



Once your dancer reaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade they have two options for classes in our jazz curriculum. There is an advanced level team as well as our traditional "open" teams. Offering multiple jazz classes allow your dancer to continue to expand their skills at a level that is appropriate for her/him. Our advanced teams are made up of dancers that are selected through an evaluation process. Open teams are open to any dancer in our program. All jazz teams, with the exception of Wee Petites Jazz, will participate in competitions. Please note that participation in their corresponding age level kick class is a prerequisite for participation in any jazz class.

**Open Teams (class names are new for 2017-18):**

(1) Senior Jazz: This class is open to any dancer in grades 8-12. All dancers must also be enrolled in their corresponding kick class.

(2) Middle Jazz: This class is open to any dancer in grades 6-7. All dancers must also be enrolled in their corresponding kick class.

**Advance Level Teams (class names are new for 2017-18):**

(1) Dream Team (Advanced) – Grades 8-12: Skills required for placement include: natural dance ability, flexibility, a triple pirouette, fully extended grand jeté leap, back attitude leap, and the ability to perform four+ open turns in a row. Please see the notation further down regarding turn requirements.

(2) Starmakers (Intermediate) – Grades 6-12: Skills required for placement include: natural dance ability, flexibility, a double pirouette, fully extended grand jeté leap, and the ability to perform three open turns in a row. Please see the notation further down regarding turn requirements. *Dancers will be given some time consideration in mastering the open turn. At the April evaluation they must be able to show or have a strong showing to be able to complete them. Should they not be able to perform this skill by the end of September, they will be moved back into the Open level team.*

**Grades 4-5:** Mini Jazz will remain aged based and open to all dancers

**Grades 2-3:** Wee Jazz will remain aged based and open to all dancers

**New! Grades K-1:** Wee Petites jazz is new and will be aged based and open to all dancers.

Dancers that have not participated in jazz before will enroll in our Open Teams for their first year.

Thoughts from the Coach:

There is an analogy I have used a lot in talking with parents and the dancers:

*"I see my children with my parent glasses and my parent glasses allow me to see my child in full color."*

We all see our children in full color, me included. This is our job and is an important part of raising loved and confident children. I have never discouraged this in the parents of my dancers, nor should I. As a coach, however, I see my dancers in black and white. This is my role and you should want me to see your child technically as to provide the best training and advancement for them. If we place your dancer into a class that is too challenging for them they will become discouraged and defeated which is the exact opposite of my goal. Correct placement will allow your dancer to flourish. Please know that this is a very hard thing for me as I know I'm disappointing children that I care about. I don't take this decision lightly and I will always take your child's feelings into my considerations as we move forward.

Although this process may seem stressful to some of dancers, I hope that you can see that this is truly a great step for everyone. If your dancer does not get placed into the class she is hoping for, please encourage them that this is not failure. Placement into the correct class will allow for more accurate training for everyone and will ensure everyone's growth and development.

If you have any questions about this process, please call me. I'm more than happy to talk with you and your dancer.

With Kix,  
Heather

Turn Requirements:

Many parents see their dancer performing turns and feel that they are correct if they are completing the rotation. As the instructor I am looking for the technical requirements of a turn. Some of these are:

- Spotting
- Connected passé
- Full relevé

For example, a dancer may be able to complete the rotation, but if they are not able to spot they will be unable to advance into the more difficult turns that will be required of them in the audition level classes. Your dancer should be able to explain this skill to you, but if you, or your dancer, have questions please see me before or after class so that I can better explain and have your dancer demonstrate this skill.