

Please save for your reference!

Danz Kraze

Parent Handbook 2010-2011

Our Mission:

To teach and coach pom style dance teams of local youth, providing the opportunity to perform, have fun, and build pride and self-discipline, in a professional, organized setting.

Team Objectives

- ☆ Increase rhythm and music awareness
- ☆ Increase body awareness and flexibility
- ☆ Learn basic pom form and dance technique
- ☆ Improve strength and uniformity
- ☆ Improve understanding of spatial relationship with other performers
- ☆ Improve confidence and stage presence

Welcome to Danz Kraze! If you have questions at any time, please talk to your danzer's coach or contact Wendy Sue Johnson, director.

Website: ECDanzKraze.com (Handout Password: Danzer) Become our Friend on Facebook!

Mailing address: 800 Wisconsin Street, Mailbox 84, Eau Claire, WI, 54703

Preferred contact: ECDanzKraze@aol.com

Studio phone: 715-832-DANZ (832-3269) Wendy Sue's cell: 715-829-9071

- ☆ Please allow a few days for e-mail or studio phone messages. Your concerns are important to us, but we appreciate your patience!
- ☆ If you have an immediate concern, please feel free to call Wendy Sue's cell phone number.
- ☆ Please keep your emergency contact information current. If a danzer is sick or injured, the coach will call the parent immediately. Any diagnosis and/or treatment are the responsibility of the parent

Calendar: Please mark these on your personal/family calendar now!

- ☆ Classes will meet weekly, September 2 through May 19.
- ☆ **Competition Team Parent Meeting:**
 - **Silver:** September 9th 8:30
 - **Youth:** September 13th 6:00
 - **Middle:** September 14th 6:30
- ☆ There are **no classes** on:
 - September 6
 - November 24 & 25
 - December 23 to 31
 - February 21 & 22 (Eau Claire Mini, Peewee, & Junior Teams only)
 - February 28 (Chippewa Falls only)
 - March 21 to 24
- ☆ There **will** be regular class on:
 - October 18
 - January 24
 - February 21 & 22 (E.C. Competition Teams only & all Chippewa Teams)
- ☆ There is an average of 4 classes, rehearsals, and/or performances per month. For your billing convenience, the monthly tuition charge will remain the same for all months. You will not be charged additional tuition for performances above the 4/month average.
- ☆ The **Spring Show:** Saturday, May 14 at 2:00. **Rehearsal:** Friday, May 13 about 6:00 PM.
- ☆ If the Eau Claire public schools close/let out early, due to weather conditions, class will be canceled; we will try to post in on Facebook. If canceled for any other reason, the coach will attempt to call all danzers.
- ☆ **Hair Instruction:** November 15-18 during class times
- ☆ **Picture week:** January 10, 17-19, 27, Jacobs Photography in Hallie, regular class time
 - Chippewa Teams on January 10
 - Eau Claire Monday teams on January 17 (except Silver which is on Thursday)
 - Tuesday & Wednesday Teams on January 18 & 19
 - Youth/Middle Jazz with Middle Comp on Tuesday
 - **Thursday classes on January 27**
- ☆ **Performance/Parade dates:** watch for handout & e-mail the week before
 - September 18 Fall Festival parade, 3:00 (optional)
 - December 29 or 30 @ UWEC, 6:00 or 8:00 games (Eau Claire Teams only)
 - December 17 or 21? Chi-Hi game (Chippewa Teams only)
 - April 10, 11:30 @ Kids Expo, E.C. Indoor Sports Center
 - February Class nights @ Elderly homes (Non-competition Teams only)

- May 7 Doll & Pet Parade, Water Street, 1:00 (optional)
- May 14 @ Spring Show, North High School, 2:00
- ☆ Timberwolves Game (Silver Team): March 7
- ☆ **Bring a Friend Week:** March 14-17
- ☆ **Classes will meet May 16-19** for evaluation, celebration, and registration for 2011-12!
- ☆ **Competition dates** for Competition Teams:
 - December 4 in Menomonie (Youth, Middle, Silver)
 - December 11 in Watertown (Middle & Silver, not Youth)
 - January 8 in Freedom (Youth, Middle, Silver)
 - February 27 in West Allis (Youth, Middle, & Silver)
 - Competitions generally have youth divisions in the morning and high school divisions in the afternoon. Detailed schedules and line-ups arrive about one week in advance.
- ☆ High School Competitions to watch:
 - January 15 Conference @ ?
 - January 22 JV State @ Sheboygan
 - January 29 WACPC Western Regional @ E.C. North
 - February 5 State @ LaCrosse Center

