

NANCY CHIPPENDALE'S DANCE STUDIOS

**25/26 DANCER HANDBOOK: COMPETITIVE PROGRAM**

# DANCER HANDBOOK



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DANCE STUDIOS

WWW.NANCYCHIPPENDALES.COM

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# 25/26 DANCER HANDBOOK: COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

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## SECTION A: MISSION

At Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios, we pride ourselves on offering a safe, positive, and welcoming environment for dancers of all ages and abilities. Every family that joins our studio becomes part of "CHIPPS Nation," our vibrant and supportive dance community.

We welcome dancers at every skill level—from tiny, wobbling toddlers to mature young adults—whether they dance recreationally, aspire to a professional career, or fall somewhere in between. Our goal is to be a positive influence in their lives at every stage of their journey.

Dance education at Nancy Chippendale's goes beyond movement; it's a powerful tool for building self-confidence, dedication, work ethic, responsibility, and accountability. The diverse group of families enrolled at our studio adds to the rich culture and spirited energy that define CHIPPS Nation.



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## SECTION B: FACULTY & STAFF

We are proud to welcome our exceptional faculty for the upcoming dance season. Our team is made up of passionate, highly trained educators who are committed to sharing their love of dance with students of all ages and abilities. Many began their journey at Nancy Chippendale's as young dancers and have since built careers within CHIPPS Nation.

Many of our instructors are trained at the collegiate level and continue their education through certifications, professional programs, master classes, conventions, and intensives. They hold credentials from organizations such as the International Dance Organization (IDO), American Ballet Theatre (ABT), Acrobatic Arts, Dance Masters of America (DMA), and Dance Educators of America (DEA).

Faculty performance credits include the IDO World Championships, Edge Performing Arts Center, Walt Disney World, NFL Cheerleading, cruise lines, theme parks, and collegiate dance teams across the country.

To learn more about each of our talented faculty members, please visit: [www.NancyChippendales.com](http://www.NancyChippendales.com)

## SECTION C: PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

We're excited to have you join us for our 47th season of dance. Our dedicated faculty is looking forward to working with each dancer and helping you grow both technically and personally throughout the year. This *Dancer Handbook* outlines the key expectations, policies, and procedures designed to support a positive and productive experience for all members of CHIPPS Nation. While it's not possible to cover every scenario, this guide addresses the most important topics and common concerns. We ask that both dancers and parents read the *Handbook* in full and reach out to our office staff via email with any questions. (Please refer to page 2 for contact details specific to your studio location.)

The Executive Directors reserve the right to update this *Handbook* at any time. Should changes occur, families will be notified promptly.

## SECTION D: COMPETITION TEAM COMMITMENT

**Competition Team Commitment:** All Competitive Dancers must participate, train and perform in ballet, jazz, tap (and hip hop when included in the ballet, jazz and tap combo class) at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios. Once classes start, dancers are expected to attend all classes and rehearsals. All blocking / staging / extra rehearsals are mandatory. Dancers must attend the last class before a performance, competition or recital or risk forfeiting their place in that piece of choreography. Dancers must participate in the three (3) scheduled regional competitions and perform in all scheduled recitals, regardless of proms, school dances, etc. If a dancer misses a mandatory rehearsal, performance or competition, he/she will not be eligible to audition for the Competitive Program for the following dance season. Dancers must be taking ballet, jazz and tap classes regularly in order to compete; i.e. if participating in Nationals, dancers must also take ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop and any other applicable classes during the month of June. Sole discretion goes to the Director.

**Recital Commitment:** Each dancer will perform his/her competition/recital choreography in the Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios recital. This year's show will take place at the Collins Center for Performing Arts at Andover High School and is tentatively scheduled for May 16-17, 2026. You will receive your *Recital Playbook*, which outlines the whole recital process, in March.

**Attendance / Absences:** Your child's attendance in class is very important to his/her classmates and to our teaching faculty. Dancers are granted six (6) absences per dance style. Dancers who miss more than six (6) classes in each subject will be taken out of the choreography. If poor attendance impedes the class progress at any point, an alternate will replace the dancer(s). Dancers may not miss the last class/rehearsal before a performance or competition.

