

Q & A Recital Information

This handbook was designed to answer any questions we have been asked in the past about our performances. This is lengthy, but if you take the time to read it you will have a better understanding of how the recital process works. If there is something that is missing, please don't hesitate to ask. Thank You ☺

Q: What is picture day?

A: Picture day is a free opportunity to have your child photographed in their dance costume(s.) You are not obligated to purchase any photos. We encourage each dancer to take photos in all of their costumes. As a class, each group will take only one group photo, ex. Ballet. Company dancers will take photos in all costumes. You will be informed of the selected costumes for group photos before picture day. Dancers can wear their hair any way they like for pictures. Company dancers are asked to wear a bun. Make-up is also up to your discretion. Donner Photography does a beautiful job capturing memories for us, and we are excited to have them back this season.

Picture Make-up day will be Friday June 1st.

Is for anyone who missed picture day on May 4th and May 5th. Please email for an appointment time.

Q: How do I purchase my photos?

A: Picture pick up day is conveniently scheduled during all 3 of our dress rehearsals at Grafton High School. Donner Photography has fair pricing and offers discounts for the more quantity of photos purchased. They do accept, cash and credit cards.

Q: What is Dress Rehearsal?

A: Dress rehearsal is mandatory in preparation for the annual recital. It gives dancers the opportunity to practice their choreographed routines on the big stage. Dancers are asked to be stage ready with their costumes, tights, make up and hair the way it will be for the big day. This way the dancers are familiar and comfortable for the Recital. Dress Rehearsal will be the week of June 12th, 13th and 14th. Dancers will be given a specific time and day for their performance. When you arrive at Grafton High School, your dancers class will be assigned a specific row to meet with their classmates. Once you find your selected row, we ask our Kinderdance and younger friends to please put your dancers remaining labeled dance shoes in the box provided. For example, if your dancer is rehearsing their ballet number first, we would ask you to place their labeled tap shoes in the box. Backstage managers and student volunteers will bring your dancer backstage to practice their performances. Pack your cameras and video cameras for rehearsal! **You are ONLY allowed to record or photograph during dress rehearsals. Please refer to our social media policies when posting. Remember never to post our choreography in its entirety as we work hard to keep our choreography creative and different.**

Q: Who is allowed to attend dress rehearsals?

~ We ask only 1 caregiver attends with each dancer.

A: Dress rehearsals are closed rehearsals and are not an invitation for your extended family and friends. Rehearsals are geared for the dancer and their parent/guardian only. Of course if a parent/guardian can't make the rehearsals, another family member can take your place. Siblings should be left at home.

~No food or drinks besides water is allowed in the auditorium. Please use the cafeteria outside of the auditorium for eating purposes. Thank you!

Q: How will I know what to do with my child's costume?

A: H&H spend countless hours putting together detailed information for every parent regarding alterations if needed for each dancer. Your child's costume(s) if needed, will come home with an attached list outlining every alteration and accessory. Please take the time to read the handout and ask if you have any questions. Your dancers performance tights will also come home with their costume(s.) Please keep costumes in a safe place. LABEL, LABEL, LABEL everything! Please cut out all costume tags. You can use a piece of masking tape to label costumes and accessories.

Q: How do dancers change costumes backstage?

A: Any dancer who has more than one costume is required to purchase a nude camisole that is to be worn under all costumes. This will prevent any dancer from feeling uncomfortable changing backstage. Camisoles are also great for any dancer that has sensory issues with itchy or tight fitting clothing. Underwear is not worn under tights for the recital. Camisoles can be purchased at any dance store, or online at discountdance.com. Make sure to order your camisole early, as this is a popular recital item. We do rent large piping curtains to provide privacy and section of space for the dancers.

Q: Is jewelry or nail polish allowed?

A: NO it is not. We try hard to make every class look the same and polished from their choreography to their costuming.

Q: How does my child wear their hair?

A: Any dancer in a Combo II or higher including hip hop and all specialty classes will wear their hair in a classic ballet bun, not a sock bun. You can find detailed directions on our website as well as in our waiting room in May. Any dancer in a preschool or kinderdance class can wear their hair however you see fit. We do ask for their hair to stay out of their face. All hair accessories are to be worn on the right side of the dancers heads.

Q: What is the annual recital?

A: The annual recital is a fun filled and exciting weekend where your dancer performs their choreographed routines. The dancers have worked very hard all year and are excited to show off their moves! :) The recital is June 16th & 17th at Grafton High School. HHDA puts on three annual recitals. Each show runs about 2 hours and 30 minutes long. Our shows have a reputation for being entertaining, and quick moving. We do not close the curtain in between numbers, nor do we break for an intermission. This keeps the show moving quickly. We are always proud to show off our dancers talents, learned techniques, dedication and the confidence they have acquired throughout the season.

