



Dear Dancer and Parents,

Congratulations! You have been invited to be part of the **2020-2021 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 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. There will be extra requirements above and beyond the recreational dancer. We are committed to developing our young dancers to be healthy and responsible with the highest quality of care and training.

**Dance Connection's Team Programs:**

Connector participation may be in-person for a limited number of students or online. The Tuesday class and rehearsal from 3:30-5:00 is required to participate in Connectors along with one other class per week. We will accept a maximum of 10 children on this team.

**CONNECTOR REQUIRED CLASSES**

- Tuesday 3:30-4:30 Jazz Technique and 4:30-5:00 Rehearsal—*Cindy*
- Any other class on the schedule—primary ballet is recommended

Our Connector program is designed to prepare dancers for our DCPC, Dance Connection Performing Company. More information follows regarding our Connector program. We are excited to get this group of dancers together and we hope you are too. Once again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Cindy

## Connector Information

### **Performance Opportunities and Events:**

Traditionally, Connector dancers have had additional opportunities to perform as a team throughout the year. With our fluid health climate, we cannot determine if or when we will participate in events or performances.

Performances are encouraged, but not mandatory. Presently, all events are potentially cancelled until further notice, but we are keeping them on the schedule for planning purposes should things change. Potential events include, but are not limited to:

- Blossom Birth Halloween Carnival Performance: *likely cancelled, but we will do a Halloween routine with Cubberley Flash Mob performances and class party!*
- Benefit Performance: Sunday, March 21 4:00-6:00, Cubberley Theatre
- City of Palo Alto May Fete Parade: Saturday, May 1 at 9:00 OR
- Hollywood Vibe Convention: Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2 at the Hyatt Hotel, Burlingame
- Let's Dance! Friday-Saturday, June 11-12

### **Fees and Estimated Costs:**

Connectors pay a monthly rate of \$250 (August through June) for unlimited classes. 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.

- The Hollywood Vibe convention is a workshop that our companies plan to attend. Our attendance will be determined by the health climate, and more information will be sent if we intend to participate. There is an additional fee which tends to be around \$200 from past experience.
- Costumes will be ordered in the fall, and they will cost \$50-\$100 depending on the costume.
- Tan jazz shoes are required. We recommend the Bloch "Pulse" Jazz shoes in tan from Discount Dance:

[https://www.discountdance.com/dancewear/style\\_S0470G\\_html?pid=26377&shop=Style&&skey=pulse+jazz+shoe&search=true&SortOrder=R&SID=1474509901](https://www.discountdance.com/dancewear/style_S0470G_html?pid=26377&shop=Style&&skey=pulse+jazz+shoe&search=true&SortOrder=R&SID=1474509901)

Use the link on our website under DC Store:

<https://www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dc-store/> TP 31079 is our code.

### **Connector Requirements:**

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. Required classes are:
  - Tuesday 3:30-4:30 Jazz Technique and the 4:30-5:00 Rehearsal
- Recommended classes are:
  - Any additional Jazz class such as Basic or Junior Jazz or Jazz 1A is recommended
  - Any Ballet class such as Ballet 1A or Primary Ballet is recommended

- Tap is recommended
- The Acro and Hip Hop classes are recommended, but not required.
- Attend all Connector rehearsals. There may be a few weekend rehearsals in the spring.
- Attend an offsite convention (Hollywood Vibe) with the Dance Connection Performing Company (DCPC).
- Perform at Dance Connection's PADCYE Benefit on March 21, 2021 (*pending*).
- Perform at Dance Connection's end-of-year shows (Preschool Let's Dance! and Let's Dance! Matinee 2021).
- Read and agree to the "Responsibility Code (Connectors and Parents)".
- Love to dance, work hard, perform and have fun!

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.

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.

Registration for our dance teams will close on 10/1. After that date, any new students will be accepted at the discretion of the team teacher. The Connector program begins at the start of our season on August 17 and extends through our final spring performances on June 12. Dance Connection may make changes to the season schedule and events as needed for the benefit of our dancers.

### **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.

**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) and Dance Team (DCDT) dancers will participate in these. Dancers spend Saturday and Sunday attending dance classes at these workshops and DCPC dancers compete on Friday/Saturday evenings.

**Other Opportunities:**

We often get requests for dancers to perform at community events, 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)**

### **Connectors**

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.

### **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.

**ANY EVENT CONFLICTS?** *please indicate*