Etiquette in a Dance Class:  
Updated 8/14

The guidelines below will allow you to be a successful dance student and participant in the dance classroom. You must adhere to these guidelines.

**Taking the space and preparing for class:** When entering the studio please remove your street shoes and store them away in your cubbies. While waiting for class to begin you should be preparing yourself physically and mentally for the class that lies ahead. At least 5 minutes before class begins, you should pull the barres out and take your place at the barre or claim the space in the center of the room. Prepare by doing theraband exercises, conditioning work or other warm-up activities. Your muscles must be warm prior to stretching, so unless you have already done some large muscle group movements, it is better to begin your pre-warm up activities with exercises other than stretching.

When the instructor is ready to begin class, be prepared and ready to go in full dress code. It is inappropriate for your teacher to ask you to come to the center or come to the barre to begin for class. Being prepared saves valuable time and shows your instructor you are ready and eager to learn, preparing you physically and mentally for the class.

**Tardy Protocol:** Tardiness is disrespectful to the art form, your teacher, and your fellow peers. Although it is unacceptable to be tardy to class or rehearsal we understand that it happens from time to time. If a student is tardy (within the first 5-10 minutes of class), they should remain by the door and wait for the teacher to acknowledge them before they enter the dance space. It is **unacceptable** to enter the dance space once class has begun especially when the other students are in the middle of a phrase. Again, wait for the okay from the instructor before you join the rest of the class. This gives the teacher an opportunity to give you special instructions for warm-up and lets them know you are present for the day. Due to safety reasons, if you are more than 10 minutes late to class you will be asked to watch class and not participate for that day. See below for observation guidelines.

One point will be deducted from the final grade for each tardy up to **10 minutes**. After 10 minutes, the student is considered absent.

**Moving across the floor:** When moving across the floor, you should be attentive and ready to begin. Be ready to go with the group, travel across in lines or move down the diagonal. Begin when the group in front of you has completed the exercise--do not wait for the instructor to cue you when it is your turn. It is unacceptable to rest against the ballet barres, the wall, the desk or any other moveable or unmovable structure. This is not good for the body that is warm and it is extremely disrespectful to the teacher.

When you move across the floor be sure to complete your movement to the end of the room and to finish your movement out. Do not move ¾ across the floor and walk off. This shows lack of respect and laziness. You wouldn’t perform that way on stage, so don’t do it in class.

Your job as a dancer in the class is to always be actively participating. While you are waiting to move across the floor, clarify the movement phrase for yourself. When you complete the first side, learn the reverse for the second side. Take advantage of this “waiting” time and clarify the second side for yourself.

**Ending the Class:** Reverence means a gesture of respect and it is a movement phrase that brings the class to an end. Following the reverence, or when the class comes to a close, the participants applaud the instructor, musician, peers and themselves as a way of saying thank you. In a traditional class, it is also expected that you would shake the teacher’s hand.

**Personal Belongings in the Studio**
There are cubbies located inside the studio for your use. Please use them during your class time. Empty your cubby out after each class so the dancer in the next class can use them. PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES DURING CLASS AND STORE THEM IN YOUR CUBBY. NO PHONES ARE ALLOWED IN THE DANCE SPACE.
Attitude
Remember to keep a positive working attitude during class. Never roll your eyes, sigh or slouch between or during exercises. We all have frustrating days, but it should not be taken out on others—a negative attitude will not be tolerated. If a student is being disruptive during class, the instructor will ask them to leave.

Talking
Talking during class should be kept to a minimum and is not allowed unless you are directly asking the teacher a question that pertains to class.

Leaving Class
If you need to leave class to get a drink of water or use the restroom you need to ask permission before leaving. This is not only polite but allows the teacher to know you are okay. It is inappropriate to leave without asking at any point during class.

Asking Questions
Make sure the questions you are asking during class pertain to class material. Remember that instructors do not get paid to conduct private lessons. Asking for help or clarity on a movement phrase is appropriate and teachers will be available to answer questions, but you should also be practicing the material on your own.

Taking Corrections
Always accept corrections well. Corrections are given verbally and physically. If you are uncomfortable with physical touch, let your instructor know. Try to fix the correction immediately or ask questions if you need clarification. When another student is receiving a correction, make sure you pay attention and see if you are doing the movement correctly as well. Go over your personal corrections and general corrections before the next class so that you can continue to improve.

Observing Class
See the observation policy, injury report form and return to dance form for more information.

ATTENDANCE:
1. Roll will be taken each class or you will have a sign in sheet (depending on the instructor). If you are tardy you must let me know AFTER class that you are here. If you don’t let me know you will be counted absent. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure I know you are here.
2. You are allowed ONE “free” tardy after that, one point is deducted from your final grade for each tardy up to ten minutes. After ten minutes the student is considered absent but is encouraged to observe class.
3. Do not ask for extra credit assignments. You have selected this class and are expected to be here participating, at the designated time.

PARTICIPATION:
1. The student can and will have points DEDUCTED from their grade for negative attitudes, inappropriate dress, and/or disrespect to the instructor or fellow student.
2. If during an exercise you have a pain or discomfort please inform the instructor immediately so that decisions about adjustments or discontinuing the exercise can be made.
3. PLEASE NOTIFY ME OF ANY MEDICAL CONCERNS OR INJURIES THAT YOU MAY HAVE THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.