



**Dear Dancer and Parents:**

Congratulations! You have been invited to be part of the **2018-19 Dance Connection Connectors**. You have been recommended by your teacher(s) because you demonstrated your ability to learn dance, perform, give your best effort at all times and have the aptitude for additional dance training.

Connectors are a non-competitive group of young dancers (ages 6-8) who wish to further their dance ability by participating in extra workshops/master classes as well as rehearse on a weekly basis in addition to their regular weekly classes. Although this is a non-competitive team, it is a big jump from most dancers' regular dance schedule and requires a lot of hard work. There will be requirements above and beyond the recreational dancer. We are committed to developing you as a dancer, and as a healthy, responsible and productive member of our community.

Connectors pay a monthly rate of \$200 for unlimited classes, and an annual fee of \$250.00, which includes our Tam Jams Workshop. We hope Connectors will take advantage of the monthly rate to take as many classes possible. There are additional costs for Connector-related events/activities such as workshops/conventions, costumes, etc. If there is any reason cost would present a financial burden and prohibit your participation, please contact us to confidentially discuss options to help defray your cost.

Dancers who accept a position as a Connector must:

- Maintain good work and study habits at school.
- Attend weekly dance classes regularly and on time. The minimum class requirement is one jazz class and the weekly scheduled rehearsal class. Ballet is highly recommended. Tap and Hip Hop would be beneficial as well.
  - Connector Jazz Class & Rehearsal: Wednesdays 3:30-4:15 and 4:15-4:45
- Attend all Connector rehearsals. There may be a few weekend rehearsals in the spring.
- TAMJAMS! (workshop held at Dance Connection September 22-23).
- Learn a dance and participate in the annual Blossom Halloween Event (California Avenue in Palo Alto)
- Attend an offsite convention with the Dance Connection Performing Company (DCPC).
- Perform at Dance Connection's PADCYE Breast Cancer Benefit on March 24, 2019. This is a Dance Connection annual tradition benefitting the Susan G. Komen for the Cure.
- Participate in Palo Alto's Annual May Fete Parade on Saturday, May 4, 2019 and related rehearsals.
- Perform at Dance Connection's end-of-year shows (Preschool Let's Dance and Let's Dance! Matinee 2019)
- Read and agree to the "Responsibility Code (Connectors and Parents)".

- Love to dance, work hard, perform and have fun!

Your participation with the team is through June of 2019. Dancers are expected to learn to be responsible, dedicated, considerate, disciplined, respectful, humble, motivated and happy. Not only is it important to have a good group of dancers, it is equally or more important to have a great team of individuals who work well together. We strive to teach professionalism and want all of our students to become a stronger person and be the best that they can be.

### **Classes/Rehearsal/Events Schedule**

It is beneficial for Connectors to take advantage of the unlimited class rate and take as many classes as you can handle. It's a great time to try out a new style of dance too. ***The annual DC Summer Intensive 2018 that will be held from August 6-10 is highly recommended.***

A schedule of rehearsals and events for the season is available for viewing in your online dance account. We understand how difficult scheduling is but participation in the Connector program requires mandatory commitments and if, after receiving the full schedule, it appears as if you will have too many conflicts, we understand participation this year may not be the best for you.

We hope you are able to participate in the 2018-19 Connectors. The company tuition monthly rate of \$200 is valid from September through May. There is no tuition for June. If you decide to participate in Connectors, the following will be due by **Wednesday, September 19, 2018**

- Signed Responsibility Code (Connectors and Parents)
- Initialed copy of the schedule
  - It is very important to notate all known and/or possible conflicts.

We are excited to get this group of dancers together and we hope you are too. Once again, congratulations!

We will have informational meetings for parents and dancers on **Wednesday, September 12, 2018** during the Connector rehearsals to discuss any other details and answer any questions you have regarding participation.

Thank you,  
Cindy

# **Additional Information**

## **Communication**

Information will be through your Dance Connection account via email. You can always email, talk on the phone or set up a separate meeting if necessary.

