

THE DANCE CONNECTION'S NUTCRACKER



The Dance Connection 2019
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Thank you for your interest in *The Dance Connection's* Nutcracker. Being part of this holiday tradition is an experience that your child will remember for a lifetime. In addition to furthering their ballet technique and artistry, they build lasting friendships with other dancers while performing in professional theaters.

The Dance Connection takes The Nutcracker from studio to stage in a professional manner. It is important for all dancers and their parents to understand the level of commitment that is required. We created this packet to cover everything you need to know about performing in The Nutcracker. **Please read through the entire packet.**

Your child will have an amazing experience doing Nutcracker. Plus you'll get...



Video of Performance – As a gift to you, we provide all Nutcracker families a digital video of the performance.



Nutcracker T-Shirt - Each dancer Including “grown ups” in The Nutcracker will receive a free t-shirt



Free Tickets – Each family will receive 2 free tickets/dancer only valid for Hillsborough or Bound Brook.

Who is eligible to be in Nutcracker?




Our Nutcracker is open to any child in kindergarten and older, ***no prior experience is necessary***. Dancers need only fulfill the necessary class requirements. *See table below for minimum class requirements for all level dancers.*

Does my child need to try out?

Dancers in Ballet 3+ must audition. Dancers in Ballet 1 & 2 can be placed without audition but are welcome to try a rehearsal in the beginning of September. All dancers age 5 and older are eligible to be part of the production.

When does my child need to be here?

A complete schedule is on the last page of this packet. Below is a summary of your child's schedule based on their ballet level. Check out the icons below for easy to follow schedule.

-  - **Mother Ginger** - Dancers in Ballet 1 & 2 (and Princess Prodigy 2 dancers who have been approved for Nutcracker) will rehearse on Fridays from 6:30-7:30p. These dancers will start Saturday rehearsals on November 9th 2019.
-  - **All Dancers in ballet 3+** will rehearse on Saturdays starting after 12:30pm.
-  - **Battle** will rehearse on Saturdays from 1:15-2:15 starting September 14th. Any dancer, of any age or level, who is registered for The Nutcracker is invited to be in the Battle Scene. There is no extra charge to be in battle. You can't choose which side to be on. Dancers in Waltz of the Snowflakes must get permission to be in battle scene.

What does it cost?

The participation fee for Nutcracker is \$429, for ballet level 3+ and \$299 for ballet levels 1 & 2. Tuition for classes can be found on our fall schedule. Many dancers will qualify for a discount of 10%-25% off based on the number of classes they are taking.

Attendance Policies

It's very important that your child is here for rehearsals. Of all the things you can do for your child to make this a great experience for them, making sure they are present, on time, is the most important. Below are our policies regarding absences.

- **Attend all rehearsals** - Dancers are expected to attend all rehearsals and classes except for in extenuating circumstances. Prior notification to the Directors is required for scheduled conflicts.
- **There are no excused absences**; if your child is not at rehearsal for whatever reason it counts as an absence.
- **2 Absences** - If a dancer misses more than 2 rehearsals, casting will be changed.
- **Clara** - will not be excused from any rehearsals except for illness with a doctor's note.
- **Dress Rehearsals** - All dress rehearsals and technical rehearsals are mandatory. Casting will be changed if a dancer misses one of these rehearsals.
- **Performances** - All performances are mandatory. Please note occasions on the calendar where your child may need to miss or leave school early.
- **Drop out rule** - No dancer will be allowed to drop out after October 1st. Leads, Snow, Waltz, and Advanced dancers will not be allowed to drop out after commencement of the summer intensive. No refund will be given in these instances.

Costumes

All Nutcracker costumes are the property of The Dance Connection.

