



Morrison Family YMCA School of Dance

Program Handbook

2026-2027

Welcome to the Morrison Family YMCA School of Dance!

The Team

Ms. Bethany

Program Supervisor for Dance and Gymnastics

Originally from Chautauqua, NY, Bethany received her BA in Dance and her BS in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. She has been dancing and teaching for many years with students ranging from preschool through collegiate levels. She also has been involved in musical theatre, both performing and choreographing for many shows. Bethany is passionate about using the arts as a way to bring connection, positivity, and empowerment to others.



Ms. Marci

Advanced Arts instructor

Marci Jones has been a Dance Instructor at the Morrison Family YMCA since the inception of the program in 2009. Her love for dance began as a child in Ohio at the Canton Ballet, and she continued training taking dance classes at The Ohio State University. She has been married for 27 years and has two daughters. Marci is thrilled to share her love and appreciation for dance with the children in our classes!



Ms. Claire
Advanced Arts Instructor

Claire Depaoli is a Graduate of UNC Greensboro with a BA in Arts Administration and a Minor in Dance. Her love for working with youth and her passion for all art forms is her biggest motivation, as well as a desire to inspire the next generation of performing artists. Claire has studied numerous styles of dance and received training from several notable schools including Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and UNC School of the Arts. She has also been involved in musical theatre for many years, performing in and choreographing several shows.



Ms. Maddie
Advanced Arts Instructor

This is Maddie's 11th year teaching dance at the Morrison YMCA. She has been dancing since she was three both in studios and on dance teams. She attended Winthrop University for 2 years as a dance major performing in student showcases, The Rockhettes, as well as a Garnet Girl at basketball games. After 2 years she found a new passion for physical therapy and transferred to CPCC where she graduated and received her Associates in Applied Science as a Physical Therapist Assistant. Maddie is currently working full time as a licensed PTA, but has continued her passion for dance part time teaching classes at the Morrison and choreographing musical theatre productions at The Ballantyne Arts Center. Her approach to teaching is creating a safe space for all ages and abilities while combining her passion for arts and science to ensure longevity in dance, whether that be just a passion or a future career.



Ms. Bella
Advanced Arts instructor

Bella Sebastiano (she/her) is a multi-faceted dancer and performing artist from Charlotte, North Carolina. With over ten years of experience, Bella is recognized for her passion-filled performances every time she takes the stage. During her years as a pre-professional, Bella was fortunate enough to learn from industry professionals such as Hannah and Alex Isenburg, Kyle Garrison, and Allison Lily, as well as Charlotte's own Adrianna Eve at the Adrianna Eve Company. As a budding choreographer and performer, Bella has had the opportunity to set many pieces that have competed across the East Coast, as well as perform for Legoland New York. She looks forward to exploring her inner creativity further through choreography. When she's not in the studio creating, Bella is a Culinary Arts graduate from CPCC and enjoys exploring artistry in the kitchen as well!



Ms. Maggie
Advanced Arts Instructor

Maggie White has been dancing for over a decade as a former dance student. She is taking classes at Central Piedmont Community College, where she is achieving her Associates in arts degree. Then she plans to transfer to UNCC for communication studies. She has previously taught theater and dance at Matthews Playhouse, as well as other dance studios and theaters. Maggie has a love for dance and has performed in many shows. She has choreographed a production at Matthews Playhouse and has enjoyed working with students. She is excited to continue to teach dance and connect with students. In her free time, she can be found going to the gym and listening to music.



Important Dates

September 14th- First Day of Class
Wednesday November 11th- Veteran's Day- NO CLASSES
November 23rd-27th- Thanksgiving Break- NO CLASSES
December 10th- Mandatory Winter Showcase Dress Rehearsal
December 11th- Winter Showcase
December 18th- January 3rd- Winter Break- NO CLASSES
January 4th- Classes Resume
January 18th- MLK, Jr. Day- NO CLASSES
March 26th-April 4th- Spring Break NO CLASSES
April 12th- 18th- Costume Take home Week
May 8th- Picture Day
May 17th - 19th- NO CLASSES (Recital Week)
May 20th- Mandatory Dance Recital Dress Rehearsal
May 21st- Spring Dance Recital

Dress Code and Information

Links to Purchase Dance Apparel:

[Amazon](#)

[Dancewear Solutions](#)

[Discount Dance](#)

[Blendz Apparel](#)

_(Blendz has a range of skin tone tights and shoes)

In Person Dance Apparel:

Lebo's (multiple locations)

M.A.Zing Dancewear (located in Monroe, NC)

Target, Walmart and Old Navy have great athletic wear

Shoes:

Please see the following pages for your dancer's specific shoe requirements.

Attire:

Please see the following pages for your dancer's specific attire requirements

- Dancers must wear their class's specific attire requirements. No street clothes, dresses, jeans, blouses etc. Baggy or loose clothing are not appropriate for dance class.
- Dance shoes (including dance sneakers) are not to be worn outside. Dancers should enter the building with street shoes and change into the appropriate dance shoes before class begins.

