

STUDENT DRESS CODE

All students are to be dressed appropriately for dance classes as listed below:

Hair: (GIRLS) Ballet hair is to be tightly secured in a bun off the dancer's face & neck. *Mod/Jazz/Tap/African* hair must be off face and secured in a ponytail. Long hairstyles, extensions and hairstyles with beads, extreme haircuts are not allowed in class. Short hair that cannot be pulled up should be held back with a headband, barrettes, or bobby pins. **(BOYS)** hair should be styled or worn so that it is off of the face and neck.

Jewelry and watches are NOT to be worn in class. Students are asked to leave these items at home so they do not get lost. All dance clothing and shoes need to be marked with indelible ink with the student's name.

Dancers are allowed to wear tight fitting leg warmers and sweaters made for dance if teacher permits. Plastic and nylon pants and extra baggy sweat clothes are **NOT** allowed to be worn during class.

Ballet & Pointe (GIRLS) – All students **must** wear Pink tights, ballet slippers & leotard colors as follows:

Creative Ballet I, II, III – Pink	Ballet I, II, II-III – Light Blue
Ballet III, IV – Royal Blue	Ballet V – Black

Ballet (BOYS) – Boys are to wear a form fitting white T-shirt, black tights and black ballet slippers.

Modern/Jazz/Tap/African (GIRLS) – Students that take ballet wear their level color to modern, jazz, tap and African classes. All students **must** wear Pink tights & leotard colors as follows: For Tap the girls need to wear low-heeled black tap shoes (Mary Janes).

Creative Tap – Pink	Tap I – Light Blue
Mod/Jazz I – Light Blue	Jazz II, Tap II – Royal Blue
Modern, Jazz, Tap III-V - Royal Blue or Black & Pink/Black tights	

Dancers may wear their Pink ballet tights however, for **Modern** the bottom of the foot needs to be slit so that the tights can be rolled up around the ankle.

Modern IV-V - have the option to wear footless black tights or a black unitard.

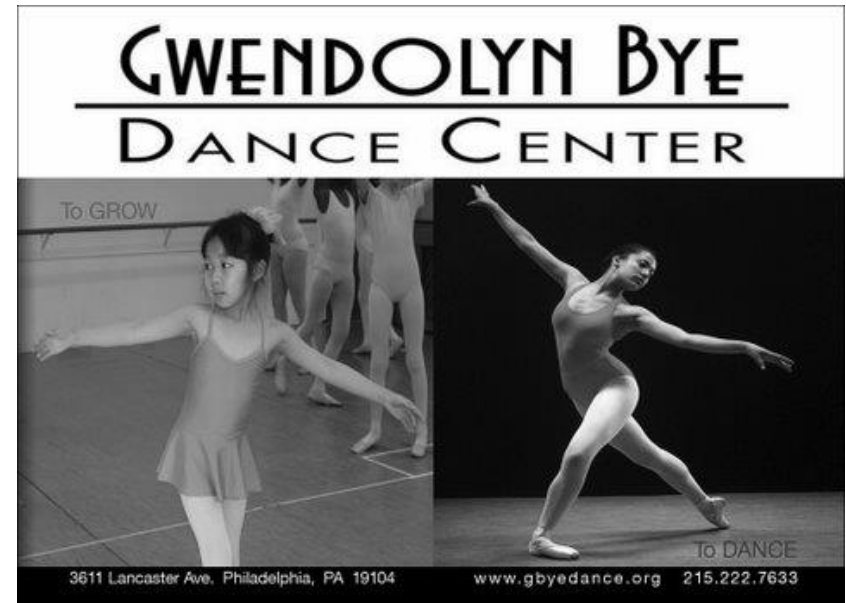
Jazz (GIRLS) – dancers may take class with bare feet, jazz shoes or ballet slippers, depending on the requests of the teacher. All Jazz students are allowed to wear, tight fitting, black jazz pants in place of tights. Please inquire with the instructor as to the preferred attire.

African (GIRLS) – dancers must take class with bare feet.

Modern/Jazz/Tap/African (BOYS) – Wear White T-shirt and sweat pants, black jazz shoes for jazz class & black tap shoes for tap class. For African you must take class with bare feet.

