

Welcome to
Fort Atkinson Parks & Recreation Department's
**Main Street Dance Studio General Information
2017-2018**



For over 20 years Fort Atkinson Parks & Recreation Department has organized the Main Street Dance Studio. Originally one instructor, 35 children and a recital in the dance practice rooms comprised the program...now there are 250+ students, several instructors, nearly a dozen different varieties of dance offered and a recital at the impressive UW-Whitewater Young Auditorium. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful recreation program.

It has been the goal of Main Street Dance Studio to provide a complete dance experience for a price that is affordable compared to traditional dance academies. Regardless of dance talent - we will find a home for your child's dream to be a dancer and a performer. We hope you and your child enjoy this experience.

Class Expectations

Attendance- We stress that we need your child at class every week to gain the experience, meet new friends, learn a routine and be a part of a team of dancers. At registration calendar's listing class dates will be available. (Calendar's will be posted on our website also www.forparksandrec.com) Please make all attempts to have your child participate each and every week.

Cancellations- If dangerous weather would cause cancellation of classes we will make an attempt to reach each student by telephone. The web site: www.forparksandrec.com also lists cancellations on the bottom of the home page. In the event of an instructor illness we will make an attempt to reach each student by telephone.

Supervision- **Children waiting for classes must do so without disrupting classes in session. "Dropping a child off" 30-60 minutes before your scheduled class is an invitation for problems. Our dance instructors will supervise children in the dance classrooms, but they are unable to supervise the hallways, steps, and waiting room areas. Consider working out drop-off/pick-up emergency details with another parent in your class.**

Problems- If we have discipline problems with your child our instructor will let you know. If the problems continue we may be forced to withdraw your child from the program. You will be refunded the pro-rated remainder of your fees (minus any costume fees). This would be a last resort, but we must keep this option to provide a great dance experience for the other dancers. Likewise, if you have a concern please contact your dance instructor by telephone or make contact with her after class. Unfortunately, most instructors will have just a 3-5 minute window of time between classes...but it will begin the process to have a more extensive conversation to handle your concerns.

Class Fee Payments- Class fees may be divided into two payments – first before classes begin in the fall and the second by February, 2017. If you need additional time or want to make other payment options, please call the Fort Parks & Rec. Office and arrangements will be made. Make all checks payable to: City of Fort.

SPECIAL NOTE: It is possible that dance classes may not work out for your child. You must notify Fort Parks and Recreation by **DECEMBER 4, 2017** (at the latest) (costumes are ordered during Winter break) to avoid having to pay for a costume. If Fort Parks and Rec are not notify by Dec. 4th you will be responsible for paying and picking up the costume that was ordered for your dancer.

Parent Meetings- There may be a few brief parent meetings (primarily during the fall semester) held the final ten minutes of class to discuss dance themes, costume planning and costume sizing. If you wish to have input in any of these areas, please attend to voice your opinion or to lend a hand.

Municipal Building Facilities- You will enter using the Parks & Recreation main entrance (on North Water Street - West), enter the stairway on the left and the dance rooms are at the top of the steps (Dance Room #1 is at the top of the steps). The second floor hallway has a coat and shoe rack to store these items during class and the second door on the left leads to a waiting room with table and chairs, magazines, children's play area, restroom and television. The second dance room (at the end of the hallway) has a restroom, but use the waiting room restroom when classes are in session.

If you need to make contact with the Parks & Recreation Office, it is located in the first floor gymnasium straight ahead from the North Water Street entrance. The office hours are 8:00 am-Noon & 1:00-5:00 pm Monday-Friday. You may slide correspondence under the Parks & Rec. door after hours. The gymnasium is an inviting location for waiting children to run around, however, the gym is reserved by the public on most nights or is used for league play. If empty, children may play with adult supervision. Please return all sport balls to the storage racks and deposit garbage before you leave. Also note, there are restrooms and a drinking fountain just beyond the east end of the gymnasium.

Parking- 90 minute parking is allowed on all stalls adjacent to the street. Fort Atkinson does employ a parking meter attendant. There is unlimited parking in the lots directly west of the building.