Dance is a "team sport" and the whole team suffers due to absences. Creating a dance involves numerous patterns, pictures, formations and lifts, all working together to portray a story line. A dance is choreographed with a certain visual effect for the audience. When even one dancer is missing, this specific visual effect is distorted. This agreement solidifies each dancer's commitment to the Competition Team and by taking a place on the team, the dancer and his/her family understands the commitment involved is not only to the studio but to the rest of the dancers in the choreography. Absent / Tardy / Early Dismissal Notifications may be submitted through our website via the "Report Absence" page.

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**Withdrawal/Cancellation Policy:** If a Competition Team member withdraws from Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios anytime between September through May, the dancer will be charged \$500.00 to pay for the faculty to re-stage the dance, teach replacements and cover any other additional costs that may incur on Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios and the members of the Competition Team. The dancer may not perform, without permission, any of the choreography owned by Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios after leaving the studio. The dancer also forfeits his/her costumes and all other payments and deposits made prior to the date of termination.

If a dancer must cancel participation due to injury, sit out or return from an injury, Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios requires a doctor's note. If a dancer leaves Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios to compete at another studio, his/her siblings will be asked to unenroll from Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios, as family members are not allowed to dance at different dance studios.

**No Re-Enrollment Policy:** Members of the Competition Team will not be allowed back onto the Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios Competition Team if they have previously left and gone to another studio. These students are welcome to re-enroll in our Recreational Recital Program. Acceptance will be on a case-by-case basis. All final decisions are at the discretion of the studio director.

## SECTION E: PLACEMENT & SCHEDULING

**Placement & Scheduling:** Once admitted into a specific class, dancers will remain in that class until the end of the season unless the teacher or choreographer feels it is in the dancer's best interest to be moved. Please keep in mind that students are placed in competitive dance classes based on age and ability. Schedule changes are disruptive to the classroom. Placement within a specific piece of choreography, formation, featured roles, etc. is the decision of the choreographer. If a parent or dancer requests or demands specific placement in a certain class or within the choreography, then the dancer will be removed from that piece of choreography and charged \$500.00 to re-choreograph the routine.

**Schedule Change Policy:** Schedule changes within our Competitive Program will only be granted on a case-by-case basis and cannot be guaranteed. Dancers who have a scheduling conflict will be offered an equal or lower level class, and only if space permits. Please email [CompTeam@NancyChippendales.com](mailto:CompTeam@NancyChippendales.com) if your dancer has an unavoidable conflict.

**Important Dates:** For a calendar of important dates throughout the season, please visit the "CALENDAR" page in the CHIPPS PARENT PORTAL.

## SECTION F: TUITION & FEES

**Tuition:** Annual tuition is paid in nine (9) equal monthly installments from September through May and is based on the total number of hours danced per week. (If your dancer is attending Nationals it is ten months of the same tuition amount). Accounts must be current in order to participate in competitions and the recital. Tuition amounts remain the same each month, even though some months hold more or fewer classes than others. Missed classes due to illness or injury are subject to payment and there are no refunds or make up classes. We do not offer siblings discounts.

**Team Dues:** In addition to your monthly tuition, there is an annual, non-refundable \$175 payment due at the time of registration. This fee covers the costs of administrative work, extra rehearsals, blocking rehearsal space rental, pep rally, etc. If a dancer is not selected for the Competition Team, the \$175 may be applied towards tuition if the dancer is continuing at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios. If your dancer is selected for the team but decides not to participate for any reason, you will forfeit the \$175 Team Dues payment. Team Dues are non-refundable, non-transferable and have no cash value.

**Competition Fees:** Competitions charge entry fees per dancer and per routine. Entry fees are approximately \$60 per dancer and per routine. Therefore, if your child competes with (2) routines at (\$60) each at (3) regional competitions, your regional entry fees will be approximately \$360. Non-refundable Entry Fees will be automatically charged to your credit card on file during the months of December, January, and February. The regional competition schedule, automatic billing dates and entry fee rates will be published in early Fall.

**Statement Fee:** There is a \$25.00 administrative fee for any account statement requests for the purposes of taxes, court documents, health insurance, etc.

