



***Dance – The Next
Generation***

**Parent & Student
Handbook
2022 – 2023**

Dance – The Next Generation Studios

500 Tallevast Road

Sarasota, FL 34243

Dance – The Next Generation

The Sarasota Ballet is delighted to welcome you and your child to *Dance – The Next Generation!*

ABOUT DANCE – THE NEXT GENERATION

In 1990, Jean Weidner Goldstein, founder of the Sarasota Ballet, established Dance – The Next Generation (DNG) to directly impact underserved children of the local community. DNG continues to provide equitable access to quality dance education by offering a comprehensive tuition-free dance program to children from under-resourced areas in grades 3-12. Along with a diverse dance curriculum, DNG includes engaging life skills, mentoring, and enrichment programs that support education, community, and wellness outcomes for each student.

The Sarasota Ballet covers the cost of a complete dance education for each DNG student including class tuition, dance attire and shoes, transportation, field trips, and enrichment activities. Each year, approximately 150 Sarasota and Manatee County students enjoy dance training in a variety of techniques such as Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Contemporary, Latin Dance, Hip Hop, African Dance, and Composition. Students remaining in the program for all ten years will graduate with comprehensive dance training in all listed genres.

DNG is more than a dance program, it is a program to nurture, enrich and support the entire child. Most elementary and middle school students are transported directly from their schools to our Tallevast studios via Sarasota Ballet vans. All Faiths Food Banks assists students by providing healthy after-school snacks while volunteers and tutors provide academic support in DNG classrooms or in the DNG computer lab. Enrichment opportunities include college and career planning, health and wellness classes, community performances, and dance history to round out opportunities toward success.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Sarasota Ballet appreciates the support of the parents and guardians of our students. We assure you that your child will be looked after by our trusted staff and faculty, and we ask that all students recognize the importance of cooperating and abiding by rules in order to create a positive experience for everyone involved.

CALENDAR

The DNG program follows the calendar of the Sarasota County School District.

Fall 2022 DNG classes begin: Tuesday, September 6 | **Spring 2023 DNG classes begin: Tuesday, January 10**

New 3rd Graders begin: Monday, February 6

STUDIO LOCATION

All DNG dance classes are held at the DNG Studios located at 500 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, FL, 34243.

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance is MANDATORY!

- **If your child is going to be absent from class, please call the DNG studios at 941-351-2877 or email: dng@sarasotaballet.org for an 'excused absence'.**
- Three unexcused absences could result in a meeting to discuss the appropriate options.
- Students should arrive no later than 5 minutes prior to class start time. These 5 minutes should be used to prepare for class to be ready to begin class promptly.
- Students arriving late for class will be admitted at the discretion of the teacher and may be asked to observe class instead.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Arrival

- **Please be on time for class!** Attendance will be taken upon arrival and during each dance class
- DO wear clothing that covers dance clothes upon arrival and dismissal.

The Sarasota Ballet Van Rules

- Those traveling on The Sarasota Ballet vans are expected to remain seated at all times while in the van.
- Seat belts are required of all travelers in the van at all times.

Dismissal

- **It is the responsibility of the student and his/her parent/guardian to know his/her DNG schedule and to adhere to pick-up times.**
- **ALL DNG STUDENTS SHOULD BE PICKED UP NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES PAST ENDING CLASS TIME.**
- **Please be on time when picking up your child from dance class. If you know you are going to be late, please call us: (941) 351-2877.**
- If you need to send someone else to pick up your child:
 1. Call to inform the Program Director with the name of the individual and,
 2. Be sure that your child knows the individual.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between DNG program staff and parents is key to the success of the student!

- Emails are the primary means of communicating with parents.
- **It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide their correct email address(es) and to make sure they receive and read Sarasota Ballet DNG emails.**
- **Please check your provided email address at least once per week to stay up to date regarding DNG information.**
- Please notify the office if there is a change in email, phone numbers, and addresses. **WE MUST BE ABLE TO REACH YOU!**

· For your convenience, we are also communicating via the app Remind. This app is used by many teachers/administrators within the Sarasota and Manatee County School systems. Directions and codes are distributed at the start of each semester; if you need them outside of those dates, please email dng@sarasotaballet.org. Please note that the codes will change each school year.

CLASS LEVELS/GROUPS

- All levels are arranged by Groups.
- Group placement could align by grade and is at the discretion of the Director and Faculty.
- If a student's skills fall below what is acceptable for that Group, a meeting will be scheduled with the parents and Program Director to assess the student's needs.

DRESS CODE & DANCE ATTIRE

The DNG program supplies uniform attire such as leotards, tights, and shoes to all students FREE OF CHARGE! Please take care of your provided dance attire. Shoes will be provided if outgrown or worn out during the DNG classes.

thank you for remembering hair and attire requirements are highly important for the overall safety of each student. Baggy clothes, misfitting shoes, and loose hair all interfere with quality dance training.

