



Dancing Safe, Healthy, and Happy!

As we begin our Fall 2021 – Spring 2022 Season of dance classes, we share our plans for the new season and reflect on how we managed through the past season. Since 1989, Dance Connection is happy to offer dance classes for ages 3 to adults at the Cubberley Community Center. Classes are offered in person in our four spacious and well-ventilated studios. Dance Connection will continue to create an environment where our students thrive in a safe and healthy atmosphere while maintaining our focus on the happiness of our dancers and families.

As we move back inside our studios for the fall season, we will continue with the same protocols we have had in place since we began in-person instruction:

- All dancers and staff wear face coverings both inside and outside our studios. We encourage all family members (vaccinated or not) at Dance Connection to wear a mask. *It is Cubberley policy to wear masks both indoors and outdoors.
- Students attending class will have a temperature check upon arrival.
- We will continue to prohibit visitors (including parents) into our studio. Instead, parents are able to watch their young children while they are in class with a live zoom link from their phone, tablet, or laptop while the children are attending class in the studio.
- J2 studio classes will be offered in our outdoor dance tent through December 2021.
- Dance Connection will continue to encourage hand washing and provide hand sanitizers.
- All surfaces will be routinely sanitized including our acrobatic mats, dance props (children's scarves, hoops, batons, etc), and dance barres. Dance Connection uses an electrostatic sprayer to quickly and safely sanitize everything with a product which is child-safe, non-toxic, odorless, and kills viruses including COVID-19 for up to 24 hours within three minutes. Our [electrostatic cleaning system](#) is the same effective cleaning used by major airlines and schools to safely sanitize.
- Dance Connection will continue to comply with all regulations and will adapt to the changing health climate. Outdoor classes will be offered as needed.

Our studios encourage one way traffic with entrances and exits, and each studio has fresh air with at least 2 open doors and several windows. All studios have high ceilings with high windows. Our L5 studio is equipped with a roll up garage door on one wall. Our studios include H-13 HEPA air filters which run continuously, and class size limits ensure that dancers have sufficient distancing during classes.

Throughout the pandemic, Dance Connection never missed a beat! We were online during Shelter In Place, and next transitioned to a hybrid of in-person and live online classes. Each studio is equipped with a large screen TV, laptop, and wide angle camera on a rolling AV cart to help us maximize instruction and individual attention with each class. When mandates prohibited us from being indoors, we purchased outdoor gym flooring, sprung flooring, and pulled out our extra dance flooring from storage to create outdoor dance spaces. We obtained a permit from the

City of Palo Alto to erect a 30'x20' tent with a raised sprung dance floor, and we will enjoy this beautiful outdoor dance space until our permit expires on December 31, 2021.

At our "Let's Dance!" performances which were offered outdoors at the Cubberley Amphitheatre, our staff was amazed at the progress of our students after a unique season. Some dancers had only attended classes in the final weeks before our performances in person, yet every student excelled. At the start of our competition season for our Performing Company, we prepared ourselves for any scenario and were pleasantly surprised that we were able to attend two competitions and two conventions last spring. Our Performing Company dancers earned scholarships, Nationals invitations, and top [competition awards](#). We were able to offer company experiences to all of our company dancers whether they were online only, in-person, or hybrid. Some of our Senior DCPC dancers mentored and choreographed for our online dancers. Definitely a win/win positive experience for everyone!

Dance Connection is happy to see our students in person! We are grateful to share the art of movement with our students in a fun and rewarding atmosphere which improves our bodies and our minds. You can rest assured that the staff at Dance Connection will take every precaution to keep our dancers and families safe and healthy in mind, body, and spirit!