## **Team Effort**

Dancing is a team effort! Of course, dance technique and learning steps are individually important but choreography depends on partnering and placement on stage. When one person is missing, it affects everyone else in the dance. It is important for every member of the team to be responsible and committed to each other. We can't emphasize enough that this is not just about one person but about a whole group as well as your teacher/choreographer. Therefore, it is important for you to attend all your rehearsals and concentrate on your dance technique in your weekly classes.

## **Estimated Costs**

Here is a brief summary of *estimated* costs for the year (including optional events):

- \$200 monthly class fees; Annual fee of \$250 which includes TAMJAMS! Workshop; additional workshops \$190 each; costumes \$100; shoes \$50; Dance Connection Summer Intensive 2018! \$400

There are also incidental costs such as transportation, food/dining and spending money if attending a workshop/convention.

## **Schedule**

We want your Connector experience to be a positive one and we like to have fun but it also requires hard work. Although we don't want to place any unnecessary pressure on your dancer or family, being part of this group involves time management, commitment, respect and a multitude of other life skills. When it is available, please look over the schedule carefully. The schedule CAN change and we will do our best to notify you in a timely manner. We DO understand that you don't always know your schedule this far in advance but as long as we keep the lines of communication open, we can generally work things out.

## **Workshops/Conventions**

Groups of talented dance professionals come to the area to put on weekend workshops. There are a variety of groups who do this and our Dance Connection Performing Company (DCPC), Dance Connection Hip Hop Crew (DCHC) and Dance Team (DCDT) dancers will participate in a number of these. Dancers spend Saturday and Sunday attending dance classes at these workshops and DCPC dancers compete on Friday/Saturday evenings.

### **Two Mandatory Workshops/Conventions**

- TAMJAMS – As previously mentioned, this is a workshop held at Dance Connection on September 22-23.
- LADM: January 26-27 at the Santa Clara Convention Center

### **Other Opportunities**

We often get requests for dancers so there may be other local community events that arise during the year.

### **Costumes**

We will be looking at costumes sometime in late Fall/early Winter and will take measurements in class.

### **Respect**

As a dancer, it is up to you to be respectful to teachers, other dancers and everyone you meet. Trust your teacher and know that they are here to help you become a responsible individual. This company strives for discipline, honesty, commitment, dedication, hard work, and teamwork (see the Dance Connection Philosophy/Mission Statement and Code of Conduct). These are things that we, at Dance Connection, believe will help you throughout your life. We are a group that enjoys learning and has fun along the way.

### **Volunteering**

This program cannot run without parent volunteers. There are a variety of jobs ranging from buying/making costume accessories, sewing, donating food, etc. We use Sign Up Genius, and will send a link for jobs as the need arises.

## Responsibility Code (Connectors and Parents)

Please sign and return by **September 19, 2018** if you wish to be a Connector. Return the paper form to the J1 office or electronic form to [info@danceconnectionpalto.com](mailto:info@danceconnectionpalto.com).

My parents and I have gone over the accompanying material and I understand the commitment to the **Dance Connectors** team. I understand that I will be expected to:

- Be responsible for myself. This includes maintaining good grades in school, getting work done at home, taking care of my health and being punctual for classes, rehearsals and all related events.
- Have a positive attitude, work hard, give the best effort possible, be a good “team” dancer and set a good example for the rest of the dancers at the studio.
- Be dedicated and committed to my dance training and fellow team members.
- Be respectful of ALL dancers and teachers.
- Fulfill my requirements for the team (the more you train, the better your dancing will get) as outlined in the Performing Company Goals and Requirements.
- Attend all rehearsals on time.
- Be prepared to share my dancing with others to enjoy in the form of community performances and/or events.
- WORK HARD and HAVE FUN!

I agree to all of the above. I understand that any misconduct and/or excessive missed rehearsals by me could result in a suspension with the team. I have discussed my involvement in the **Dance Connection Connectors** with my parents and they have agreed to support me.

Signed,

Dancer’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Parents

I agree to support my dancer and be responsible for making payments in a timely manner. I will also volunteer to help when possible and needed (obtaining material, transporting props, helping sew costumes, etc.). I will encourage, support and help but not push.

Signed,

Parent1/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent1/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_