

What to Wear to your Just For Kix Dance Class

What to wear to class/how to do hair for class

When a dancer comes to class, s/he should feel like s/he is at a dance class. Proper attire is important - if a dancer simply wears whatever s/he wore to school that day, dance class is no longer a special thing, but just another thing to get done with on that day. Please try to change your dancer into special clothing for dance class:

- For boys of any age, they can wear shorts and tanks or t-shirts, or men's dance pants.
- For our youngest female dancers, tights and leotards are recommended because they usually LOVE wearing these items! Help your dancer dress up and feel special. Put your dancer's hair up in a bun.
- For older dancers, they tend to enjoy wearing jazz shorts and tanks or t-shirts. This is fine for most classes, except ballet:
 - For ballet, female dancers MUST wear light-colored tights (prefer pink) and a dark leotard (prefer black) and male dancers MUST wear tight-fitting dance garments.
- Dream Team, Starmakers and Rising Stars dancers should wear all snug-fitting, black garments to class (tights and shoes can be tan).

Dancers should always wear appropriate footwear to dance class. PLEASE WRITE YOUR DANCER'S NAME INSIDE THEIR SHOES WITH A SHARPIE in case they are left behind. The notes below are for ballet slippers and jazz shoes.

- Our young dancers (2 yrs-3rd grade) can wear their performance dance shoes for both practice and performing, as long as they still look performance worthy for the next performance. If not, we recommend purchasing a new or newer used pair prior to the next performance. For those in more than one class that wear the same shoes (like jazz shoes), parents may want to consider having a practice pair and a performance pair of shoes.
- Our mid-range aged dancers, 4th-7th grade or near these ages, can wear their performance shoes for both practice and performing, depending on how many classes they are in and how much wear the shoes get each week. Parents may want to consider having a practice pair and a performance pair for their dancer.
- Our older dancers, 8th-12th grade, can wear their performance shoes for both practice and performing IF they are only in one or two classes with those shoes. We highly recommend that ALL dancers of this age have a practice pair and a performance pair. *(The only exclusions to this would be for those in Senior Hip Hop as they can wear regular tennis shoes to class but should wear the performance shoes a few times before each performance to break them in and get used to them.)*
- **Practice pair / Performance pair** - it is recommended that your dancer wears his/her Performance pair for at least two weeks prior to performing the first time, and then to at least one class prior to each performance/competition to make sure the shoes are comfortable and broken in.

- **Ballet** - dancers MUST have pink split-sole ballet slippers in either canvas or leather for class AND performing. Ballet slippers are relatively inexpensive, so having a practice and a performance pair is recommended. Dancers can purchase these ballet slippers wherever they like, but if they need to be fitted, we recommend they go to JT's Dancewear, 2179 4th St #2b, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, (651) 653-9992.
- **TAP** - all dancers should go to JT's Dancewear, 2179 4th St #2b, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, (651) 653-9992 to be fitted for tap shoes. Please see our document about uniform and shoe sizing or contact our Program Director for which tap shoes your dancer should get.

For class, hair MUST be pulled back into a ponytail (even boys with long hair), bun or braid during all dance classes. A high bun (near or on top of the head) is highly recommended for all dancers, but especially those in 2nd-12th grade - this makes "spotting" much, much easier. If your dancer's hair is shorter than that, please pull or clip back what you can. Many younger kids come to class with a "bob" haircut and say they can't pull it back, but yet the sides of their hair cover their faces when they turn or reach down to touch the floor. Use headbands, barrettes, clips and binders as much as possible to pull the hair off of the dancer's face. The point of pulling the hair back is not only to let the instructor see the posture of the neck, but also so that the dancer doesn't have to mess with it or push it out of their eyes while in class.

Dance Bag - It is helpful if your dancer has a dance bag that includes:

- their dance shoes
 - put each pair of shoes into a smaller, separate bag inside the bigger bag to reduce rubbing and wear
 - This is highly recommended during COVID because the virus may be picked up from the floor.
- extra practice clothes in case of accidents/emergencies
- hair items (in a small, separate bag/container) and hairspray
- a water bottle (no leaks) - bring two or three
- a healthy snack if dancer will be at class for two or more hours

Your dancer is allowed to only drink WATER at class. WATER BOTTLES ARE ENCOURAGED!!! Dancers can bring water bottles into class and place them at the back of the room.

NO GATORADE, POWERADE OR OTHER COLORED DRINKS allowed. We have had too many spills in the past, which is detrimental to our rental agreement and can be costly to remove or repair. Please do not let your dancer bring any of these drinks - water is just fine for hydration. If parents or siblings are waiting in the building, please only consume clear drinks. Thank you!

******* Help your dancer have a successful class by having him/her fully prepared for class - proper clothes and finished hair will make such a difference! *******

If you have any questions about class attire, please contact our Program Director at 651-653-8539 or whitebearlake_mn@justforkix.com, or our Home Office at 218-829-7107 or dance@justforkix.com.