## NANCY CHIPPENDALE'S DANCE STUDIOS

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## 2025-2026 MONTHLY TUITION RATES\*

<i>Hours Per Week</i>	<i>Cost Per Month</i>	<i>Hours Per Week</i>	<i>Cost Per Month</i>
1.00 Hour / Week	\$95.00 / Month	6.00 Hours / Week	\$265.00 / Month
1.50 Hours / Week	\$125.00 / Month	6.50 Hours / Week	\$280.00 / Month
2.00 Hours / Week	\$145.00 / Month	7.00 Hours / Week	\$290.00 / Month
2.50 Hours / Week	\$165.00 / Month	7.50 Hours / Week	\$300.00 / Month
3.00 Hours / Week	\$175.00 / Month	8.00 Hours / Week	\$310.00 / Month
3.50 Hours / Week	\$185.00 / Month	8.50 Hours / Week	\$320.00 / Month
4.00 Hours / Week	\$205.00 / Month	9.00 Hours / Week	\$330.00 / Month
4.50 Hours / Week	\$225.00 / Month	10.00 Hours / Week	\$350.00 / Month
5.00 Hours / Week	\$245.00 / Month	11.00 Hours / Week	\$370.00 / Month
5.50 Hours / Week	\$255.00 / Month	12.00 Hours / Week	\$390.00 / Month

\*Pricing options listed above are based on the total amount of participation hours per week.

## SECTION G: RECITAL FEE & COSTUMES

A non-refundable Recital Fee is due by November 1st for all Competitive Program dancers. This fee will automatically be charged to your credit card on file between October 15 - 31. The 2025-2026 Competitive Program Recital Fee is \$335.00 and includes (1) ballet costume, (1) jazz costume, (1) tap costume, a recital t-shirt, souvenir pin, the professional recital video and recital photos. At this time, you will also be charged an additional \$95.00 costume deposit for any additional costumes for formations, ensembles or extra choreography. (Exceptions: Senior Tap Formation & Grand Line costume are between \$200-\$400). Any costume balances/credits will be applied between the months of March-June. The Recital Fee and additional costume payments are non-refundable for any and all reasons, including but not limited to schedule changes, withdrawal, injury, moving away, etc. If a dancer does not attend an optional performance/competition, we kindly ask that you allow us to borrow the costume for the replacement/substitute dancer. It will be returned to you after the performance.

## SECTION H: CREDIT CARD PAYMENT POLICY

**Credit Card Payment Policy:** Every student enrolled at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios must have a credit card on file and sign up for auto-pay. Monthly tuition for ALL students will be automatically charged to your credit card on file on the 1st of each month and is valid through the end of that calendar month. In the event that the credit card is declined, you will be required to update your credit card on file within seven (7) days.

### Automatic Credit Card Billing - Set Up:

Automatic Credit Card Billing must be set up for every dancer upon registration in the CHIPPS Parent Portal.

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## SECTION I: DRESS CODE, APPEARANCE & GROOMING

**Dress Code:** Adhering to the dress code put forth by Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios is an integral part of your dance education. Dancers who follow the dress code are set up for success when they walk into the studio. Teachers must be able to see body lines in order to give appropriate corrections in class. Dancers should be prepared to abide by the dress code for every class, as teachers will dismiss students until they return in proper attire.

**Female Class Attire:** Female dancers must wear a modest leotard (any style or color) and tights to all dance classes. Two-piece leotards, leotards with excessive cutouts/mesh, and exposed midriffs are not permitted. Dancers should not wear any additional shirts, pants or shorts to class and tights with large rips may not be worn. Female dancers should wear their hair in a slick bun or ponytail for every class. Jewelry is not permitted.

**Male Class Attire:** Male dancers must wear gym shorts (above the knee) and bike shorts along with a t-shirt / tank top.

**General Appearance:** Tattoos, body piercings or tongue piercings are not allowed and all hair should be of natural color. Dancers must be fully dressed, including shirt, pants and shoes, while entering and exiting the studio or any dance-related facility. These rules apply inside the studio as well as when representing Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios outside of our facility. The above-mentioned rules of "General Appearance" will be strictly enforced.