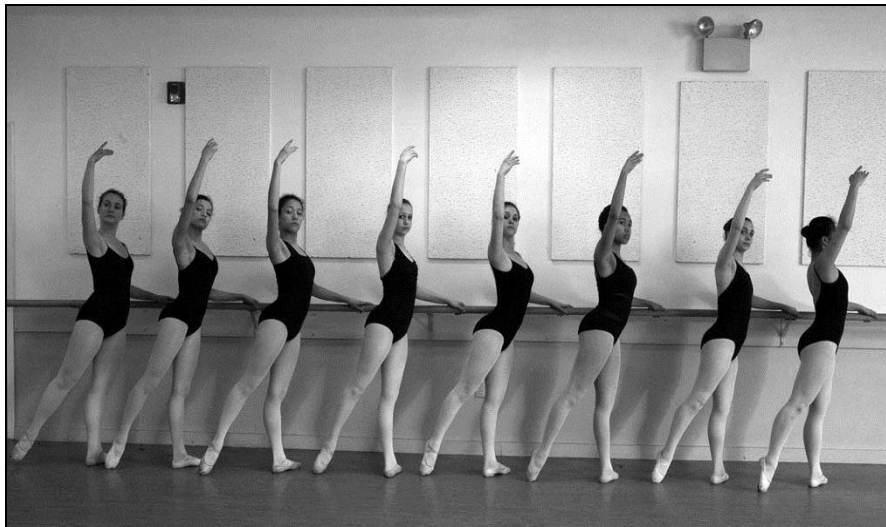
Hip-Hop & Children's Theater (GIRLS & BOYS) – Students may wear leotards and tights or loose fitting street clothes, Sneakers are to be worn for hip-hop ONLY. These sneakers are ONLY to be worn in the studio and may not “double” as street sneakers.

Free Color Week – There are two times during the school year when students are allowed to wear any color leotard. See Calendar of Events.



PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK

Photos by Randl Bye



Attendance, Lateness & Make-ups – Students are required to attend all classes for which they are registered. Parents are asked to avoid scheduling activities or appointments during the year that may conflict with their dance classes. If a student must miss a class they may take a make-up class their level or lower, if the schedule permits. Students are allowed five excused absences accompanied by a note. Any absence after that may affect student's chances for advancement. Students are to be in their classes properly dressed when class starts. Students should be at the school 15 minutes before class begins in order to properly prepare. Any student that arrives late or is not dressed appropriately for class may be asked to watch class and the teacher must notify the office. If a student must leave class early, parents must notify the office that day. Please call the office if your child is not attending class or is out of town, we need to know so we can inform their teachers and for safety reasons.

Substitutes – The studio may hire a substitute teacher to teach class if the scheduled teacher cannot teach class for any reason. If we are unable to find a substitute the class will not be held the office manager will notify the parents.

School Closings – The school will close due to emergencies and/or inclement weather according to the Philadelphia Public Schools for weekday classes. For Saturday classes a phone message will be left by 8am that day call (215) 222-7633. The school is not responsible for classes that are canceled due to emergencies or weather conditions.

Holidays – Please refer to the calendar of events or class schedule for Holidays when we are closed.

Scheduled Changes – Classes not meeting minimum enrollment may be canceled. The office will contact parents about any changes before they take place.

Beverages & Food – Food is permitted in the waiting area ONLY. Throw away trash and garbage, into the trash cans and put any recyclables in the recycling bin in the waiting area. No eating and drinking is allowed in the dressing room or dance studios.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center The dance training school is a division of the Dancefusion non-profit organization. The Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center has year-round classes for children and adults and is dedicated to the education and preservation of dance as a performing art; teaching at the highest standards, the many disciplines of dance to students who will make up our next generation of dancers, artists, patron and public; using dance as a bridge to cross cultural, social and economic boundaries.

The school has a staff of internationally recognized teachers. The programs have been developed to help students grow as young artists and develop a strong technical foundation in a nurturing supportive environment. Graduates of the school have gone into the dance programs at Tisch School of Arts at New York University, Barnard, Wesleyan, Temple, SUNY Purchase, Fordham University and University of the Arts. They have also entered programs at Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, The Juilliard School, Paul Taylor Training Program and The Pennsylvania Governor's School for Performing Arts. Admission reflects the high level of training students received from the Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center.

The school also offers numerous opportunities to perform. Upper division is eligible to audition for the junior company Dancefusion's *fusion2*, a training ground for young dancers, made up of young dancers from the school who perform throughout Philadelphia. All students, ages 3 and up may participate in the school's culminating performance in June and ages 5 and up are eligible to perform in our Holiday Show.

Children's Dance Programs are divided into two levels by age and ability. Classes are offered in ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, tap, hip-hop, African and musical theater. **Program A** for children ages 3 to 12 offers classes in basic training from beginner to beginner-intermediate for young boys and girls. **Program B** for ages 9 to 18 offers training from the beginning-intermediate level to advanced for older boys and girls. These programs are designed to help students grow as young artists and develop a strong technical foundation in an enriching and energetic environment. Students learn self-discipline, concentration, self-confidence and the value of teamwork.

