Dear Parent & Dancer –

We are delighted to have you participate in the Towson University Community Dance (TUCD) program. Towson University Community Dance is an extension of the Department of Dance. Its mission reflects the department’s mission of advocating “Dancing for a Lifetime.” TUCD’s Children’s Dance is a unique program designed to help children grow as artists at all levels, from fundamental to pre-collegiate. TUCD employs nationally recognized dance faculty and staff who create an encouraging yet challenging environment that engages young dancers to sample the exciting world of sophisticated and inventive choreography and teaching methodology. Our program emphasizes a strong technical foundation, while educating and broadening the mind to appreciate and integrate the artistic voice of dance, past and present, in all forms.

**Enhancement (ages 3-11)**
An introductory study of dance technique offered to establish a fundamental love of the art of dance. Enhancement classes provide students with the fundamental basis of classical training, as well as refinement of self-expression and creativity.

**Open Classes (ages 12-17)**
These classes are for beginner to advanced dancers seeking to enhance their technical training on a supplementary or recreational basis, while expanding their knowledge of dance appreciation.

**Junior Pre-Collegiate Youth Ensemble (ages 11-14)**
Modeled and developed for the serious dancer to acquire more in-depth training and focus in preparation for acceptance into the Pre-Collegiate Youth Ensemble. Classes will concentrate on building foundational technique, strength and discipline. Junior Pre-Collegiate Youth Ensemble students are required to take a minimum of 4 classes per week. Director’s approval is required for entrance.

**Pre-Collegiate Youth Ensemble (ages 14-18)**
Designed for the advanced dancer, the Pre-Collegiate Youth Ensemble program is by audition only. It offers students the opportunity to work closely with TU’s Dance Department faculty to refine technique, gain strength and stamina, and expand their artistic voice and knowledge in order to prepare them for collegiate acceptance and entrance. This program is unparalleled in providing performance opportunities for the pre-professional dancer throughout the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area with unfiltered guidance of performance and choreography training by TU Dance Department faculty and professional guest artists.

Enclosed you will find the TUCD Student Handbook of policies and procedures, required attire, performance schedule and information, along with the session’s program schedule.

We thank you for selecting Towson University Community Dance as the dance program to train and inspire you!

Sincerely,

Candice Webster  Pat Klink
Education Director  Manager of Educational Services
Towson University Community Dance
Children’s Dance Student Handbook

In order for each student to grow to their fullest potential, the student must attend all classes with active participation and focus. Only then can we guarantee success at Towson University Community Dance.

**Etiquette**

TUCD seeks to maintain a pleasant and healthy educational atmosphere. We ask all guests to help us achieve this goal by conducting themselves in a safe and considerate manner at all times.

- **Inappropriate behavior such as running, horse-playing, screaming, or destructive behavior in the Center for the Arts is prohibited.**
- **No food, drinks or gum are allowed in the studio**
- **Appropriate dance attire and shoes are required in the studio. No street shoes may be worn on Marley floor.**
- **To ensure the safety of our students, we ask that all parents with children ages 3-8 yrs. to remain in vicinity of their child's class at all times.**
- **Parents and students are asked not to disturb classes already in session, unless consent has been given by the instructor. Studio doors must remain closed at all times; guests may observe during the session’s Informal Presentation.**
- **Any student arriving 15 minutes after the start of class will not be able to participate.**

**Attire**

**Standard Student Attire**

Students are required to wear the recommended dance attire per dance genre and program in which they are enrolled. Students entering class without the proper attire will not be able to participate and will be asked to observe.

- **No jewelry, included but not limited to watches, rings, bracelets, toe rings, necklaces. No dangle, hoop or large earrings.**
- **No jeans, pants, ballet skirts, legwarmers, warm-up clothing, or leotards with attached skirts**
- **Leotards and tights are the only garments to be worn in class for girls and Pre-Collegiate students. Leotards with built-in shelf lining should be purchased. Please no undergarments under leotard.**

**Standard Student Hair**

- **Students hair should be worn in a ballet bun. Hair must be gathered together at the center of the crown and secured with bobby pins. Please refrain from Ponytails or Pigtails. Very short hair should be pulled back away from the face with a headband secured with bobby pins.**
- **Hair must be tightly secured away from face at all times.**
Student's hair should be worn in a bun, braid, or cleanly pulled back Ponytail. Very short hair should be pulled back away from the face with a headband secured with bobby pins.

Hair must be tightly secured away from face at all times.