Hair and Jewellery:

- Hair must be worn up in a neat bun, ponytail, braid(s), etc. with all stray hairs secured away from the face. Hair cannot be down for dance class.
- Short hair must be pulled away from the face using clips, headbands, or hair pins.
- While we encourage self-expression through accessories, we request that dancers wear jewelry in moderation to ensure the safety of everyone involved. Bulky or dangling jewelry poses risks during dance movements.

Dancewear Guide for Classes

All Ballet and Ballet/Tap Combo Classes:

- Dancers must wear a leotard, leotard with skirt, leotard with shorts
- Dancers must wear skin tone ballet shoes and skin colored tights.
- Tap shoes must be black.
- Leotards can be any color.
- No gymnastics leotards.



All Hip Hop Classes:

- Dancers may wear dance wear including leggings, shorts, sweatpants, tank tops and t-shirts.
- Dancers must wear black hip hop sneakers or black jazz shoes.



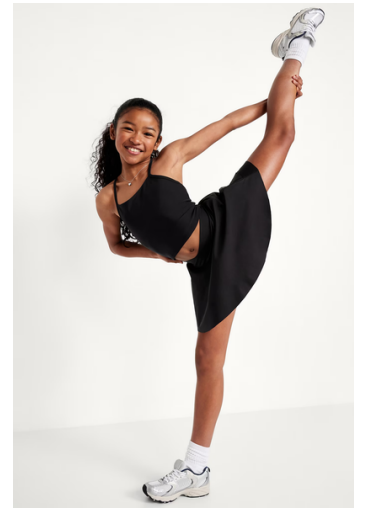
All Tap/Jazz Combo Classes:

- Dancers may wear dancewear/ athletic wear including leggings, shorts, tank tops and form fitting t shirts.
- Dancers must have black tap shoes and skin tone jazz shoes.



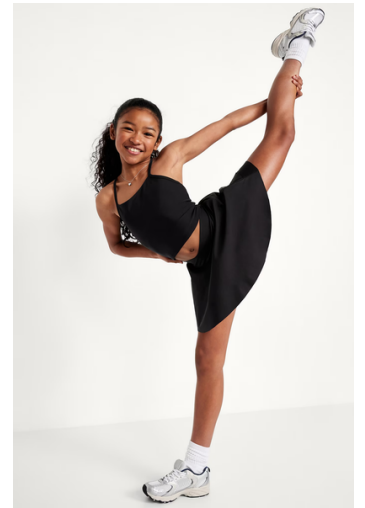
All Musical Theatre Dance Classes:

- Dancers may wear dancewear/ athletic wear including leggings, shorts, tank tops and form fitting t shirts.
- Dancers must have skin tone jazz shoes.



Teen Tap Classes:

- Dancers may wear dancewear/ athletic wear including leggings, shorts, tank tops and form fitting t shirts.
- Dancers must have black tap shoes.



Classroom Policies and Expectations

Attendance

- Dancers must be on time and prepared for class. Dancers must be in proper dance attire by the start of class. This includes having dance shoes on, hair in the appropriate style and dance class appropriate clothing.

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

- Before class, please wait with your child outside the dance studio for their instructor to invite them into class.
- At the end of class, please wait outside the dance studio for the instructor to release your child.

Parent Expectations

- Parents are expected to have their dancer on time and prepared for class each week. This means using the bathroom, wearing the appropriate attire, having hair up and secured away from the face, and putting dance shoes on before class begins.
- We request that parents keep the hallways clear during class times. Please do not stand outside the windows while class is in session. It is distracting to the students. If you would like to observe class, you can do so in the designated Parent Viewing Area on the TVs, located by the Teen Center, across from the Family Locker Rooms.
- Parents are not permitted to enter the dance studio while class is in session. In case of emergency, please knock on the door.
- Please clearly label all of your child's belongings, including dance shoes, dance bags/backpacks, and water bottles.
- Please read all communication from the Morrison Family YMCA School of Dance promptly and thoroughly.

Student Expectations

- Dancers show respect for themselves by
 1. Coming to class ready learn and participate
 2. Being kind to their body and mind
- Dancers show respect for other dancers by
 1. Keeping their hands to themselves during class.
 2. Not distracting their fellow dancers
 3. Waiting quietly for instructions from the teacher
 4. Being friendly to other dancers
- Dancers show respect for their teacher by
 1. Listening when the teacher speaks
 2. Not talking to their friends while class is in session
 3. Not sitting down during class
- Dancers show respect for the studio by
 1. Leaving gum, food, or drinks other than water outside
 2. Never hanging or leaning on the barre
 3. Never running or doing gymnastics in the studio or hallway
 4. Putting trash in its proper place
 5. Always keeping all belongings zipped inside their dance bag