Scholarship Programs a limited number of partial and full scholarships may be awarded to students, ages 8 to 18 who qualify and are selected through an audition process. Scholarships are based on merit and financial need. Applications are available and must be submitted to the office by the deadline. Application to this program does not guarantee an award. For more information please call the office at 215-222-7633.

ABOUT DANCEFUSION THE PROFESSIONAL COMPANY

Mission Dancefusion is a modern dance repertory company. We are dedicated to both the reconstruction of historic works from America's rich record of modern dance, and the creation of innovative work. Dancefusion lives and relives the achievements of the past and explores new choreographic directions for the future by 1) reconstructing historic works; 2) introducing new choreography; 3) providing dance training through programs and educational residencies for the community; 4) nurturing a training company for young dancers, "fusion2" and; 5) expanding public awareness through programs and performance to diverse audiences.

Dancefusion was founded by Artistic Director Gwendolyn Bye in 1987, it has presented annual home seasons, and teaching residencies in the Greater Philadelphia. The company made up of professional dancers and has reconstructed historic works by choreographers including Mary Anthony, Pauline Koner, Anna Sokolow and José Limón. It has also created new works by Artistic Director Bye, company members and guest choreographers Colin Connor, Kun-Yang Lin, Melissa Chisena, Masad Qawishabazz and Tonia Shimin. Dancefusion has been presented at concerts and festivals Nationally and Internationally from Philadelphia and New York to Edinburgh Scotland.



SCHOOL POLICIES

Rules & Regulations – Students need to follow the rules and regulations. If any student breaks any of the rules the student may be dismissed from class or asked to watch.

- 1) **Enter class prepared** dressed appropriately (see student dress code) and on time. If allowed, enter early and start to warm-up no running or loud noises.
- 2) **No talking** during class, unless answering questions of teacher. Try to save questions to the teacher for the end of class. No dance requests during class time.
- 3) **Do not leave class** unless teacher or office permits. Take care of all toilet needs before class.
- 4) **Give full attention** to your teacher and show respect to teachers, faculty, staff and each other. No rolling eyes, talking back, or hurting others feelings
- 5) **No food/drinks** permitted in classroom during class, only water. No Gum permitted in the building.
- 6) **Clean up** all clothes, shoes, band-aids & water bottles etc. before leaving the studio and dressing room.
- 7) **Aggressive Behavior** toward other students and staff, offensive language or defacing school property may result in dismissal of student with NO refund.
- 8) **No Smoking: NO ONE** is allowed to smoke in or outside the school premises.
- 9) **Parents** are NOT allowed to remove students from class early, unless first cleared by management.
- 10) **Dismissal from the Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center:** If a student continues to break the rules, the student will be put on probation and a meeting will be set up with the parents. If the student's behavior does not change dismissal from the Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center will be implemented with NO Refund.

Student Safety:

1. Students must be fully dressed when outside of the studio.
2. Students must sign in and out of studio.
3. Parents need to check box on the registration form: "I do" or "I do not" give permission for my child to go to convenient stores.
4. Parents need to check box on the registration form on how child travels to and from the studio.
5. Inform the office if a student is not going to attend their scheduled class/es.

A **\$1.00 per minute** will be charged if child is not picked up 15 minutes after their last class unless prior arrangements have been made with management.

SCHOOL FEES

Registration & Tuition – There is a yearly registration fee paid upon entering the school. Students register for the ACADEMIC YEAR, September through June. There is a separate registration fee and tuition for summer programs.

There are 2 options on how the tuition can be paid:

- 1) Pay in full for the Academic Year
- 2) Pay by the payment plan. You **WILL** receive a bill for the payment plan. A late fee will be applied to the tuition if payment is not paid on time (see back of schedule for due dates). Students will not be allowed to enter their classes unless their registration is complete and tuition is paid up to date. Students will not be allowed to take classes if tuition is 1 month past due.

Family Discounts – A 10% discount is available for each additional child in the family enrolled in the school.

Holiday Performance – There will be a performance fee for this show. A performance fee is required in order for your child to participate. (Tickets are NOT included with the fee).

Children's Theater Performance – There is a performance fee for those students that take theater class. A performance fee is required in order for your child to participate. (Tickets are NOT included with the fee).

June Recital Fee – This fee includes production costs, program message, DVD and first (1) costume and a t-shirt. A performance fee is required in order for your child to participate. (Tickets are NOT included with the fee).

Costume Fees for June Recital – If your child is in more than one class there will be additional costume fees. Charges for additional costumes will be billed separately.

