



ORLAND PARK

PARENT HANDBOOK
2023/2024





ORLAND PARK

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Franklin Loebe Center | 14650 S. Ravinia Ave. | 708.403.5000

Orland Park Cultural Center | 14760 Park Lane | 708.349.1402

Orland Park Sportsplex | 11351 W. 159th St. | 708.403.5000

OrlandParkRec [facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [twitter](#)

GIVE THE GIFT OF RECREATION

Village of Orland Park gift cards are now available for purchase at the following locations:

Sportsplex, 11351 W. 159th Street

Cashier's office at Village Hall, 14700 Ravinia Avenue

They can be used at Sportsplex, Cashier's office and Centennial Park Aquatic Center.

Some exclusions apply.

FOR MORE INFO orlandpark.org | 708.403.5000

WELCOME TO DANCE CLASS!

The dance instructors are looking forward to working with both the students and their parents. The following information will help prepare you for the upcoming season.

Introducing music and movement at an early age can provide many benefits to the young child in important areas of development, including physical, social, emotional, behavioral, and language skills. We will provide developmentally appropriate activities in a safe and fun environment which will help boost your child's confidence and self-motivation as new skills and abilities are achieved.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

For safety precautions:

- Make sure students use the restroom **BEFORE** class.
- All long hair **MUST** be tied back, placed in a bun or pony tail.
- **NO** gum or candy is allowed during class.
- **NO** jewelry (especially around the neck) is allowed during class.
- Change in restrooms before and after class. Changing in the dance room keeps classes from starting on time.
- Proper dance attire is required for each class.
- If a student is enrolled in a class at the incorrect level, we will make arrangements to put them in the correct level class.

LATE PICK-UP POLICY

The Village of Orland Park has established the following late pick-up policy for all of our program locations. There is a 3 strike policy: a written warning will be given after each offense when a parent/guardian is more than 10 minutes late picking up their child. After the 3rd warning, a \$1.00 per minute fee will be assessed the next time the parent or guardian is late. That fee must be paid prior to the participant being admitted to the next class.



DAYS OFF

Classes will not be held October 16-21, October 31, or over Thanksgiving Break, Nov. 20-25. During the Winter/Spring 2024 session, classes will not be held during Spring Break, March 25-30, and the week of May 6-11 (this week is reserved for any make-ups due to cancellations by the Village or instructors) and Memorial weekend, May 25 & 27. Summer 2024 days off include July 3 & 4.

MAKE-UP WEEK

There are no regular classes scheduled during the week of May 6-11. This week will be reserved for any Village or instructor related cancellations.

EARLY REGISTRATION – WINTER/SPRING SESSION

– EARLY RESIDENT

Residents who are enrolled in the Fall classes will have early registration over other residents. Resident early registration will take place November 20—November 28. Regular resident registration begins November 30.

– EARLY NON-RESIDENT

Non-residents who are enrolled in the Fall classes will have early registration over other non-residents. Non-resident early registration will take place December 4–11. Regular non-resident registration begins December 13. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE VERY IMPORTANT DATES!**

BEFORE AND AFTER CLASS

Please be sure your child uses the restroom before class.

All children must be picked up at the ending time of their class. In the event of an emergency, parents are responsible for making arrangements for the child to be picked up.

If you are late for pick up, your child will be in the dance studio, or at the Building Attendant Desk, until you arrive. Please see the Village of Orland Park's Late Pick-Up Policy. Please do not ask them to wait outside for you.

For safety reasons, we ask that you do not have any child, regardless of age, meet you in the parking lot. Even if your child is old enough to be on their own, we ask that you have them wait in the building.

If you are late for the start of class, we ask that you send in your child fully dressed for class. The instructor may have them do a warm up before joining the class.

DANCE RECITAL

The end of the year dance recital will be held on June 8 & 9 (for students enrolled in the winter/spring session) at Carl Sandburg High School Performing Arts Center. Limited tickets will be available at a minimal cost. A full dress rehearsal will take place on either June 5 or 6.

Classes that do not participate in the recital are noted in the program guide.

Please note that it is very important for your child to attend all scheduled classes. In order to progress to the next level, a student needs to attend all classes and practice at home. During the Winter/Spring session, this is especially important as the students are learning a dance number that will be performed at the recital. If a student does not attend all classes, the teacher reserves the right to change the line up in order to have the class perform at their best in the recital.

RECITAL COSTUMES

The costume fee is included in the registration fee and includes a costume and tights. Dance footwear is not included in this fee along with the occasional prop.

RECITAL PICTURES

Picture Day will be on Sunday, June 2.



COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

EMAILS

Occasionally, an email concerning important information (class cancellations, reminders on important dates, etc.) for a specific dance class will be sent to the parents. If the child registered doesn't have an email attached to their account, he/she will not receive these important emails. Please be sure to attach a parent email to the child's account when registering your child/children for any programs. If you don't receive emails from us, please check your spam folder. The emails will come from klux@orlandpark.org or jpetrow@orlandpark.org.

RAINOUT LINE

Stay updated on the latest weather and field conditions for outdoor sports, classes, special events, Centennial Park Aquatic Center, Winter Wonderland Ice Rink, **DANCE** (snow day cancellations) and more.

- Download the free app: [Rainoutline.com](https://rainoutline.com)
- Select Village of Orland Park
- Scroll through all of the locations or activities that are included and click on the star to make it your favorite (you can have more than one)
- Click on the bell and you will receive a notification when that particular location/activity is updated. (Make sure your notifications are turned on)

OR

- Call the Rainout Line at 708.401.0043, ext. 83 for dance updates.

CLASS DESCRIPTION AND ATTIRE

Please review the following and be sure you have the proper attire for the start of class:

- For all classes, hair should be pulled back and out of dancer's face.
- Dancers must wear proper attire during class for better movement and uniformity of the class. **NO** tutus or sweats are allowed. For warmth, a T-shirt may be worn **UNDER** the leotard.

It is impossible to teach proper body movement and placement if the teacher cannot see the student's body. Leg warmers may be worn.

- Several local stores carry ballet and tap shoes including Target and Walmart. Jazz shoes and Hip Hop shoes can be purchased at any dance store.



Mommy and Me

Gym shoes, shorts, or sweatpants and T-shirt

These classes are structured to stimulate coordination, balance, music interpretation, motor development, and creative movement. Basic dance and tumbling moves are introduced in a fun and positive atmosphere. Parent participation is required.

Budding Ballerinas

Pink tights, black leotard, pink leather ballet shoes (NO house slippers)

By using musical instruments and other fun props, children will develop motor skills and body awareness through songs and dance that revolve around themes and activities that kids love. This class provides an introduction to basic musical concepts, such as rhythm, while focusing on fundamental coordination, such as hopping. In addition, valuable social skills are addressed as the students learn to “take their turn” and “follow the leader”.

Pre Ballet/Tap

Pink tights, black leotard, pink leather ballet shoes and black tap shoes (NO house slippers)

This class is an introduction to classical ballet through which students begin to develop their grace and posture while learning to express stories and images through dance. This class is also a wonderful introduction to elementary tap techniques and terminology. Students will increase their coordination, sense of rhythm, flexibility, and strength.

Pixie Poms

Ballet shoes and comfortable clothing or dance attire

Little dancers will learn basic jazz style dancing and pom moves, jumps and tricks.

Summer Dance Camp

Ballet, jazz shoes or clean gym shoes and comfortable clothing or dance attire

Each week will have a different theme and will include a dance being taught, a dance prop being made, games, and activities. A performance will be done during the last ½ hour of the last day of camp.

Ballet

Pink tights, black leotard, pink leather ballet shoes

Class will focus on the basic steps and positions of ballet through elementary barre and center exercises. A balanced mixture of structure and creativity ensures students a joyous introduction to the world of ballet while developing the discipline necessary to advance to the next level of ballet technique.

Ballet II/III

Pink tights, black leotard, pink leather ballet shoes

This class will continue developing ballet techniques while introducing more advanced steps, leaps, and turns.

Tap I

Black jazz pants, black leotard, black tap shoes

This class will introduce the student to tap techniques and terminology. Focus will be on coordination, sense of rhythm, flexibility and strength.

Tap II

Black jazz pants, black leotard, black tap shoes

This is a follow up to Tap I. Introduction to traveling steps and challenging choreographic combinations begin.

Tap III

Black jazz pants, black leotard, black tap shoes

This class will focus on techniques taught in Tap II and also introduce more difficult steps.

Tap III Teacher Approved

Black jazz pants, black leotard, black tap shoes

This is an intermediate/advanced tap class that will focus on more difficult tap techniques, style and combinations. This class is subject to teacher approval.

Tap Turbo

Black jazz pants, black leotard, black tap shoes

This class is for the more experienced tapper and will perfect tap technique and style, while learning more difficult combinations. This class is a supplement to Tap II Teacher Approved and enrollment in both classes is required. Must have approval by the instructor for this class.

Jazz I

Black jazz pants, black leotard, black jazz shoes (NO gym shoes)

This class will develop the student's strength, flexibility, coordination and rhythm. Each class will include a floor warm up and simple combinations across the floor.

Jazz II

Black jazz pants, black leotard, black jazz shoes (NO gym shoes)

This is a follow up to Jazz I. Must have jazz experience or instructor's permission.

