

## Dear Parents,

a letter from Rhee Gold

When it seems that dance is taking up too much time or costing too much money, I ask you to realize that dance gives your child much more than another costume or another trophy. The kids who dance are off the street and focused on an art form that can only make them better people. Usually they are very smart kids who understand what hard work and determination are all about. Through dance they learn skills that will get them into a good college or land that job that will make you burst with pride! But most important they are not the kids that we hear about on the news doing the things that shook us to the core. I say congratulations on being able to give these opportunities to your child!

*Here are some guidelines for the Student and how to get the most out of participation in your dance class. Just like any social or academic situation, there are certain rules of behavior that make it a positive experience. Listed in this brochure are those rules that are accepted worldwide in the field of dance.*



### *Registering for Dance Class*

Please adhere to the school rules and class attire. Attending a dance class with the proper attire, hair styles and shoes tells the Teacher that you are ready to participate in that class. Prompt payment for your class or classes allows the school to run efficiently.

### *Missing Class or Classes*

If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to attend class or classes, due to vacations, doctors appointment, etc., notify Dance Connection of the dates you will miss. If you become ill the day of your class, have someone call or email the school. You may schedule a make up class at this time.

### *Illness in Class and Breaks*

It does happen with Students that they come to class feeling fine and then in the course of the class become ill. If this happens, tell the Teachers right away so your needs can be taken care of immediately. In most cases there are no breaks for personal hygiene or refreshments. If absolutely necessary, you may ask to be excused from class.

Rhee Gold is the publisher of Dance Studio Life and GoldRush Magazine—magazines dedicated to quality dance education. He grew up in dance studios and later operated his own, performed and choreographed professionally, owned a leading dance competition, presided over national dance teaching organizations and founded Project Motivate to reinvigorate dance teachers for the long run. He also wrote the book, The Complete Guide to Teaching Dance (2004).



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## Talking in Class

Because class time is limited and valuable, talking in class is frowned upon. Teachers require the full attention of the Students. Students are always encouraged to ask questions of the Teacher that are dance related, but general conversation should be before or after class.

## Lateness for Class

Sometimes a Student will arrive late. When this occurs, make sure the person in charge of attendance sees you. Class will be in progress, and the Teacher will be busy with other Students. Students should ask permission to enter the classroom late. Habitually late Students interrupt class and cause distractions. If you're in class and someone comes in late, do not turn your attention away from the Teacher.

## Arrive on Time

Your dance class is part of a schedule of many classes at Dance Connection, and the school must follow a strict time frame for all classes. The Student should arrive at least 10 to 15 minutes before the class is scheduled. Arriving early allows the Student to clear his or her mind of outside interferences before entering class, as well as provide for a pre-warm up. Make sure that the class before yours has exited before you enter. Students should not enter the classroom without a Teacher or Assistant present.

## Leaving Class Early

If you need to leave a class earlier than dismissal time, tell your Teacher before the class starts.

## Classroom Etiquette

In most dance classes, the Teacher will divide the Students into small groups so each group will have a chance at performing the combinations of steps and allowing the Teacher to correct. While one group is performing, the waiting group should be quiet and attentive to the performing group. The Dancers on the floor have the right of way and the waiting group should not interfere with them. When the Student needs to re-tie shoes, do so in a quiet corner of the studio. When going across the floor for combinations or turns, be ready to go when it is your turn. Do not stop a dance combination midway across the floor. After your turn, walk around the outside walls of the room to return to the end of the line. Be aware of movement space, and do not intrude into the space of the other Students. Make sure you can see and hear the Teacher. Do not lean on, pull on or put elbows on the barre. Do not sit in class unless directed by the Teacher.

## Dancing Your Best in Class

Be aware and sensitive to any injuries you may have. Do not overstretch or otherwise stress injured body parts. Do not eat a heavy meal prior to taking class. Recommended snacks include fresh fruit, yogurt, dried fruit, nuts, etc. Do applaud your Teacher at the end of Jazz class and Tap class to show you enjoyed the class and as a sign of respect. Do bow and applaud your Teacher at the end of Ballet class to show you enjoyed the class and as a sign of respect. Participating in class improves a Student's vocabulary and technique. It sends a poor message if a Student yawns without covering his or her mouth or folds arms across his or her chest in class. Only water is allowed in the classrooms. There shall be absolutely no gum chewing, food or other drinks in class.

