



Fall 2020 Dance Handbook



The Mt. Prospect Park District dance program features two divisions – the Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet and Studio Impulse, which includes genres such as jazz, tap, contemporary, hip hop and modern dance. The two programs work hand-in-hand to provide dancers with exceptional dance instruction right here in Mt. Prospect. Our classes are designed to challenge dancers to reach their highest potential in dance by emphasizing the importance of a strong technical foundation while also encouraging creativity, self-expression.

This fall, as we continue to navigate through COVID-19, we are offering families a choice of in-person classes or virtual classes via Zoom. This guide will give you a sense of what to expect from each format, so you can choose the best fit for your dancer and family, as well as answer some questions you might be wondering about as we proceed.

Parents are also encouraged to use the Web site as a resource for dance program information and updates throughout the year. To access information via the Web, log on to www.mppd.org. From the home page:

- Click on “Programs and Events” from the menu bar on the top right side of the page
- Choose “Dance” from the from the resulting drop down menu

Finally, we thank all our dance students and families for their flexibility and support of the Mt. Prospect School of Classical Ballet and Studio Impulse dance programs. Our goal is to make high-quality, meaningful dance training accessible to all dancers, whether they participate in the studio or virtually from home.

Please feel free to reach out with questions and we look forward to the first day of classes Wednesday, September 9!

Sincerely,
Ann Zimmerman
Cultural Arts Manager
azimmerman@mppd.org

Amy Hubert
Artistic Director, Dance
ahubert@mppd.org



Virtual Dance Classes

If a class is listed as “virtual” in the program guide, these classes will NOT meet in studio. The class will be ONLY available via Zoom for the full Fall semester. The day prior to the start of a virtual class, a Zoom link and password will be emailed to the primary email address listed in MPPD’s Reg Sys.

Dancers taking virtual classes will be emailed a document about tips and etiquette for virtual classes and will require:

- Internet access
- A computer, tablet or mobile device with a working camera and audio
- An open space to allow for movement
- Some class formats may also request dancers gather a few props prior to class time

Dancers should attend virtual class dressed the same way they would in the dance studio including dance shoes. Dancers will be more focused if they look and feel like a dancer during virtual class.

Here is a link to the MPSCB/SI Dress Code document:

<https://www.mppd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/MPSCB-and-SI-Dress-Code-for-Dancers-2020.pdf>

Virtual classes will progress through the same curriculum presented to dancers enrolled in the in-studio sections of the same classes, but some movement may be modified for space considerations.

In-Studio Dance Classes

These classes are offered in-person at one of our three Dance Studios at Lions Recreation Center or RecPlex. Please review the “Safety Protocols for In-Studio Dance Classes” document (also attached to your placement email) and the MPSCB / SI Dress Code document linked in the above section.

Class Sizes and Notes on Fall Registration

Due to the current guidelines set by the DCEO, class sizes are limited to 10 dancers. If you register for a class and the class is full, please consider other sections or add your dancer to the wait list. We will be monitoring enrollment trends very closely and will be looking to add sections based on demand as registration progresses. We’ll make every effort to get dancers who want to take in-person classes enrolled in these new sections.

Please register as soon as possible so we may accurately assess the viability of classes that either trend high or low on enrollment.

Training Schedule for Dancers in First Grade and Above

Due to the progressive nature of our programs, dancers in first grade and above should register during the Fall term. However, due to the unique circumstances presented by Covid-19, we will enroll dancers during the Winter term ***as space permits and based on faculty placement***. Please note that classes may fill during Fall term, and dancers may receive a new placement if they wish to join during Winter 2021. Placement inquiries may be directed to Amy.

Absences / Quarantines / Studio Shut Down

As we move through the Fall, it is reasonable to expect that many dancers will have to stay home because they aren't feeling well, or need to quarantine after visiting one of the states on the Cook County's travel guideline list, or due to a close contact. We are planning to have all in-studio classes available to dancers via Zoom throughout the year.

- For example, if a dancer is feeling unwell on a class day, we encourage them to stay home for the safety of our faculty and other dancers. Instead of missing class, this dancer would log in and take class virtually with the dancers in studio if he/she felt up to it, or observe the class from home.
- Shifting in-person classes to Zoom may become necessary in the case of quarantines, or if Illinois implements smaller group size restrictions, or moves back to a phase that doesn't allow for in-person classes. If one of those situations arises, classes will continue via Zoom on the same schedule until guidelines allow for a return to the studio.

Makeup Classes

If a dancer is absent from class and unable to participate via Zoom due to illness or conflict, dancers may contact Amy to schedule a makeup class. Makeup classes will be via Zoom due to the in-person group size restrictions and will be with a class that is not currently in her/his class portfolio. Dancers will NOT be allowed to drop in to any in-person class to makeup missed classes. ALL makeup classes must be scheduled and coordinated in advance with Amy. Makeup classes are not guaranteed, but every effort will be made to accommodate a makeup class.

Tuition and Fees

Fall Registration Fee

Please note that the registration fees for Fall 2020 dance classes covers Fall term tuition only.

Costume Fees and Looking Ahead to the Spring Performance Season

We have decided to hold off on assessing the one-time costume fee (normally included in the Fall registration fee with Fall term tuition). As we formulate our best path, we will communicate with families about our approach to costumes, performance and any possible fees required for a dancer to participate in a performance.

Although we are planning for a performance opportunity for all dancers registered for the Fall 2020-Spring 2021 curriculum year, we are a long way from knowing what a Spring 2021 performance might look like. We will consider all options; such as, an in-theater performance, an outdoor performance, or possibly creating a live stream / video performance experience. Again, it is too soon to know what may be possible.

Payment Plan Option

We want to make every effort to serve the members of our community who wish to enroll in dance classes. If your family's dance registration totals \$400 or more, you may apply to participate in the dance program payment plan option.

Payment Plan Info:

<https://www.mppd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Dance-Program-Fall-2020-Payment-Plan-Info.pdf>

Payment Plan Request Form:

<https://www.mppd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Dance-Program-Fall-2020-Dance-Payment-Plan-Request-Form.pdf>

Payment Plan request forms must be turned in by September 9 (the first day of classes) and the first charge will be as they are turned in. Subsequent charges for Fall term will be billed on October 5 and November 5. Payment plans must be turned into Ann Zimmerman at RecPlex. The front desk cannot process these plans.

Adding / Dropping / Transferring Classes

- Please route any requests to add, drop or transfer to Amy rather than the front desk staff.
- Dancer placement recommendations and class context will be factored into any request to change sections prior to receiving approval.
- Keep in mind that all dance classes are subject to MPPDs registration policies listed in the back of each season's program guide on the "Registration" page.

Class Cancellations

- If a class must be cancelled due to enrollment changes or other issues, we will make every effort to work with patrons to find another class of a comparable level and transfer her/his registration based on placement and faculty input.
- In the rare event that an alternate class can't be arranged, patrons will receive a credit

Emergency Closings

- If Mt. Prospect Park District cancels dance classes due to events beyond its control such as extreme weather, power outages, instructor illness, etc. the cancelled class will be made up prior to the end of the same term or at the end of the term.
- Please refer to www.mppd.org for dance program calendars or call Amy with any schedule questions.