



Preprofessional Handbook

We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service, along with an underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this handbook to offer our students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the dancers in the Preprofessional program.

Why an adjudication?

This class will focus on IDA's curriculum and technique. International Dance Acclaim (IDA) is a performance-based ballet curriculum, not an exam or competition but an adjudicated performance opportunity creating a positive experience for every child. Every student learns and performs choreographed exercises as well as a solo dance or variation. All students receive a medal and certificate celebrating their performance. An adjudication is held for accountability and to maintain a high standard of technique and commitment.

What is Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP)?

The YAGP supports and develops world-class dancers, ages 9-19, of all economic, ethnic, and geographic backgrounds by providing scholarship auditions, performance and education opportunities, and by serving as the global network of dance, connecting students, teachers, schools, dance companies, dancers, and audiences. It is a ballet competition.

YAGP reaches over 10,000 dance students annually by holding workshops, scholarship auditions, master classes and audition classes in 25 U.S cities and 8 international locations.

REQUIREMENTS:

Preprofessional 2

- Must have 4+ years of ballet training.
- Must have 2+ years of pointe training.
- Must be enrolled in Powerdance 2.
- Student must be enrolled in 4 hours of ballet/pointe technique per week.
- There will be up to 5 master classes required.
- Adjudication is mandatory.
- Competition is optional.

Preprofessional 1/Minis

- Must be recommended by teacher.
- Must be enrolled in 2 ballet classes per week (leveled ballet & preprofessional).
- There is a minimum age of 6 years old.
- Must be enrolled in Powerdance (optional for minis).
- There will be up to 5 master classes required.
- Adjudication is mandatory.
- Competition is optional.

FOR OUR DANCERS:

Congratulations! You joined the preprofessional program. The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals, and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal, or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Being a member of the preprofessional program is a privilege that dancers and their parents must appreciate and respect. Participation in the program is restricted to dancers who are ready to make achieving their personal best a priority.

FOR THE PARENTS: “WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”:

We believe that children’s success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child’s dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty and students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the faculty—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child’s presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school’s educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child’s learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect among our faculty and our students’ parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Understanding Dance Education:

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your child financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that’s comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It’s important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

Dos and Don’ts:

Some parents may compare their child's progress or class placement to another child's. Watch for this behavior in your children as well and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments.

Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers. In addition, speaking negatively about your child's teachers, fellow students, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will imitate a parent's behavior with other adults or authority figures.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring behavior patterns through their example. Our school's faculty takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully toward their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education (such as progress or class placement), please discuss them with your child's teacher or the director. Talking only to other parents can lead to misinformation and confusion. Please contact the school office to set up an appointment; do not approach your child's teacher or the director between or during classes or make contact outside of the school.

If you do request a conference, please listen carefully to what your child's teachers have to say. They spend a significant amount of time with your child and offer expertise in the field of dance education.

Dress Code:

	Dance Attire
Ballet	Ballet Girls – Preprofessional minis are required to wear a raspberry leotard , ballet pink tights, and pink leather full sole ballet slipper. Preprofessional 1 are required to wear required gray leotard , ballet pink tights, and pink split sole ballet slipper. Preprofessional 2 are required to wear required plum leotard ballet pink tights, and pink leather split sole ballet slipper. Leotards will be ordered from Dance It Out. Ballet Boys – Boys are expected to wear black shorts or pants, white socks, black leather ballet shoes, white tank top or short sleeve shirt.

Staying Informed:

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all newsletters and other school information.

The newsletters and updates are emailed to you and posted on the Dance It Out website and Facebook page.

If you have any questions regarding the information distributed, we encourage you to contact the office at 434-757-1029.

We answer email on a daily basis, except on weekends. Feel free to email questions to the office at danceitoutstudios@gmail.com

Website

www.danceitoutva.com

We are constantly updating our website. News, important parent and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.

Facebook Page

“Like” the Dance It Out page on Facebook to receive daily updates on school events. Please invite your family and friends to “like” the school. Parents will also be invited into a Select Ensemble private Facebook page to keep current with events.

Please do not post questions on the school’s Facebook page. Instead, please email them directly to danceitoutstudios@gmail.com.

Cost of Adjudication:

The cost of the adjudication covers cost of judge’s travel, time, and other expenses. This is due by March 1, 2019.

Minis \$50
Level 1 \$100 (includes master class)
Level 2 \$100 (includes master class)

A uniform will be required for the performance. The money for the uniform will be due by March 15, 2018.

Prices of Adjudication Uniform

Minis: \$44 Level 1: \$44 Level 2: \$44

Appreciate the Critique:

Listen to each correction given, whether it’s directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers’ knowledge and experience. Personal assessments will be given in December, March, and May.

Master Classes:

Students in the preprofessional program are required to take up to five master classes. Cost of master classes range from \$30 to \$75 per class.

Youth America Grand Prix: This event will be in mid-February. Costume fees, travel, hotel fees, and competition fees are costs of this event. The competition fee for the YAGP is \$200. Private sessions to practice competition variation will be available for \$25 per half hour.

Adjudication Event:

Date & Location: The adjudication event will be in mid-May. The date and time to be announced. The event will take place at the Colonial Theatre.

Audience Etiquette

Enthusiastic applause is encouraged; however, it is never appropriate to scream out a child’s name or yell in any way. Children should not bring handheld electronic games or other devices with sounds and/or lights that could be a distraction for other audience members. Because we present a professional performance, we ask that everyone remain seated during the entire performance. If you do leave the auditorium during the show, you will be allowed back into the auditorium only between dances. This rule is

strictly enforced. Please do not create a disturbance with the auditorium ushers regarding this policy.

Children must remain seated for the entire performance. If you think they will have a hard time remaining seated during the performance, please do not bring them to the adjudication. Allowing children to run around or otherwise disrupt the performance is not fair to other audience members or those performing. Parents who bring infants to the performance should quickly exit the auditorium if the infant begins to cry or create a distraction for the audience.

The use of video or flash photography is strictly prohibited during the adjudication. It is important that you pass this policy on to your guests.

Judge Process

After all students have performed, we will line up in order. Each student will “ballet walk” to judge, curtsy to judge, thank the judge, walk in front of the awards table, stand in first or fifth position while holding the certificate in front of the body, and smile for a picture. After the picture, students will walk into a semicircle formation while everyone repeats the above process. We will take a group photo in the semi-circle formation. Please review this with your children.

A Final Note

WELCOME TO THE PREPROFESSIONAL PROGRAM!
We look forward to an exciting, rewarding season!

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS HANDBOOK FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Student's Name: _____

I, the parent/guardian of the above named, have read the handbook and understand all of the requirements in order for my dancer to continue participation as well as the ramifications if this contract is broken. I fully comply with all rules and regulations within this handbook. I also realize this is a team effort and I will be called upon to help in some way throughout the year with things that are within my capacity to help. I will

make every effort to do my share of assisting on behalf of my dancer. I understand I am required to be present for parent meetings or have someone present on my behalf.

Student's Printed Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Printed Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____