**Performance Grooming:** Performance hair and make up will be determined depending upon the costume and choreography of the dance. You will receive costume information as well as hair / make up details prior to performances.

## 2025-2026 DANCE SHOE REQUIREMENTS

**Dance Shoes:** Shoes are essential for making sure the dancer is learning the steps correctly. All dancers must wear the correct shoe styles to class. Dance shoes may not be worn outside. The following shoe styles are required for classes and performances.

### **GIRLS | Competitive Program Shoes**

**Ballet:** #SD110 So Danca Pink Ballet Shoes (Leather)

**Lyric:** #JZ43 So Danca Caramel Jazz Shoes

**Jazz:** #JZ43 So Danca Caramel Jazz Shoes

**Tap:** #TA200 or #TA810 So Danca Black Tap Shoes

**Hip Hop:** TBA

### **BOYS | Competitive Program Shoes**

**Ballet:** #SD110 So Danca Black Ballet Shoes (Leather)

**Lyric:** #JZ43 So Danca Black Jazz Shoes

**Jazz:** #JZ43 So Danca Black Jazz Shoes

**Tap:** #TA200 or #TA810 So Danca Black Tap Shoes

**Hip Hop:** TBA

## SECTION J: COMMUNICATION / QUESTIONS

Our primary means of communication is via email. Please ensure you have provided us with an up-to-date email address and you check it regularly. Be sure to add our email address, [CompTeam@NancyChippendales.com](mailto:CompTeam@NancyChippendales.com) to your contacts so our emails do not end up in your spam folder. You will receive regular newsletters and important information via email, however most of these items will also be available in the [CHIPPS Parent Portal](#). Any questions or concerns must be communicated via email – parents and students are not permitted to contact Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios teachers via personal phone, in person, or via email / social networking regarding studio issues. Personal meetings with the studio director can be scheduled via emailed request.

Unfortunately, we can only have one (1) primary email address per dancer on file. In an effort to make sure that our emails are not overlooked and that all family members have access to the appropriate information, we also post all links and newsletters on our website under "MY CHIPPS NATION > NEWS". Please use the website as your first point of reference if you have a question. If you still cannot find the answers you need, please email us for additional information. If all parents reference these tools first, we will have more time to answer individual questions. The appropriate method of communication is via studio email or studio phone. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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To ensure the smooth, safe running of Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios and an enjoyable experience for all, below you will find our code of conduct. As always, we are open to feedback, so if any of the requirements outlined below are unclear, please communicate your questions or concerns with us via email so we can discuss them further with you. Following a formal meeting, we do reserve the right to dismiss or take disciplinary action on any students or parents who breach Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios' code of conduct.

**Payment:** Families who do not comply with their tuition or payment obligations may be charged a late fee, and/or excluded from performances. External debt collection may occur when fees remain overdue and this will be at the expense of the client. Costume expenses are the responsibility of the parent, and costumes will not be issued to students with outstanding tuition.

**Classroom Interruptions:** Classes (including private lessons) are not to be disturbed unless it is an emergency. Parents may not approach teachers or students during class, as it is disruptive to class progress.

**Multimedia:** For the safety of our dancers, photos and videos are allowed only in designated areas of our facility. Choreography is owned by Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios and is not to be posted on social media. Negativity on social media (public or private) by dancers or their family members will not be tolerated and may be cause for dismissal. Upon enrollment, all dancers grant permission to Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios to use their image/likeness online, in print, or on television to promote the studio or offer virtual and online instruction. This usage may include (but is not exclusive to) displaying publicly, distributing or publishing photographs and/or video for use in materials that include, but may not be limited to printed materials (i.e. brochures, newsletters), online and offline advertising and promotion, videos and digital images for use on social media or virtual and online instruction.

**Pick-Up / Drop-Off Policies:** While we care about your children, we are not a childcare facility. We are unable to take responsibility for our students before or after their scheduled classes and it is the responsibility of the parent to ensure their child is picked up and dropped off on time. In the case of an emergency or unavoidable delay, please contact the studio immediately via phone to inform us of the situation so we can keep your child calm and safe until they can be picked up.