Jazz III

Black jazz pants, black leotard, black jazz shoes (NO gym shoes)

This class presents an increased emphasis on balance, turns, and leaps as well as challenging choreographed routines. Must have four years of dance experience or teacher's approval.

Pre Hip Hop

Black jazz or black hip hop dance shoes, tank top or T-shirt and leggings, joggers or fitted sweatpants (NO jeans)

This class is an introduction into hip hop that will focus on rhythm, musicality and basic footwork in a casual, friendly environment.

Hip Hop I Beg

Special shoes are not required for class, just clean gym shoes, not worn outside. Specific recital shoes will not be needed for the 2023 dance recital. Tank top or T-shirt and leggings, joggers or fitted sweatpants (NO jeans)

This class will include conditioning and warm-up, simplified break down of each dance step, skill combinations, and choreography. All moves and music are age appropriate.

Hip Hop I Int/Adv

Special shoes are not required for class, just clean gym shoes, not worn outside. Specific recital shoes will not be needed for the 2023 dance recital. Tank top or T-shirt and leggings, joggers or fitted sweatpants (NO jeans)

This class is a follow up of Hip Hop I Beg. Students without hip-hop experience are expected to start in Hip Hop I Beg. Introduction to isolations, rhythmic counting, and floor work will begin. All moves and music are age appropriate.

Hip Hop II

Special shoes are not required for class, just clean gym shoes, not worn outside. Specific recital shoes will not be needed for the 2023 dance recital. Tank top or T-shirt and leggings, joggers or fitted sweatpants (NO jeans)

This class will include conditioning and warm-up, simplified break down of each dance step, skill combinations, isolations, floor work, complex rhythmic counting, and intricate choreography. All moves and music are age appropriate.



Lyrical

Black dance shorts, black leotard, tights, and neutral Footundeez™

This class is defined by a fusion of jazz and ballet. The class will focus on technique, flexibility, and coordination, while developing more fluid movement and musicality, through an expression of emotions while dancing.

Pointe

Pink tights, black leotard, point shoes

This class is for the advanced ballet dancer that would like to enhance their dance experience. Must have teacher approval for this class.

Irish

Comfortable clothing, ballet shoes

Boys and girls will learn the fundamentals of the Jig and the Reel. Beginner, Advanced Beginner and Intermediate classes are offered.

Modern

Black dance shorts, black leotard, tights and neutral Footundeez™

This class will incorporate many of the foundations of modern dance technique including suspension and release, fall and recovery, the use of momentum and connecting breath with movement. Moving in combinations, floor work and partnering, and various methods of improvisation will also be explored.

Jazz/Pom

Black jazz pants, black leotard, black jazz shoes (NO gym shoes)

Introduction to basic jazz and pom techniques while focusing on turns, leaps and jumps while working with pom-poms. Basic pom arm movements, kicks, and pom passes will be taught.

Technique

Black leotard, pink tights, and pink leather ballet shoes; black jazz shoes are optional

This intermediate/advanced class will focus on ballet and jazz technique. Students will focus on strength, coordination, flexibility, and proper technique behind each movement.



VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK

DANCE INSTRUCTORS

ASHLEY COSTA

Ashley started dance classes at Stage Door Dance Academy at the age of 5. By 12 she realized that dance was her passion and continued her training at the American Dance Center where she was selected as an Illinois Delegate to compete in an International Dance Competition. She was a company dancer with The Young Americans performance arts company in California. She received her bachelors degree in Science, majoring in Elementary Education from Saint Xavier University. After graduating, Ashley became the Youth Dance Education Director at a private studio where, as the studio's only instructor, she created, choreographed, and directed an entire recital with all the classes she taught. Ashley was the Varsity Dance coach at Mount Assisi Academy and created the first competitive varsity team at Queen of Peace High School and has been a dance teacher at the Village of Orland Park since 2013. She has choreographed numerous projects for school fundraisers as well as choir and musical performances. Ashley has been trained in the areas of jazz, hip-hop, ballet, tap, lyrical, musical theatre, and swing. There is nothing that gives her greater joy than sharing her passion of dance with her students and watching them grow as individuals throughout their training.

KATHIE HORAN

Kathie began dancing at the age of seven with the Dennehy School of Irish Dance. She began teaching with them, under the instruction of Dennis Dennehy, a founding member of Irish dance in Chicago, when she was sixteen years old. She is still teaching at the Dennehy School in Chicago to this day and is proud of the history that she is able to share with the dancers. Kathie competed at the regional, national, & world championship level, travelling throughout the United States and Ireland. She loves to teach children how to dance and has been with the Village of Orland Park for over 20 years.