Fee & Cancellation Policy:

- ☆ Danz Kraze is excited to offer a convenient way to accept your tuition payments. Electronic Fund Transfer is a secure method that you are probably familiar with through YMCA, health clubs, on-line services, and other monthly bills. It is an easier, more streamlined process that will decrease administrative costs and the number of account statements your child will bring home.
- ☆ **EFT** will be processed for each tuition payment during the first week of the month.
 - Please fill out and return the Electronic Payment Registration Form with a voided check right away!
 - If you are reactivating from 2009-10, you only need to fill out the renewal form.
- ☆ All families completing the entire season using EFT (and with no outstanding balances) will receive a FREE DVD of the Spring Show and two FREE tickets to the show; a \$28 value!
- ☆ Shoes and costume payments are due with orders. Competition fees are different for each event; in the past they have ranged from \$11-23 per event. Since these amounts vary, they must be paid by check; EFT will only be used for your monthly tuition.
- ☆ Please label any **check** payments with your danzer's name to ensure proper credit.
- ☆ Fill out a payment slip with **cash** payments.
- ☆ Cash & checks may be mailed or put in the black **payment box** near the studio door.
- ☆ There are **no refunds for missed classes**. You are welcome to attend a class for another team of the same age to make up the missed class, but should realize that each class works on different choreography.
- ☆ Tuition will be charged until **written cancellation** notice is received. Any class fees already paid will be refunded for classes scheduled after the cancellation notice is received. Notice must be given to Wendy Sue in writing to avoid any misunderstanding; you can put it into the payment box at the studio, send by mail, or e-mail.
- ☆ Costumes and shoes are non-refundable unless another danzer is able to purchase.
- ☆ Families with multiple siblings will receive a 10% discount.
- ☆ Danzers on any year-long Pom/HipHop Team will receive a 20% discount on Jazz classes.
- ☆ Private lessons are available for remediation for excessive absences and other needs. Schedule directly with the coach or ask Wendy Sue for more information. Payments can be deposited in the payment box; \$18 per hour.

Class Time

- ☆ Please walk young dancers to the inside studio door for drop-off & pick-up to ensure teachers are available for supervision. For their safety, please instruct dancers to wait **indoors** for their ride, so teachers may continue supervising them until parent arrives.
- ☆ In order to minimize distractions, and provide opportunities for your dancer to learn confidence and independence, practices will be generally closed to spectators. Parents are welcome to **observe practices the last class of each month** to see their progress. Please keep all young children quiet or take them into the hallway. Also refrain from communicating with your child during instruction. Occasional visiting family members are also welcome.
- ☆ Parents are encouraged to **come into the studio before and after class** to help dancers change clothes/shoes, read signs, and talk with the teacher.
- ☆ Parents are welcome to use the table in the hall if you prefer to remain at Banbury Place, rather than run errands, etc.
- ☆ Dancers are expected to **use the restrooms and fill their water bottles before class.**
- ☆ There will be at least one short drink break per class.
- ☆ Please walk and talk quietly in the hallways to respect the dog training classes and others.
- ☆ All students must wear supportive shoes in class. Dancers should bring your supportive, **indoor-only sneakers** in a bag.
- ☆ Practice attire must be comfortable, flexible clothing such as shorts & T-shirts, jazz pants, or leotards. Skirts and jeans are not appropriate.
- ☆ **Hair should be pulled back** and off of face for class.
- ☆ Please leave any jewelry at home.
- ☆ Dancers should **use the dressing room** for changing and storing belongings. There is also a shoe and garment rack for your use.
- ☆ The area behind the desk is for teachers only. Dancers should not be in this area.