The day of the recital, dancers are asked to arrive one hour before the show. All dancers must sign in before entering our secured backstage area. Once signed in, you will escort your dancer backstage to their assigned section. Parents who have younger children, or nervous dancers are encouraged to separate as quickly as possible allowing the backstage crew and volunteers to gain the trust of your child by engaging them with fun activities. Give your child a kiss, wish them well and leave to get in line for your seat. **Please note:** only backstage volunteers with assigned name badges will be

allowed backstage throughout the show. We are incredibly protective of our dancers once they're checked in backstage. We take this responsibility very seriously. Once a dancer is checked in, backstage is where they will stay. Extended family and friends will not be allowed backstage to "visit" the performers before or during the recital. We appreciate and value your trust in us.

Q: Can I dismiss my dancer after their last dance during the Recital?

A: We ask that all dancers stay for the duration of the show. Our older students study several dance styles all season and love to perform for a full house. All dancers will receive a ribbon of accomplishment and will be part of our finale performance. While backstage, dancers will be able to watch a direct feed of the recital, as well as make crafts, play games and color. We keep the dancers entertained when they are not entertaining you.

If you need to dismiss your dancer after their last number in the show, a written note must be handed to Heather or Heidi **PRIOR** to our dress rehearsal week. No exceptions! **You can find the form on our website or at the desk. Have your ID ready, as no child will be released during the recital without ID verification.** Thank you for your understanding. Your child's safety is our main focus during our performances. If there are any sensitive custody issues, please inform Heather or Heidi prior to our event.

Dancers are not allowed in the auditorium during the recital. If you dismiss your dancer early, you must leave the school. Ushers will enforce this rule.

Q: How is my child released after the recital?

A: Once the final bows are taken and a quick presentation from Heather and Heidi are finished, the curtain will close. Staff members and the assigned backstage crewmembers will escort our dancers back to their assigned backstage waiting area. No parent will be allowed backstage until all the children have entered their assigned areas. No men are allowed backstage due to costume changing. Please send one person to go get your dancer and their belongings. **All dancers must be signed out, yes the big kids too.** Once you leave the backstage area, you are invited to meet in the auditorium and take pictures up on the stage or in the hallways. Teachers are always willing and exciting to take pictures with you. Its also nice to get a photo in front of the backdrop 😊

Q: Who works and is allowed backstage?

A: We have a fabulous dedicated stage crew who are either alumni members of HHDA, or family and friends of Heather and Heidi. We are so fortunate to have them put on our shows for us. We also have parent volunteers who sign up prior to the recital to watch individual classes. Without their help, our shows would not be possible. All backstage crewmembers will be wearing name badges, recital t-shirts and headsets. All backstage volunteers will have a HHDA lanyard allowing them access backstage. Please note: Men are not allowed backstage as dancers will be changing costumes. A registered nurse also works backstage for all three recitals.

Q: How Can I Volunteer?

A: Are you a V.I.P (very important parent) who can help out backstage, perhaps a classroom teacher or someone who works great with children? Volunteers make the show possible. If your child were in more than one show, it would be great to volunteer for one of them. Backstage room moms are responsible for those ever so important potty trips, and keeping all the dancers safe and occupied during the show. We ask that V.I.P.'s show up at least an hour and fifteen minutes before show time. Thank you to all the V.I.P.'s ☺

~If this is for you, please sign up in the waiting room. You will find the sign up sheet under the television. Make sure to grab the backstage handout notice and read it over as well. Thank you again for donating your time.

Q: What if my child has a problem while backstage?

A: Heather and Heidi are in CONSTANT contact with the backstage managers via headsets during the show. If there is a problem, we will find you! Our backstage managers have a variety of “toys” and tricks up their sleeves. They try to make the backstage experience as fun as possible. It is very rare if they can't get a child on the stage, however stage freight happens with all ages. It is helpful to start talking about the big day with your dancer now. Always encourage them to watch their teacher in the front row for comfort and reassurance. We also have a registered nurse who works backstage at every recital to help with any medical problems that might arise.

Q: How do I travel with my child in a tutu and car seat?

A: If you feel the costume does not fit in the car seat safely, we suggest putting the tights and the camisole (if required by age) on and wearing a bathrobe to the school. Once at the school children can use the bathroom and put on their costume.

Q: Can my dancer bring a snack with them?