JACKIE LEWIS

Jackie danced with the Village of Orland Park from the age of two to sixteen years old. She was a member of the Orland Park Dance Company for six years while also studying at Lou Conte Dance Studio in Chicago and Dance Images in Tinley Park. At Lou Conte, she trained under renowned ballet mistress Birute Barodicaite and modern dancer Kristina Fluty, and many other notable names. She also studied in Hubbard Street's summer intensive for three years in a row. Jackie has extensive ballet, modern, pointe, jazz and aerial dance expertise as well. While studying Art History at DePaul University, Jackie was recruited by Noumemon Dance Experience and performed at various venues and festivals such as Dance Chicago. Jackie is now a full time Assistant Director at a fine art gallery in Chicago and also writes for multiple art based publications such as Chicago Gallery News and The Collector. She has been working with the Village of Orland Park since 2011.

KRISTIN LUX

Kristin began dancing when she was two years old. She trained at Applause Dance Academy in Chicago for over 14 years under the direction of Mary Marks and later studied under Jay Fagan, an internationally recognized tap master and choreographer. She is trained in many areas of dance including ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop. As a student of dance, she participated in various competitions and workshops, all of which help her succeed as an instructor today. Kristin has choreographed for many community projects, special events and area high schools. She has choreographed for Curtain Call Community Theater and JV and Varsity level dance and poms teams. She currently directs the award-winning competition team, is director of the Jr., Sr., and newly created Mini Dance Company at the Village of Orland Park. With over 15 years of teaching experience, she continues her dance education by attending master classes, workshops and conventions often. Kristin loves teaching dance and sharing her passion with others. She hopes she inspires her students as much as they inspire her!

JESSICA TALWAR

Jessica ("Jess") Talwar is one of the Village of Orland Park's very own. She has participated in the Village's dance program in some capacity (student, teacher's aide, and now instructor!) for nearly 20 years. She has been trained in ballet, jazz, tap, pointe, lyrical, and modern under the wing of Colleen, Kristin, Ashley, Gwen and Victoria, in addition to the South Asian dance genre Bhangra. Beyond being a dance student, Jess is a recent graduate of Loyola University Chicago, where she studied Statistics and Political Science. She lives in downtown Chicago and works in business management/IT consulting in the West Loop. As a Chicagoan, Jess pursues her passion of teaching and working with youth outside of the dance studio as a volunteer with Chicago Public School students in the after-school tutoring program "Tutoring Chicago." The lessons learned as a tutor with Tutoring Chicago impact her work with students at the Village, and vice versa. She is excited for another year ahead with her beloved students!

ALEXIS AURELIO

Alexis began dancing at her local park district at the age of 5 before moving to Stage Door Dance Academy at the age of 6. She has trained in hip hop, jazz, ballet, lyrical, contemporary, and tap under Debbie Scarpetti and the rest of the SDDA faculty. She has been a part of Stage Door's Performance Company for two years competing at regional and national competitions, as well as attending numerous master classes and conventions. Alexis has also been a part of Carl Sandburg's varsity dance/poms team all four years of high school, finishing her senior year as captain, and has won conference champs and qualified for state all four years. She additionally has been in Sandburg's Orchesis troupe and had the privilege of being an officer her senior year. Alexis continues to take classes to grow individually as a dancer and is now a part of Stage Door's faculty. This is Alexis's first year with the Village of Orland Park and plans on continuing teaching while attending college to pursue a nursing career!

JORIE PUDIL

Jorie began dancing at the age of 2. She was only a tap dancer until the start of high school. Upon entering her freshman year of high school at Mount Assisi Academy, she made the JV competitive team. The next 2 years she spent on the MAA competitive Varsity team, where they placed at sectionals and went down to state. Due to a school closure, she continued her senior year at Queen of Peace and started a Varsity dance team, qualifying for state as a first year team. She continued her education at Valparaiso University and was part of the collegiate level dance team. She appeared on ESPN a few times and danced for the March Madness tournaments. Out of undergrad now and a year into graduate school, Jorie is on her second year of coaching competitive dance at St. Laurence High School. She is a new addition to the Orland Park dance program as of March, 2021.

KAYLEIGH PUDIL

Kayleigh started dancing at Tip Tap Toe Dance Studio at the age of 3. She took tap until she was 14, and then continued her dance career in high school. She performed on her high school pom's team and competed on her school's competitive dance team in the genre of jazz and lyrical. Her favorite dance memory is competing in "The Greatest Showman" themed routine and being just a few points shy of making it down state! She loves working with kids and helping them to grow in their dance skills. Kayleigh hopes to follow in her dance coaches' footsteps. Her goal is for her students to have fun, build their confidence and find a passion for dance like she did when she was their age.