**Facility Policies:** Use of all areas of our facility, including but not limited to the cafés, bathrooms, homework space, dressing rooms and studios, is a privilege. This privilege may be revoked at any time from any individual or group if the staff deems it necessary. Dancers, parents, and family members are expected to treat the facility with respect. Vandalism to the facility is subject to expulsion from Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios and full restitution for damages incurred is the sole obligation of those responsible. Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios is a drug-free zone. The use of e-cigarettes, vape pens or similar devices is not allowed on the premises.

**Lost & Found:** Each studio location has a designated "Lost & Found" area. Lost & Found will be cleaned out and items donated at the end of each month. We ask that parents aid in teaching their children how to pick up after themselves and check for all of their belongings before they leave the building. Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios is not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced property on the studio premises and we encourage our families to avoid bringing valuable items into the studio when possible.

**Recital Privileges:** Inclusion in the recital, the event program, opening number routines, senior traditions, scholarship opportunities and finale traditions are all extra privileges decided upon by Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios. The staff at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios reserves the right to change or terminate any tradition at any time.

**Extra Opportunities:** Our staff is happy to provide our dancers with additional performing and ambassador opportunities, which include but are not limited to extra competitions, holiday shows, trips abroad, parades and finale traditions. Dancers are cast in these opportunities based upon an audition or interview process. The staff at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios reserves the right to make all final decisions based on these auditions/interviews.

**Dismissal:** In the rare case of a parent or student showing disrespect or defamation to any parent, staff member or student, a meeting will be called immediately and dismissal may be considered at the discretion of the director. Physical, mental, emotional or cyber bullying by parents, staff or students will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the studio.

**Studio Schedule Changes:** Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios reserves the right to change teachers or timetabling when necessary at any time throughout the year.

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## SECTION L: SAFETY

The safety of our families is one of our main priorities. Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios is serious about upholding Child Protection laws and policies within the studio as well as at public performances and online (website and social media). If you or your family member feels unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, for any reason while at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios or at an event hosted by Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios, please notify a staff member immediately.

Included in this Dancer Handbook, you grant Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios the ability to proudly use images and video footage of your child for advertising and promotional purposes. Should you have any concerns whatsoever with signing this declaration, please email [info@NancyChippendales.com](mailto:info@NancyChippendales.com) and we will be happy to address your concerns.

The directors and staff at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios are educated in the negative impact of inappropriate music and costume selection when it comes to performing dance routines and are wholeheartedly committed to ensuring children in all of our dance routines are not subjected to any inappropriate songs or costuming. We recognize that songs with sexist, explicit, violent, racist, homophobic or criminal content may influence our dancers and/or audience and will strive to avoid using such music. We are committed to restricting costumes that project sexuality or contain explicit graphic or sexual content.

## SECTION M: PRIVACY

When you purchase or hire a product or service with Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios the information we may collect from you includes your name, address, telephone number(s), email address(es), medical information. It may also include details of the products and services we provide to you as well as the status of your enrollment. We collect information directly from our students or their parents/guardians primarily for the purpose of providing services and products to you and to administer and manage invoicing and debt collection.

We may occasionally use your information to promote and market to you information which we believe may be of interest, unless you contact us and tell us not to do so. We will never sell or pass on any of your information to third parties unless required by government authorities or in the event of debt recovery. Any information passed on will be done so with appropriate privacy and confidentiality protection.

## SECTION N: CONCLUSION

Being a dancer at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios is a privilege, and we as a faculty, staff and leadership team hold ourselves to the same high standards as we hold our dancers and their families. We expect our dancers and their families to have positive attitudes, be committed leaders and positive role models in and out of the studio. Sole discretion is always given to the studio and staff at Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios and a dancer may be dismissed at any time. In order to ensure that your family has a positive and fulfilling experience as a part of CHIPPS NATION, please abide by the policies and procedures detailed in this *Dancer Handbook*.

## SECTION O: PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

By registering your child as a student, all parents/guardians must agree to the following documents & sign electronically the below (all included in the CHIPPS Parent Portal):

- 1) 25/26 Dancer Handbook: Competitive Program
- 2) COVID Guidelines + Procedures
- 3) Release from Liability and Waiver of Claims
- 4) Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19