child is registered for. A standard dress code allows dancers to move freely during class while providing the teacher with an unobstructed view of the student's alignment and body placement.

**Hair:** For all classes, hair and bangs should be pulled back away from the face and secured tightly in a traditional ballet bun or French twist style. If you need a quick tutorial, please ask!

### **Creative Movement 1 & 2, Ballet 1A, Ballet 1B:**

Leotard (black or light pink)

Pink transitional ballet tights

Full-sole pink ballet slippers (leather or canvas)

*Optional:* pull-on elastic waist ballet skirt (no tutus, please)

### **Ballet 1C, Ballet 2, Ballet 3:**

Leotard (black)

Pink transitional ballet tights

Split-sole pink ballet slippers (leather or canvas)

*Optional:* pull-on elastic waist ballet skirt or wrap-style ballet skirt

### **Modern:**

Leotard (black or solid, dark-colored)

Dark-colored solid leggings, form-fitting athletic capris, or longer-length bike shorts

Bare feet

### **Jazz:**

Leotard (black or solid, dark-colored)

Dark-colored solid leggings, form-fitting athletic capris, or longer-length bike shorts

Tan jazz shoes

### **Boys:**

White fitted t-shirt

Black athletic pants or shorts \*with appropriate undergarments

**For Jazz:** Black jazz shoes

**For CM and Ballet:** Black ballet slippers

\*Male dancers (teens and up) wear specialized underwear called a "dance belt" - available at dance supply stores

### **Adult Ballet:**

Leotard OR form-fitting top

Pink or black ballet tights OR dark-colored solid athletic leggings

Split-sole pink ballet slippers (leather or canvas)

*Optional:* ballet skirt, long-sleeve shirt tied around waist

### **Note:**

1. Please choose dancewear that is modest and offers appropriate support and coverage.
2. Please wear warmups over your dance attire when entering and exiting the building. There may be other events going on elsewhere in the building during class time.

## Tuition

Tuition rates are based upon class length:

Class Length	Classes Offered	Monthly Tuition
45 minutes	Creative Movement 1 & 2	\$47
1 hour	Ballet 1 & 2, Modern, Jazz	\$54
1.5 hours	Ballet 3	\$62

- Full monthly tuition is due the first week of every month, September - May.
- “Monthly tuition” represents the cost of 4 classes, which will be paid in 9 monthly installments from September through May. Payment will be the same each month.
  - *With the exception of the following:*
    - **Monday & Saturday classes** - May’s monthly tuition payment will deduct the cost of 2 classes because these classes will meet a total of 34 times during this season.
    - All other classes will pay a full May monthly tuition as they will meet a total of 36 times this season.
- Payments received after the 15th of each month are considered late and will incur a \$10 late fee charge. Failure to submit full payment by the 15th will result in your child being unable to participate in classes until the balance is paid in full.
- We accept cash, credit/debit card, or check made out to His Masterpiece Dance LLC.

Tuition discounts are offered for taking multiple classes during the week or for multiple siblings from the same family:

1st class (longest class) = full price  
2nd class (or child) = \$10 discount on monthly rate  
3rd class (or child) = \$15 discount on monthly rate  
4th class (or child) = \$20 discount on monthly rate

## Registration Fee

At the start of each fall session, there is a one-time fee due upon registering for classes:

\$10 for one child  
\$15 for a family

## Performance and Ministry Opportunities

Each student will have the opportunity to perform in our annual recital, which will take place in June. This is a time for students to not only share what they have been learning all season but also a time to glorify the Lord through dance!

You can expect a joyous celebration that we hope the audience will be both blessed and moved by. Music selections will always be family friendly and may include genres such as classical, clean mainstream, and Christian music.

As our school grows, we plan to branch out into our community, taking dance and Jesus into churches, parks, parking lots, and anywhere there are people willing to watch and receive the message of hope that we bring. We want our dancers to grow in their boldness and faith as they not only share Jesus through dance but also prayer and ministering to our audience members.

## Costumes

Costumes will be chosen with care by the instructors for each dance performance piece. These costumes will be modest and age-appropriate (and of course, cute!). Prices will vary depending on the style and size of the costume, but we will always strive to keep the prices affordable.

## Media

Parents will be asked to sign a Media Release at the start of the year, giving His Masterpiece Dance LLC and its contracted associates permission to photograph or video record their child for promotional, marketing, and/or archival purposes. The image or likeness of oneself or one's child may be used in marketing and promotional materials including but not limited to photographs and videos on printed materials and digital media such as flyers, banners, websites, emails, media releases, and social media outlets. Names of students will never be associated with their images.

Taking photos and videos during classes and rehearsals is strictly prohibited due to privacy and intellectual property rights, unless the instructor has given you permission to do so.

If you want to snap a picture of your child in his/her dance outfit before or after class, that is absolutely encouraged! However, any photos that include other students must not be posted to any social media platforms without the consent of every parent whose child appears in the photo. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

## Questions?

Please do not hesitate to reach out regarding any potential questions or concerns. You can call the studio at 330-398-3368 or send an email to [info@hismasterpiecedance.com](mailto:info@hismasterpiecedance.com)