- **Handle costumes with care** - Many of our costumes are handmade by professional costumers and fitted specifically to your child. Whether your child is wearing a handmade tutu or not, we rely on you & them to handle these costumes with care.
- **DO NOT take your child's Nutcracker costume home.** Our staff is in charge of fitting and transporting all costumes. Your child's costume will be at the performance venue when they need it.
- **You are responsible for....** Dancers are responsible for purchase of their own tights, make-up, ballet slippers, hairpieces, bun supplies and undergarments (which could include a flesh color camisole leotard). For performance all dancers must have the correct style ballet slippers - Bloch Zenith S0282L in pink.
- **All dancers will attend the Costume fitting Sunday 9/15:** Our costume fitting is on Sunday September 15, 2019. Accommodations for different time slots cannot be made. Please take note of the following schedule for 9/15/19:
 - 11:00-12:00 Mother Ginger and Mice
 - 12:00- 1:30 All Children in party scene (boys and girls)
 - 1:30-2:00 Chinese
 - 2:00-2:30 Russian
 - 2:30-3:00 Party dolls (rag/ballerina/soldier)
 - 3:00-3:30 Spanish and Arabian
 - 3:30-4:00 Marzipan

Additional fittings for battle (mice & Soldiers), Maid and parents are TBD.

Fittings for Snow and Flowers will be on September 8th before or after rehearsals.

Parents and grandparents in party scene

We need real parents (and grandparents) in the party scene. You get to dance, and be onstage with your child. Rehearsals will be every Saturday (after 1:00pm) starting October 19th. Contact the office if you are interested.

Class Requirements & Summer Requirements

Level	Fall/Spring Requirements	Summer Requirements 2020	Rehearsal Schedule
Adv Ballet/7	3 Ballet Classes a week	4 weeks of Summer Session Classes <u>and</u> 2 weeks of intensive	-Rehearsals Saturday from 1:00-6:30pm
Level 5 +	2 Ballet Classes a week	Either 4 weeks of Summer Session Classes <u>and/or</u> 2 weeks of intensive. (both are recommended)	-Rehearsals Saturday from 1:00-6:30pm
Ballet 3 & 4	1 Ballet Class a week	Either 4 weeks of Summer Session Classes <u>and/or</u> Prima Bella Intensive (both are recommended)	-Rehearsals Saturday from 1:00-6:30pm
Ballet 1 & 2	1 Ballet Class a week	4 weeks of Summer Session Classes <u>and/or</u> Prima Bella Intensive are recommended	-Rehearsals will be Fridays 6:30-7:30 until first performance. -Dancers will attend Saturday rehearsals starting November 9th.

Additional Requirements

Waltz of the Flowers and Snow must attend both weeks of the Summer Ballet Intensive. Rehearsal for Snow, Flowers and some leads may take place after their required ballet class(es) during the week and/or during class time.

Clara & Sugar Plum are required to attend 4 weeks of Summer Session AND both weeks of the Summer Ballet Intensive.

Leads are required to take a minimum of 2 ballet classes per week (3 if you are an Advanced Dancer or on Pointe) from September through December regardless of which ballet level you are in. Rehearsals for leads may be scheduled during the week or on Sunday.

Parent Committees (optional)

The Nutcracker production takes committed parents to create the show! Parent committees are not required, but it's an opportunity for you to become part of your child's Nutcracker experience.

- Volunteer for 3 committee slots and receive 2 complementary tickets.
- Volunteer for 6 or more committee slots and receive 5 complementary tickets.

These tickets are only valid for the Hillsborough High School or Bound Brook Performances). We'll send a link to sign-up with more information about the committees and the volunteer slots. Below is a chart with information about all the different committees.

Pre-Show Committee	Jobs
<i>Sewing</i>	From basic hand work to creating costumes
<i>Props</i>	Painting, creating, inventory, etc. Work will be done at the studio, some may be able to be taken home. May need to help get props from storage.
<i>Costume Mistresses</i>	This is a Pre Show and Show Committee. You must agree to do this committee for pre and show. <u>Pre Show:</u> Helping hand out costumes on costume handout day, working the techs <u>Shows:</u> Organizing and keeping track of all dancers costumes/headpieces for the scene 1 and scene 2 of the production. All costumes will travel with the production this year.
<i>Marketing</i>	Distribute flyers and posters in Hillsborough and surrounding areas

Performance Committee	Shows	Job
<i>Chaperones</i>	Shows/techs -Call times 30 minutes prior to dancers	Chaperone during studio dress rehearsal, tech and the shows. Help dancers get changed from Act 1 to Act 2 and fast changes.
<i>Souvenirs/ tickets/ refreshments</i>	Shows -Call times same as for dancers	Set up/ sell souvenirs, tickets and refreshments at shows. Bring a container from show to show that has souvenirs/refreshments in it.
<i>Props</i>	-All shows, except 1 -All techs -Call time, before for dancer call time	Organize props, unpack and repack props. Ensure all props are set in the correct locations for scenes during the show. Help unload and load props from truck at performance locations
<i>Stage Crew</i>	-All shows, except 1 -All techs -Call time, before dancer call time.	Loading truck at storage, unloading at performance location, setting up scenery. Changing scenes during scene changes and breaking down and re loading truck at end of show. Reloading back to storage as well.