Performances & Costumes

- ☆ Performances are scheduled throughout the year to allow dancers to feel success in dancing in front of an audience, remembering the sequence, working on confidence and smiles, etc. as well as to allow their families to see their progress.
- ☆ Parents are responsible for transportation. A carpool list will be sent out including anyone who indicated on the registration form that they were willing to share their contact info.
- ☆ Spectators will pay regular event ticket prices for community events where Danz Kraze performs, but entrance is free for all performers.
- ☆ We expect all dancers to attend their scheduled performances. If you will **not be able to attend a performance, inform the teacher as soon as possible**, to allow adjustments in formations. Not only will your dancer miss the opportunity to perform and improve, but it is difficult for her team members to adjust formations and group parts.
- ☆ The team costume will be worn for all performances unless notified otherwise. Pom costumes will be ordered around October. These will be worn for Pom routines all year.
- ☆ HipHop/Funk costumes will also be ordered for Competition Teams in October.
- ☆ Mini, Peewee, and Junior Team HipHop/Funk costumes will be ordered after winter break.
- ☆ Danz Kraze T-shirts, warm-ups, and bags will be ordered before Christmas and before the Spring Show.
- ☆ All non-competition dancers must wear **plain white tennis shoes for performances.**
- ☆ Competition dancers must practice in split-sole dance sneakers. They will wear their split-soles or other shoes that the teachers find for Funk. They will wear tan jazz booties for performances.

- ★ **Hair must be pulled back**, out of face, preferably in a low bun.
 - Buns work best with a bun-form. To make a bun-form, cut the toe from your child's sock, preferably one that is close to her hair color (not white). Roll the sock into a donut. Place the form around a low ponytail. Spread the hair over the form and secure with a band at the base of the form. Tuck ends of hair around base with bobby pins or another band. Fake hair or scrunchy is then placed around the bun.
 - Use simple bobby pins and rubber bands.
 - We will demonstrate how to create a slick low bun at the studio in November.
- ★ Suggested make-up: foundation, natural color blush, mascara, & dark pink lipstick; no glitter.
- ★ Danzers may wear **NO** jewelry of any kind. Competition teams will be individually checked and required to remove all jewelry.

Progress

- ★ It is our philosophy that danzers will feel a sense of accomplishment with true progress in skill level. Therefore, coaches set high expectations to challenge and inspire student progress. Danzers will be given specific feedback and correction to encourage good technique and habits. Please help your danzer to accept these helpful comments with a positive attitude. Dance is even more fun with improvement and success!
- ★ In early spring, danzers will have the opportunity to perform the team pom routine for their class. This is an informal, low-stress performance for the class members only. It is meant to build their confidence in performing. It also allows the coach to evaluate their skills. Congratulate your danzer for being confident and brave!
 - We provide progress reports as one way to work toward our mission and objectives. We really want all danzers to progress and improve by encouraging them to be the best that they can. We believe that hard work and honest, helpful feedback is the only way to attain that!
- ★ Later in the spring, coaches will offer some danzers the opportunity to try out for a solo for the Spring Show. The danzers first priority is to team routines. To tryout for a solo, the danzer must first be able to remember her team routine and perform it by herself with limited prompts.
 - Soloists will only be allowed to perform if the coach believes they are capable of remembering their solo, executing it well, and maintaining composure in front of a large audience. Please trust and respect the decision of the coach; she has the best interest of the danzers in mind! Students who are ready for the next step will receive further instructions by e-mail.
 - Every member of a team is important. No matter where you stand on the floor, the audience (and most importantly, your family) is watching you! On the other hand, some danzers deserve the opportunity to improve and challenge themselves at an appropriate level (like a singing solo). The coaches recommend those danzers for the solo tryout process. It is a learning experience. Please help your danzer handle any disappointment appropriately, keep this all in perspective, and be proud and supportive of her teammates as they excel.
 - If your danzer choreographs her own routines outside of class, she is welcome to show her coach before or after class anytime during the year.
- ★ It is important that danzers **attend class every week**. This is particularly important the 2-3 weeks before any performance. Danzers who miss the last practice before a performance will not perform unless the coach is confident that the danzer is ready.
- ★ **All members of the Competition Teams must attend practice regularly or will not perform one or more routines at competitions. They are also expected to commit to attending ALL competitions.** If competitions conflict with other activities, you are encouraged to register for a non-competition team.