Please see below the proper dress attire for all children's programs within TUCD

TUCD Children's Dance Program Dress Attire

Pre-Collegiate Classes:

Ballet/Pointe: Black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers with elastic sewn in, Pointe shoes. NO BALLET SKIRTS
Modern: Black leotard, black tights, jazz pants or shorts, bare feet
Jazz: Black leotard, black tights, jazz pants or shorts, jazz shoes
Pilates/Stretch: Any color leotard, jazz pants or shorts, bare feet

Enhancement Classes:

Developmental Dance: Any color leotard, leggings, bare feet
Creative Movement: Girls: Black leotard, pink footless tights, bare feet. Boys: White shirt, black shorts, bare feet
Dance Fundamentals: Girls: Black leotard, pink footless tights, bare feet. Boys: White shirt, black shorts, bare feet
Ballet: Black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers with elastic sewn in. NO BALLET SKIRTS
Modern: Black leotard, jazz pants or shorts, bare feet
Jazz: Black leotard, jazz pants, jazz shoes
Tap: Black leotard, jazz pants, tap shoes
Hip Hop: Comfortable clothing you can move freely in, tennis shoes

Boy's Attire:

Ballet: White shirt, black tights, dance belt, white ballet slippers with elastic sewn in
Modern: White shirt, black jazz pants, bare feet
Jazz: White shirt, black jazz pants, bare feet
Tap: White shirt, black jazz pants, tap shoes
Hip Hop: Comfortable clothing you can move freely in, tennis shoes

Level Assessment

TUCD conducts student level assessment the first two weeks of each session to insure all students are placed at the appropriate skill level for them to grow to their fullest potential. Parents will be notified immediately of any level or class change. Students will also receive a written, cumulative skill assessment by their instructor post session to accurately measure skill growth.

Performances

Informal Presentation: TUCD Enhancement classes have the opportunity each session to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have learned throughout the semester in an Informal Presentation for family and friends. Understanding the desire to perform is inherit for all dancers; TUCD allows a safe, communal environment for our young dancers to showcase their love of dance in an observational setting.
**Spring Showcase:** Pre-Collegiate and selected Enhancement classes share the stage in a collection of choreographic works at the end of the spring semester. Students beginning at the fundamental level will have the opportunity to learn the process, skills, and etiquette of participating in a dance performance production. **Our 2019 Spring Showcase will be held on June 1st and 2nd. All information and mandatory rehearsals will be provided to families in February.**

**An Evening Debut:** Presentation of compositional pieces choreographed by students enrolled in the Pre-Collegiate Honor Society in the Studio Theater at the Center for the Arts.

**Pre-Collegiate Youth Ensemble:** Performances are scheduled throughout the year in order to provide unparalleled performance opportunities in the Baltimore, Washington area. Participants have performed at the Towson University’s Dance Department’s Fall Concert, AXIS, Philadanco, ZVIdance Company, Koresh Dance Company, Deep Vision Dance Company, COMPANY E’s Production of “Jungle Books”, Columbia Orchestra’s Production of Firebird, Dance Place Youth Festival, and Towson's Towsontown Festival, among others.

**Attendance Policy**

In order for the student to grow and improve in all aspects of dance, participation and dedication are essential.

- If a student should miss his/her class and would like to make-up with another class of similar level, please contact the TUCD administrative office to arrange. All make-up classes must be completed during the current session in which they are currently registered for.

**Refund Policy**

A full refund is returned upon notifying the TUCD Administrative staff of discontinued participation within the first week of the registered class; thereafter no refund is available for discontinuations of classes.

**Facility Closures**

For all unscheduled facility closures, make-up classes will be offered at the end of the session. In the event of inclement weather, information will be available on our website at [www.towson.edu/dance/community](http://www.towson.edu/dance/community) **Inclement Weather cancelation of TUCD classes will follow Baltimore County Public School closures.**

**Class Cancelation**

All TUCD classes and workshops must meet the minimum requirement of five participants in order to remain on the TUCD schedule. Any class below the minimum requirement will be canceled until further notice.

**Liability**

TUCD is committed to conducting all programs and classes in a safe manner and holds the safety of participants in the highest regard. Students and parents/guardians of minors must recognize that there is an inherent risk of injury when choosing to participate in physical activities. Towson University Community Dance and the Towson University Dance Department are NOT responsible for any injury incurred on or off premises of the Towson University campus.
**Student Drop-off/Pick-up**

We recommend all students be accompanied by their parent/guardian to and from the Center for the Arts building. Students will be received by their instructor in front of the studio in which they are registered for class. Instructors will dismiss students at the end of the scheduled time as a group. It is the parent’s responsibility to assure their child is picked-up at the appropriate time. If you should need to pick-up your student earlier than the scheduled dismissal time, please notify your instructor at the beginning of class.

**Parking**

TUCD students and guests may park in front of the Center for the Arts building at the designated times as listed on the parking signs. Saturday parking on campus is free for all commuters parking in front of the Center for the Arts building and in the Student Union Parking Garage.

Please visit the TU Athletics Website at [www.towsontigers.com](http://www.towsontigers.com) for a full listing of Home Games that may limit parking availability on campus.
**TUCD Program Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Event(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Fall 2018 Semester Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18-25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 10-17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Informal Presentation/Parent Observation</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Last Day of Fall 2018 Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Spring 2019 Semester Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18-22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Spring Break (Monday - Friday ONLY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14, 16, 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Informal Presentation ([Developmental Dance, Creative Movement &amp; Dance Fundamentals)]</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24, 28, 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Spring Make-up Classes due to Inclement Weather ONLY</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Spring Showcase Program Run</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Spring Showcase Dress Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1 &amp; 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>2019 Spring Showcase</td>
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*All Saturday classes will be held during BCPS Spring Break*