The Dance Connection is NUT FREE organization.

No peanuts or tree nuts are allowed in classes, rehearsals or performances.

Nutcracker Calendar 2019

Mother Ginger

Friday 6:30-7:30
Saturday Rehearsals start
11/9/19

Ballet 1, Ballet 2 & some Princess Prodigy 2



(Groups 1 & 2)

Ballet Levels 3+

Saturday rehearsal schedule is Saturdays 1:15-2:15 (starting
emailed weekly. 9/14)

Dancers in Ballet levels 3+



Battle

Saturdays 1:15-2:15 (starting
9/14)

All dancers in all levels are eligible.



August 10th - 12:00-2:30p - Auditions for dancers in ballet levels 3+ (Studio opens at 11:00a for warm up)

September 3rd - First day of dance classes at The Dance Connection.

September 6th - 6:30-7:30pm Auditions/Placement for dancers in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

September 7th - First day of Saturday rehearsal for dances already cast.

September 8th - Audition for new students & Dance Connection dancers who cannot make the 8/10/19 audition.

11-12:30pm Auditions/Placement for dancers in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

12:30 - 2:00pm Auditions for intermediate and advanced dancers and any child in 4th grade or older.



September 13th - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.

September 13th - **Mandatory** parent meeting 7-7:30pm



September 14th

o Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15

o **Mandatory** parent meeting 6:00-7:00pm



September 15th - **Mandatory** Costume Fitting, (see schedule on page #1)



September 20th - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



September 21 - Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15

******September 21st is the final day to enroll in Nutcracker and the last day to join battle.*****



September 27th - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



September 28th - Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15



October 4th - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



October 5th - Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15



October 11th - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



October 12th - Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15



October 18th - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



October 19th - Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15 *Rehearsals Start for "Grown Ups" in Party Scene!



October 25th - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



October 26th - Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15



November 1st - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



November 2nd - Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15



November 8th - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



November 9th - Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15, Saturday rehearsals start for Mother Ginger.



November 15th - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



November 16th - Ballet 3+ rehearsal TBD, Battle rehearsal 1:15-2:15, Plus Mother Ginger



November 22nd - Mother Ginger rehearsal 6:30-7:30.



November 23rd - Mandatory Rehearsal (run through) from 12:00 - 7:30pm.



December 6th - (Fri) Mandatory Rehearsal (tech at Brooke Theatre, Bound Brook) 5:00pm. (🍪 Group 1)



December 7th - (Sat) Performance Brook Theatre, Bound Brook 1:00 pm. (🍪 Group 1)



December 8th - (Sun) Performance Hillsborough High School Performance 1:00 pm. (🍪 Group 2)



December 12th - (Thurs) Mandatory Rehearsal (tech at Kelsey Theatre) 4:30pm. (Be prepared to pick up your child early from school) (🍪 Group 1 & 2)



December 13th - (Fri) School performance 10:00 am (your child will miss school!) (🍪 Group 1)



December 13th - (Fri) Evening show 7:00 pm at Kelsey. (🍪 Group 2)



December 14th - (Sat) Performance 1:00pm and 4:00pm at Kelsey (🍪 Group 1)



December 15th - (Sun) Performance 1:00pm and 4:00pm at Kelsey. (🍪 Group 2)

----2020 - Happy New Year!-----



January 18th - Cast Party

May TBD - Auditions for dancers in Ballet 3+ for Nutcracker 2020

August 3-7th - Prima Bella Intensive (Ballet levels 1-4)

August 15th - Auditions for advanced dancers 2020 Nutcracker (Ballet levels 5+)

August 17-28th - Ballet Intensive (Ballet levels 4+)

IMPORTANT! At least one parent from each family must attend 1 of the parent meetings listed above or your child will receive an absence.