Students are expected to be in dress code:

Female students

1. Attire: wear DNG assigned leotard, tights, and ballet shoes for all classes. Students may wear fitted black leggings for jazz, contemporary, modern, West African, hip hop, Latin, composition, etc.
2. Hair: must be secured and away from the face.
 - a. For ballet and contemporary ballet: hair in a bun (all hair off face and neck)
 - b. For jazz, contemporary, modern, hip hop, West African, Latin, composition: hair in a ponytail (high ponytail is preferred)

Male students

3. Attire: wear DNG assigned white T-shirt, black bike shorts, thin white socks, and black ballet shoes. Long hair must be secured away from the face.

- DO NOT wear dance shoes outside of the studios.
- DO NOT wear street shoes inside the studios.
- DO wear clothing that covers dance clothes upon arrival and dismissal.

CONFERENCES

· If you would like to discuss your child's progress, conferences can be scheduled anytime by calling the Program Director of Dance for All at 941-351-2877 or by emailing dsales@sarasotaballet.org .

GENERAL POLICIES

Every DNG student is an ambassador of the Sarasota Ballet! Ballet is a disciplined art form and requires a high standard of behavior for success. When attending a Sarasota Ballet function, DNG classes and performances, and in the vans all students are expected to display appropriate behavior.

- Students must be prepared to begin class on time.
- Please use the restroom prior to entering class.
- No food or drinks (except water) inside the dance studios.
- No gum is permitted in the studios or other locations where rehearsals, performances, and classes are held.
- Talking is not permitted during class.
- Ask permission from the teacher to leave the classroom.
- Disruptive students will be removed from the class.
- Keep the dressing rooms, classrooms, and other areas of DNG Studios neat and tidy by picking up after yourselves and taking belongings with you.

· **Aggressive behavior and bullying will not be tolerated. Violations will be addressed with the Program Staff and Parents. Consistent disruptive behavior could mean dismissal from the DNG program.**

HEALTH & WELLBEING

The health and well-being of our students is our top priority!

- Parents, please inform the Program Staff of student health conditions, illnesses, and injuries.
- Protocols related to communicable diseases are at the discretion of the Sarasota Ballet and could be revised periodically. Parents will be updated via email to changes as they occur.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES & CONFLICTS

Participation in the DNG Program requires meaningful commitments from parents and students.

· Please let us know about scheduling conflicts such as student outside activities, school events, and athletics that could interfere with attendance. Scheduling conflicts will be handled on a case-by-case basis between program staff and parents.

PHONE USE

- **Student cell phones must be turned off or turned to silent while attending classes and programming.**
- **If there is an emergency and a parent needs to reach their child, please call the studio phone: (941) 351-2877.**

PARENT OBSERVATION WEEKS

· Parents are invited to observe their child's classes – once during the Fall and once in the Spring. Dates are announced prior to the event. Thank you for making this a priority when it comes as parental interest and support of dance education is a key element in the success of DNG students.

REHEARSALS/PERFORMANCES

Performance opportunities may be available throughout the year. Traditionally, performances take place in December for some students and May for all students!

Please note these important reminders regarding Performance Opportunities:

- All students are expected to participate in DNG performing opportunities. Students not engaging in this aspect of the DNG Program may be excused as it's a key component of success.
- Performing on stage, in a true pre-professional environment, is a privilege.
- Students are expected to commit to performing opportunities by following these guidelines:
 - Attend all their regularly scheduled DNG classes
 - Give effort in every DNG dance class
 - Practice your choreography and dance steps throughout the week – try teaching the dance to a parent, aunt, grandparent, or sibling!

SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

- Copies of student reports will be reviewed quarterly.
- Parents may sign a release with the School Board of Sarasota County to have their child's report cards accessed electronically.
- Alternatively, parents may provide a hard copy to DNG personnel.

INCLEMENT WEATHER (TROPICAL STORMS/HURRICANES)

- If Sarasota County Schools are canceled due to a storm, we will also cancel our classes on that day. Check your email. Parents can always call to confirm.

**Christopher Hird
Doricha Sales**

**Education Director
Program Director, Dance for All**

**Chird@sarasotaballet.org
dsales@sarasotaballet.org**

I acknowledge receiving the *Dance – The Next Generation* Parent & Student Handbook. I have read these materials and understand all the rules, responsibilities and expectations. I understand that the Parent & Student Handbook policies may be amended during the year and that such changes will be communicated to families via email.

I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement will not relieve me or my child from being responsible for knowing or complying with the *Dance – The Next Generation* policies and procedures.

STUDENT _____

DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

DATE _____