

HAWLEY JUST FOR KIX PARENT PACKET 2024-2025

Our Mission:

To enrich the lives of Hawley children through quality dance instruction in an encouraging and confidence-building environment. We will do this by providing a fun and a focused classroom that praises teamwork, respect, and doing your best.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Hawley Just For Kix Program Director: Erin Christenson

Phone: 701.630.3163
Email: hawley_mn@justforkix.com
Website: www.justforkix.com/danceclasses/hawley-mn/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/hawleymnjustforkix/

Office Hours:	You can expect email and phone responses from me within 24 hours during the business week. I plan to check my email in the evenings and before class on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. I work at the elementary school during the daytime, so phone calls during the day can be difficult. If you need to discuss something, the best way of communication is to email me to set up a call.
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Meet the Director: My name is Erin Christenson, and I am ecstatic to be the new Just For Kix Director in Hawley, MN. I grew up in Pelican Rapids and was a part of their JFK program from kindergarten through 9th grade. In high school, I was involved in many different activities, including volleyball, theatre, leadership clubs, and the Pelican Rapids high school dance team, the Valkyries. During my time on the dance team, I was a 5-time state participant, 3-time All-State dance team member, a choreographer for three years, and captain for two years. Additionally, I head-instructed JFK classes for two years. After high school, I went to Minnesota State University Moorhead, where I studied Elementary Education and taught at Red River Dance and Performing Company. While at MSUM, I was on the Dragon Dance team, where I received MVP, was captain for three years, and placed top ten at UDA Nationals. I am a third-grade teacher here in Hawley and the current co-head coach of the Nuggets Dance Team. My passions in life are kids, teaching, and dance. So when I get to combine the three, I am the happiest. I cannot wait to work with the dancers in Hawley and watch this program grow!

Just For Kix Home Office

Shipping Address - For Letters

JUST FOR KIX
PO Box 724
Brainerd, MN 56401

Physical Address to Ship Boxes

JUST FOR KIX
7842 College Rd
Baxter MN, 56425

Payments: www.justforkix.com/danceclasses then log into your account

Phone: 218-829-7107

Fax: 218-829-7618

Email: dance@justforkix.com

Website: www.justforkix.com

Facebook: Just For Kix

Instagram: officialjustforkix

Class Schedule (All classes held at Lake Agassiz Education Cooperative - 616 Reno St. Hawley, MN 56549)

Additional Classes may be added throughout the season! Watch emails and facebook for announcements!

Mondays

5:30 - 6:00pm Tiny Kix 1 (Preschool) (Head Instructor Erin Christenson)

6:00 - 6:45pm Wee Petites 1 (K-1) (Head Instructor Erin Christenson)

7:00 - 7:30pm Wee Petites Hip Hop (K-1) (Head Instructor Erin Christenson)

Tuesdays

5:30 - 6:30pm Mini Combo (Hip Hop/Pom) (4th-6th Grade) (Head Instructor Erin Christenson)

6:30 - 7:45pm Mini Combo (Kick/Jazz) (4th-6th Grade) (Head Instructor Erin Christenson)

Thursdays

3:45 - 4:30pm Wee Combo (Hip Hop/Pom) (2nd-3rd Grade) (Head Instructor Lexie Pixley)

4:30 - 5:30pm Wee Combo (Kick/Jazz) (2nd-3rd Grade) (Head Instructor Lexie Pixley)

5:30 - 6:00pm Tiny Kix 2 (Preschool) (Head Instructor Lexie Pixley)

6:00 - 6:45pm Wee Petites 2 (K-1st Grade) (Head Instructor Lexie Pixley)

Performances (Shows will be held at Hawley High School - 714 Joseph St, Hawley, MN 56549)

Halloween Show - October 27th at 4pm

Winter Show - December, 15th at 4pm

Spring Show - May 10th at 4pm

My hope is to get our older classes to perform at basketball games this year as well!

If your dancer cannot make it to these events please let Coach Erin know at least 2 weeks in advance.

Dancer Expectations:

To Be Respectful to Your Coaches and Teammates: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

To Strive to Better Your Best: Be determined and work hard at improving yourself. Remain positive; a smile covers a multitude of mistakes.

To Come Prepared for Class: Come dressed like a dancer with your hair pulled back and a good attitude.

To Be Accountable to Your Team: Make attendance a priority and practice outside of class.

Parent Expectations:

To read our monthly emails and announcements: I will send a **monthly email the first of every month** to the email address(es) you have listed on your account at justforkix.com/danceclasses. **PLEASE READ THESE! This is my primary way to communicate with you and I only include important announcements.** I will post on the Facebook page any information as well. Weather cancelations will be through email and Facebook.