Refunds & Credits – There are NO Refunds. In the event of serious illness or injury, credit may be extended to the term of academic year at the discretion of the director. All requests for credit must be made in writing and accompanied by a doctor's note and date when student is able to resume with their classes.

Private Lessons – Upper level students may be advised by their teachers to take private lessons. Lessons will help with particular problems that students may be experiencing. The fee is separate from tuition, and can be discussed with the teacher.

ABOUT THE JUNIOR COMPANY

Dancefusion's fusion2, a training company for young dancers was formed in 1996 so that teenage pre-professional dancers would have the opportunity to train and perform throughout Philadelphia in cultural centers, schools, and public concerts. Audition for students from the school between ages of 13 to 18 are held each year.

Since 2002 fusion2 has partnered with the HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy in the CAPE (Choreography, Art, Poetry, Experience) project. This project has toured health facilities and schools with outreach performances in the Greater Philadelphia area including the Philadelphia Carousel House for Handicapped Persons, reaching up to 2,000 children and seniors per year.



SPECIAL FEATURES

June Recital – Dancing is a performing art. Getting students ready to perform is part of their training. There is a culminating recital in June for all students. It is divided into Part A and Part B, depending on the student's level. Class time will be used to teach choreography in those classes designated to be in the school's recitals. Students must attend the last two months of classes or they may be excused from performing. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled as needed by the teachers/choreographers three weeks prior to the performances. Please save the last two Sundays prior to the recital for extra rehearsals. There is a recital performance fee (see schedule for rates and due dates). If the students miss rehearsals and dress rehearsal they may be taken out of the performance. All tuition and additional fees MUST BE PAID IN FULL for your child to participate in the recital.

Holiday Performance – We present a holiday production in December, featuring students from the school. Auditions are held at the beginning of the fall term. Selections are based on ability, maturity, and discipline. Parents are responsible to have their child attend all rehearsals. If the students miss rehearsals and dress rehearsal they may be taken out of the performance.

Children's Theater Performance – Students registered for theater will participate in a theatrical production, in the spring. Parents are responsible to have their child attend all rehearsals. There is a performance fee for the production (see schedule for rates and due dates). If the students miss rehearsals and dress rehearsal they may be taken out of the performance.

Parents Support Committee – Parents are asked to volunteer for at least one committee to help with activities, productions & fund-raisers for the school and *fusion2*. Meetings are scheduled throughout the year and are necessary to the success of the school.

Graduation - Students attending GBDC programs may graduate the School at the end of their senior year. They must meet all requirements and complete their classes for which they are registered. Student may be allowed to dance a Solo for their graduation performance. Request for solos are coordinated by Gwendolyn Bye. There are fees for the choreography and choreographers must be selected from the Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center faculty.

Parent Observations – There are two scheduled observation weeks during the year. Parents and friends are invited to attend, and may only observe at other times if permission is given through the office or by the director. Parents are NOT permitted to walk into a class in progress for any reason. Please be sure to remain quiet during the lesson, as it is distracting for the students.

Evaluations – At the end of the school year in June children are evaluated by their teachers. Teachers discuss the progress of each student to determine their placement for the following fall term. A letter of dance levels is mailed out to each student. Appointments can be requested with their teachers to discuss their progress over the year. These evaluations do not guarantee advancement.

Level Placement and Advancement – Students are placed into levels by age and ability. They will be monitored throughout the year advancement is determined by individual progress. Each class has a set curriculum which students must become proficient before moving to the next level. This process takes place over time; this is why a child may spend several years at one level. Moving to the next level also depends on the student's individual progress and capabilities which have been assessed by their teachers/director. When a student successfully completes the syllabus with clarity, they are moved to the next level. If your child shows a marked improvement late in the year, we will make changes appropriately. Students in Ballet III-IV may be invited into pre-pointe once they have been elevated into pointe they must take the preceding ballet class of their level and a minimum of 5 ballet classes per week, 2 of which are pointe. They will need to purchase pointe shoes and have them approved by their teacher.

Summer Programs – The school offers summer programs. The Performing Arts Summer Camp for boys & girls ages 7-12, offers classes in all styles of dance and musical theater. The Ballet and Dance Focus for boys & girls ages 11-18 offers upper level students a comprehensive program in ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, hip-hop and African. Brochures will be mailed in the spring.

Purchasing of Supplies – Leotards, tights, ballet slippers and accessories can be purchased at the Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center. If we are out of inventory in your child's size an order can be placed and your child will receive their outfit within a week. The first week of the term, incomplete outfits will be permitted. After the second week, if your child is not properly attired for class, they will be asked to watch.