Dance Clothes & Shoes

Dance Attire- All dance students must have a black leotard, pink tights, ballet shoes and all Creative Dance class students must also have tap shoes. All these items may be purchased through the Parks and Recreation Office secretary. (Most items are in stock) Your dance instructor may also assist you with many purchases. Other shoes may be required as requested by the instructor (Pointe, Hip Hop, etc.). Please change into your dance shoes at the studio and **REMEMBER to write the name of your child in both dance shoes.**

Purchasing Dance Clothing- Sales of used dance clothes and shoes *have greatly slowed over the past few years*, but we still want this service available for parents to save money. However, we do not have room to store all of the unsold attire (some date back to the 90's). Instead we will have display tables at our Sept.30th registration day - please bring your items (label with name, phone number and price) and leave with Parks & Recreation Secretary one week before. These items will remain on sale in the Parks & Recreation Office until the first week of class. Any items not purchased will be boxed and held in the Parks and Rec. office for two additional weeks for claiming. You will be notified if items sell so if you do not hear from us please claim your unsold items. Any items not claimed by mid-October will be taken to Goodwill. PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to purchase the item please take the tag to the Parks & Rec. office or to a dance instructor with your payment.

Recital Information

Recital Dance Themes & Recital Costume Cost- Each instructor will have a brief parent meeting to discuss the theme of their recital dance. Conversation involving props, stage decorations and costume design will take place. Costume costs are dependent upon talented volunteer sewing enthusiasts and the level of performance. Costume costs generally fall between \$35 and \$60 per class. Included in your dance class fee is a \$30 credit towards your child's costume. There usually will be an additional fee beyond the original \$30 to cover the exact cost of your child's costume.

Rehearsal & Recital Location- The Main Street Dance Studio rehearsal & recital are both located in the UW-Whitewater Irving L. Young Auditorium on the southwest side of the college campus (West Main Street). The Kachel Center is located within the Auditorium building (go left after you enter main doors) and is the waiting area on performance day and is the starting point for pictures on rehearsal day. Parking is available in lots to the south and north of the main building entrance.

Rehearsal Day for Age 5 & Older- Your child will have an assigned time to arrive at the Young Auditorium and should arrive in full costume. Your child will travel to a back hallway to show them how they will enter the stage area. Your child will then be led to the stage area and will practice their performance twice. Parents will be located in the seating bowl in front of the stage and will provide an excellent opportunity for videotaping or taking pictures.

NOTE: Photography during the recital performance is not allowed and food/drink is also not permitted in the seating bowl.

Recital Day for Age 5 & Older- Children need to arrive at the Kachel Center at a time designated by the instructor - usually around 1:00 pm. The performance will begin at 2:00 pm. Entry to the seating bowl for parents, family and guest will be determined by the Young Auditorium management, but usually occurs at 1:30 pm. Young Auditorium seats about 1,300 people and offers an excellent vantage point from the main floor and balcony. Wheelchair seating is available.

Recital Day for Age 3 & 4- The performance will be held in the early evening. Depending upon registration numbers, we are not expecting to need printed, assigned tickets for this recital. We would utilize general admission seating. Complete information will be sent prior to the event. The performance is expected to last approximately one hour.

Recital Tickets- Each family receives up to 5 recital tickets at no cost. The tickets reserve an exact seat in the auditorium which allows you to arrive closer to show time and keeps you and your guests out of long lines on recital day. After all families have the opportunity to claim (up to) 5 tickets, then the remaining tickets will go on sale for \$5.00 each. Distribution of free and purchased tickets will take place in May. You will receive ticket information with recital information around the first of May.

Recital Video Purchase- A professional video service will record the event. Information will be distributed prior to the recital. Pre-registration is required along with your payment. This is completely optional.

Other Information

Want to Volunteer?- If you want to get more involved in your child's experience you may volunteer as a costume maker, make props, help with set decorations, assist the photographer (receive credit for photos), distribution of costumes, sale of dancewear, and help as backstage class assistant to shuttle children from waiting area to stage.

Checks Payable To- Even though we utilize the Main Street Dance Studio name, checks are to be made payable to the: **City of Fort Atkinson**

Thank you for your interest in the Main Street Dance Studio Program.

You may find more information or contact us through these avenues:

**Fort Parks & Rec. Office Telephone: 920-563-7781
30 N. Water Street W.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538**

Each instructor has a web page at the Parks & Recreation Web Site:

www.fortparksandrec.com (Click the "Dance" icon on our home page)

If teacher approval is noted, or you are not sure what class your child would be in call Ms. Cindy at: 920-563-8391