To encourage your dancer: Please be your dancer's biggest cheerleader as they work to grow in confidence and their dance skills. We focus on praising the dancer's effort at class and hope you will praise your dancer at home as well!

To encourage practice outside of class: Flexibility and great technique take more than an hour a week to achieve. Please encourage your dancer to stretch and practice their skills and routines at home.

To get your dancer to practice on time: We will start all classes on time. Help your dancer to embrace that **early is on time and on time is late**.

To embody great sportsmanship: Especially at competitions, you never know who you're sitting, standing or walking by. Please remain a good sport even if you don't agree with the outcome of the competition. Also, your dancer(s) are watching your reaction and the things you say... your example of humility is very important!

Things You Need to Know:

When You Come to Dance

- Please use the bathroom BEFORE class. Have your young dancer try even if they say they don't have to go. Potty breaks are contagious and time is precious!
- All personal belonging should be brought into the practice space and set neatly in front of the gym against the wall or outside of the classroom.
- Dancers Kindergarten and up may bring a water bottle to class. We will not allow dancers to leave the room to get a drink, it wastes too much class time.
- Cell phones – your dancer may bring them to class to record their routine but must be kept in a bag during class time.

Facility Notes:

Our facility is VERY important to us. Always respect the facility and the other people using it. Being able to rent the facilities we do is a privilege and we want to leave a good impression. Please be sure to have your dancer pick up after themselves – especially if they bring a snack for after school or between classes. No running, gymnastics or yelling inside or outside the facility. No gum.

Arrival & Pick Up

Please arrive no more than 5 minutes before your class begins. This allows Coach Erin to get to the facility (often coming from coaching until 5:15pm) and provide quality instruction for the previous class. We do not have a waiting or parent room, so dancers should wait quietly in the hall right outside the gathering space until their class begins. Then line up at the door to the gym 3 minutes before their class time. Parents can wait in the hallway, in their vehicles or drop off their dancer and come back at the end of class. Please do not go “adventuring” in the building.

Please pick up your dancer immediately after their class is finished as there is no supervision after their class time. **Preschool – 3rd grade parents MUST come into the building to pick up your child. This is for their safety. I am starting another class and not able to watch your child walk outside and keep an eye on the class I'm starting. This goes for starting class as well.** Dancers 4th grade and up should wait INSIDE the building until their parent/guardian arrives to pick them up.

A Note on Transportation: Each dancer is responsible for her/his own transportation to practices and performances. Due to liability, JFK does not allow coaches and directors to transport dancers in their vehicles. Carpooling is a great option, especially for

out-of-town competitions; Coach Erin can announce a need for a carpool, but the set-up is the parents' responsibility.

Payment Policy

Payments are made on your account at justforkix.com/danceclasses.

Class payments are due before the 1st of each month. There is a \$10 fee assessed to late payments. **We HIGHLY recommend setting up recurring payments by selecting Auto-Pay** in your dancer's account so your balance is automatically deducted from your card the first of each month.

Just For Kix requires all dancer accounts to be paid in full in order for your dancer to participate in class and performances (including competition). We hope to never have to ask a student to sit out so please make sure your account is paid in full prior to the first class of the month. Your director will notify parents with unpaid class fees prior to the start of class, if paid by the time class starts, your dancer may participate that night. The JFK home office can also assist with payments between the hours of 8:00am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday at 218-829-7107.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is very important; your child is a part of a team and their absence affects their teammates! We move quickly when learning new routines, so if your dancer misses a class they might miss a lot. It will be up to the dancer to meet up with a classmate to learn any new information/skills before our next practice. When a dancer is gone from practice, it confuses the dancers around them as there are gaps in formations. If a dancer is absent from a performance it affects formations and sometimes we have to move dancers around and change their counts which takes up practice time and could get confusing.

- **If your dancer will be missing class, please let Erin know ahead of time.** If your dancer stays home sick from school, please do NOT send them to dance!
- **If missing a performance, other than for last minute illness/emergency, please let Coach Erin know at least 2 weeks in advance so we can assess formations and changes in class.**
- **If your dancer misses 2 of the 3 practices before any performance they will not be able to participate.** The only exception to this is for excused absences (illness, school activities/sports) that the *parent* has talked to me about ahead of time. In these cases, the dancer will be expected to practice at home and get any choreography corrections from a teammate.

If you are missing practice due to a school sport or activity, that will be an excused absence as long as a parent contacts Coach Erin ahead of time. If an activity impacts a large percentage of class (like a choir concert) we may reschedule that class if Coach Erin knows in advance.

Dress Code

Appropriate dance clothes are required for class. We want to provide every child with the correct feedback and when they have on loose clothing, we may miss something that is important. **We will be enforcing our dress code this year, so please make sure your dancer is prepared when they come to class.**

Hair: For practice, hair must be pulled back in a ponytail or bun (high bun preferred). Dancers with short hair and/or bangs should also secure their hair out of their face.