A: **NO** dancer is allowed to bring any food with them to the recital. We have several students with peanut, gluten, and dairy allergies. We will provide goldfish for all children to eat backstage. Please abide by this rule, as it is for all the children's safety. If your child is allergic to goldfish, please speak with the office so accommodations can be made. **Dancers are responsible to bring with them a labeled bottle water **

Dancers in both Saturday recitals are asked to pack a peanut free lunch to eat in the cafeteria before the second recital.

Q: Do I need to purchase recital tickets?

A: Yes you do! :) Tickets will go on sale Saturday, May 12th. Unlike other studios, we do not number our seats or have a lottery system.

Families who have outstanding balances will not be able to purchase their tickets until all balances including competition have been paid in full. Families who wait to pay their balances will not be guaranteed tickets.

HHDA will no longer accept personal checks for the remainder of this dance season (excluding summer registrations,) on Saturday, May 25th. All remaining balances after this date must be paid in cash or bank checks.

We typically sell out or come close to selling out all our recitals. **Therefore, we are selling 7 tickets at first to each child and 10 tickets to each family per show.** This includes blended family members as

well. We offer a limited amount of tickets at first to allow each family the same opportunity to purchase tickets. What generally happens is preschool parents want more than 7 tickets and the older dancers parents typically want less than the 7 allowed tickets, leaving many tickets to be distributed to the wait list. **Please understand we do not reserve 7 tickets for each family, nor do we buy back any tickets once they are purchased.** You are not guaranteed 7 tickets; so even if you only purchased 4 tickets this does not mean that you can sell your remaining 3 tickets to another dance family, or come get 3 more tickets at a later date; in this scenario you would be added to the wait list.

IMPORTANT

Once you have purchased your initial ticket purchase, your name will be crossed off the master list. If you need more tickets after your initial purchase, you will be added to our wait list.

If you need more than 7 tickets, we will gladly add your name to the wait list. We will work our way down the wait list tickets starting **Friday, June 1st** in the order tickets were purchased. **Families that wait to bring their accounts up to date will not be guaranteed tickets.**

We do require children one and older to have a ticket. Children are not allowed to sit on laps, as the audience guest behind you would not appreciate that viewing. It is best to leave your younger children at home, so you can enjoy your dancers hard work and accomplishment. Luckily every seat in the auditorium is a great seat.

Recital Tickets are \$18.00

You may purchase your tickets during these Office Hours using cash, or checks only. Credit Cards are not permitted for tickets sales.

Monday – Friday 4:30-7:00 PM Saturday 9am-11:30 AM

Can We Reserve Seats?

A: Each person is allowed to save ONE seat on either side of them for a total of TWO seats. The staff and our ushers make sure this rule is enforced.

A line will form outside the auditorium doors about an hour in a half before show time. It is recommended to have someone go early to stand in line for you if you desire up front seats. We are happy to reserve front row seats for our graduating senior's families. This is a tradition we have started since day one. Hopefully someday, we can extend this gratitude for time and commitment to you.

We rope off lines to the auditorium doors to eliminate any problems while waiting in line and to keep it fair once the doors open for admittance. Those waiting in line are let in first and no one is allowed to cut the line.

Our ushers will accommodate handicapped or elderly family members in wheelchairs or with walkers. It is best not to make elderly members or handicapped members wait in line. We always recommend having someone drop them off as close to show time as possible.

Doors open up a half hour before each performance time.

Q: Is Photography Allowed during the Recital

A: No Flash Photography or Videography is allowed during the recital. We have ushers who will enforce this rule. We offer a professional video sold from Ace Video Productions. They put together a beautiful copy of our recital performances with a montage of the dancers taken from backstage as well as a senior highlight.

Q: Should I purchase a gift for my dancer?

A: Yes, absolutely! Something small to recognize their commitment, and hard work for the last 9 months is a great idea. We do have a florist available on site to purchase flower arrangements. The florist also accepts pre orders as well. Order forms are available at the studio in May. We will also be selling some H&H items before the shows begin.

Don't forget to share some love after the recital weekend with us. We are always appreciative of comments our customers leave on our facebook page, or the countless thoughtful emails we receive. They always mean so much to all of us! If you capture any good backstage photos, please upload them and tag HHDA. We love to see them! **Hashtags “#HHDaseason10” or “Ontherad10HHDA”**

Thank you for taking the time to read the recital handbook. If any of your questions are still unanswered, please don't hesitate to ask H&H or our office staff. We are always here to help! Thank you for dancing with us and celebrating your dancers achievements this season!