

Children of the Light Dancers

Dancer's Handbook 2023-2024

(Revised 8/4/2023)

The following policies and procedures have been established so that the “community of dancers”, known as Children of the Light Dancers, can dance together safely and with the intention of loving God and one another, giving God our best whenever we are together. We expect every parent or guardian of a COTLD dancer to read and agree to these policies and procedures as part of the registration process.

PARENTAL SUPPORT:

We believe that our ministry is in partnership with parents. Together we invite our children to an abiding relationship with Jesus so that they may experience the fullness of life He has promised to those who believe. Together we help our children discover and thrive in their identity and purpose as followers of Jesus.

We would appreciate your prayerful consideration of where you can use your gifts and talents to collaborate with us. All parents may be asked to chaperone at classes on a rotating basis, as needed.

Parents are always welcome to stay and observe their dancer's classes.

CHILD SAFETY:

COTLD conducts background screenings of all new adult employees. All teaching staff, volunteer and paid, teen and adult, attend annual Safety Policies training. COTLD strives to maintain a proper adult-to-child supervision ratios during classes. Any concerns regarding child safety should be immediately communicated to the Director.

In order to help keep dancers and their families healthy, please keep your dancer at home when he or she has a fever (100.0+), cough, runny nose, muscle aches, nausea, or loss of taste or smell. Please keep your dancer at home when he or she is experiencing any other illness that may be contagious. Please text Jeannine at (571) 528-2400 to let her know. Wearing facial masks while inside the building, are optional.

CLASS TUITION:

Enrollment must be for the entire session and tuition must be received at registration to complete the registration process. Partial refunds are not given for students discontinuing classes after a session is underway. Exceptions to this policy, for reasons other than relocation or injury/illness, require the approval of the Director.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES:

When Fairfax County schools are closed in the morning because of inclement weather, COTLD afternoon and evening classes may be canceled. Parents will be notified as soon as possible by email. A decision will be made by 1 PM. Parents may text 571-528-2400 for updated information about class cancellations. If a class has to be canceled for other reasons, parents will be notified by e-mail as soon as possible. COTLD does not give refunds for missed or canceled classes.

DANCERS:

Dancers are encouraged to attend all classes since their presence at every class is important to their development as worship dancers and their commitment to the rest of the team and its collective ministry efforts. There are no make-up classes.

Dancers are expected to follow our five rules of conduct in order to honor their teachers and one another.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

1. One person speaks at a time.
2. Dancers will be kind to one another.
3. Dancers will cooperate with their teachers.
4. Dancers will be inclusive toward each other.
5. Dancers will keep their hands to themselves and remain in their designated dance area until directed by their teacher to do otherwise.

Dancers who repeatedly act inappropriately during a class or outreach event will be directed to sit down and watch. Parents will be notified of this behavior. The dancer may lose his/her privilege to dance with the team for an upcoming dance event.

ITEMS NECESSARY FOR DANCE CLASS:

Dancers should bring the following things in their dance bag labeled with his or her name:

- A bottle of water
- Hand sanitizer (We will have some they can use, as well.)
- Hair brush or comb, elastic hair ties, and clips
- Ballet slippers (socks may also be worn)
- We will have Bible time during class and if your dancer would like to bring his/her Bible to look up the Scripture verses, that would be great!

Please label all of the above. Items found with or without a name will be collected and kept at Miss Jeannine's house until the end of each session. Items not retrieved by the end of the school year will be given to charity.

DRESS CODE FOR DANCE CLASS:

The following dress code will enable the dancers to move freely during class and enable the teacher to ensure that the dancers are moving correctly.

Jubilee, Hallelujah, Hosanna, Praise, and Adoration

Girls

- Any color T-shirt, jazz/yoga type pants, (shorts, capri or long leggings)
- Hair worn back and away from the face
- Proper undergarments
- No jewelry, except small post earrings
- No jeans or tight pants
- Ballet slippers or socks for indoors, sneakers, when we dance outside

Guys

- Any color T-shirt and shorts or loose-fitting pants
- Socks for indoors, sneakers, when we dance outside

Exaltation, City on a Hill, and Glorify

Girls

- Any color T-shirt, jazz/yoga type pants, (shorts, capri or long)
- Hair worn back and away from face
- Proper undergarments
- No jewelry, except small post earrings
- No jeans or tight pants
- Ballet slippers or socks for indoors, sneakers, when we dance outside

Guys

- Any color T-shirt and shorts or loose-fitting pants
- * Socks for indoors, sneakers, when we dance outside

GARMENTS OF PRAISE FOR DANCE CLASS:

Each class has a specific colored SHINE shirt which dancers wear for outreach events and dance offerings. Along with their shirt...

Girls - Black leggings/yoga type pants and black socks

Guys - Black or dark colored pants (sweat pants work well), Black socks

Exaltation, Adoration, City on a Hill, and Glorify dancers, may be required to purchase additional garments that will be used for their dance offerings. These garments will not be expensive and can be used multiple times. Ms. Jeannine also has many garments of praise that dancers can wear for dance offerings.

DANCE OUTREACHES AND OFFERINGS:

We are a discipleship and equipping ministry and we want to give our dancers the opportunity to reach out with our Father's love to others through their dancing and conversations and prayer with our audience. Participation in outreaches is optional.

Outreaches by *Exaltation, City on a Hill and Glorify* will take place in a variety of settings throughout the school year. Our younger dancers will have an opportunity to participate in an outreach to a local assisted living community. *Jubilee, Hallelujah, and Exaltation* dancers will also have the opportunity to give dance offerings during worship services at Truro Anglican Church.

At the end of each session, all of our dancers will present a concert of praise for family members and friends.

MEDIA:

Photographs of dancers may be used in COTLD newsletters, promotional materials, or on the website. In the instance where we would like to use a dancer's name (most often an older dancer in conjunction with a mission trip or special activity), we will ask your permission ahead of publication.