Preschool: Dancewear (leotards, tutus, shorts, tights, etc.) or Active wear (fitted tees/tanks, leggings, shorts) are acceptable. Dance shoes should be worn to class once your order arrives. Most of our preschoolers LOVE to get dressed up in their leotards and tutus!

Kindergarten – 12th Grade Kick: Dancewear (leotard, fitted “booty” shorts or leggings) or Activewear (fitted tees/tanks, leggings, shorts) are acceptable. Jazz shoes should be worn to practice once your order arrives.

Jazz: Dancers should wear fitted dance or active wear (Leotards, fitted tops, booty shorts, leggings, etc.) Jazz shoes or Turners are required for jazz classes. Technique and style are hugely important in jazz and removing clothing distractions will help instructors see corrections for individuals and the team.

Hip Hop: Loose fitting clothing is accepted for hip hop classes. T-shirts, tanks, button downs or hoodies. Booty shorts, Leggings or pants. CLEAN Sneakers. If your dancer has class back-to-back a great option is to throw on a button down and sneakers to help them get into the hip hop style.

Uniforms

Each dancer is required to purchase the appropriate uniform for their team. Uniform orders are placed through your dancer’s account at justforkix.com/danceclasses and are due by **September 30th** in order to guarantee delivery by our Winter Show. Please be sure to order all of the required pieces. It usually will take about 8-12 weeks for your uniform to arrive. Uniforms are shipped directly to the director and will be passed out during the next class. **Dancers may wear their uniform shoes to practice!** This is actually preferred as they are broken in for performances.

Returns/Exchanges:

Beginning the start of the season and per JFK policy, we will NOT be accepting returns at class. All returns need to be handled by the parents. You will get your items faster this way and nothing will get lost!

You are able to return/exchange the uniform if it has not been worn for a performance. There are instructions included with the uniform order on how to process a return/exchange.

IMPORTANT: The recommendation from the home office to get your replacement in a timely manner is to place a **NEW ORDER** for the correct item(s) and **RETURN** the incorrect item(s).

PLEASE LOOK AT DIRECTIONS ON THE SHEET OF PAPER IN YOUR ORDER FOR RETURN INSTRUCTIONS. IF NOT FILLED OUT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR ITEM.

*Uniforms should be fitted, not baggy. If you pinch the uniform in the small of your dancer's back there should be about an inch of "give" to account for growth.

Performances

Performances are your dancer's time to showcase all the hard work they have put in and the progress they have made throughout the season! Each team is guaranteed at least 3 performances throughout the season and they wear the same uniform for each performance. Every team will dance in our Halloween, Winter, and Spring Shows. Dance is an interactive experience; your cheering encourages the dancers. So, go ahead and get loud when you see something you like!

Admission:

Spectators are charged an admission fee to get into our performances to cover rent, staffing and other performance expenses. We do our best to keep these low so your whole family can enjoy watching your dancer(s)! When we perform at school events like football or basketball games, anyone coming to watch will need to pay admission just like the athletes' parents do. Those fees are set by the school district and out of my control.

Together We Dance Competitions

Just For Kix offers Together We Dance Competitions around the region during the second half of our season. Typically, our dancers start competing at the Mini level. While TWDs are competitions and it's great to win, we encourage our teams to focus on doing their best and being great sports about the results. We ask parents to demonstrate great sportsmanship; you are representing Hawley Just For Kix and our community!

2024 TWD Events for Hawley JFK: These are the events I plan to attend, but they are tentative until JFK confirms the dates and categories offered at each event. These are previous dates to show roughly the time of year they will happen.

1. March 24th, 2024: Wahpeton TWD
 - a. Teams Attending: Wee Combo Kick/Jazz, Wee Combo Hip Hop/Pom, Mini Combo Kick/Jazz, Mini Combo Hip Hop/Pom
2. April 13, 2024: Valley City TWD
 - a. Teams Attending: Wee Combo Kick/Jazz, Wee Combo Hip Hop/Pom, Mini Combo Kick/Jazz, Mini Combo Hip Hop/Pom
3. March 2nd, 2024: Crookston TWD
 - a. Teams Attending: Wee Combo Kick/Jazz, Wee Combo Hip Hop/Pom, Mini Combo Kick/Jazz, Mini Combo Hip Hop/Pom

Fees: Dancers are charged competition fees to participate at our TWD events and spectators are charged to get into the events instead of having the costs included in our monthly class fees – this way you only pay for the events our team attends.

Thank you for choosing Hawley Just For Kix for your child(ren)'s dance classes! Please let me know if you have any questions.

**With Kix,
Erin Christenson**