

HSDA Class Placement 2026-2027

Schedule

Our class schedule is thoughtfully curated each year based upon the students enrolled. Each student is hand placed in each class to provide the best possible learning environment and opportunity for growth.

Schedule creation is a large task! We appreciate your patience and grace as we finalize every student's placement.

Our approach to LEVELING

- Our class levels may expand, contract, or be re-numbered from year to year based on enrollment and the needs of our students.
- We carefully design each class to meet students' needs and foster growth in a nurturing environment. We consider class content, pacing, technical skills, learning styles, and overall class dynamics. As a result, even if a class has the same level number from one year to the next, the students, curriculum, and learning experience are never exactly the same as the year prior.
- We place dancers in the class level that will give them the best environment to learn. When determining class placement, we consider much more than technical ability. We also look at maturity, focus, work ethic, readiness, learning style, and how each dancer will thrive within the overall class dynamic. Class placement to keep siblings or friends together is not necessarily optimal for learning.
- It is both normal and expected that students will be placed in the same class level for multiple seasons. Dance education is different from academic school, and there are not 12 levels of any style. Rather than progressing through one level each year, students continue developing increasingly advanced skills within each level before moving on. This is especially true of Adult Styles, Street Jazz, Technique Enhancement, Leaps & Turns, Theatre Dance, and Contemporary/Lyrical where each style has 2-5 levels.

- During the first few weeks of classes, teachers spend time getting to know each dancer, assessing skills, and confirming that every student has been placed in the class where they will be most successful. We evaluate individual growth, class dynamics, and opportunities for continued learning.
- We do not hold students back. Their progress happens at *their* own pace and we support them along *their* journey.
- Our approach is unique to HSDA and is built on decades of experience in assessing and placing dancers. While thoughtful placement takes time, we know that giving every student the right environment to grow, be challenged, and enjoy dancing is well worth the effort.

The 2026-2027 CLASS SCHEDULE will be coming out soon.

We will send a notification by email when it is posted in your portal. Please review your schedule carefully to ensure all of the classes and styles you registered for are included.

Please note: When creating the schedule, we take your scheduling requests into consideration, however, we are not always able to accommodate every request due to teacher availability, space, age/level appropriateness of classes. When we can't meet a request, we provide the best possible option available for continued growth and learning.

Please be in contact with us via email or phone if:

1. There is an error in the number or style of classes you registered for.
2. You have a conflict with the day/time of a scheduled class. (There may be another option! We try our best to offer alternatives when appropriate and available.)

IMPORTANT: If teachers determine that a leveling adjustment would better support a dancer's development, we will contact you directly. **To allow teachers the opportunity to complete these evaluations, no level evaluation requests will be accepted prior to classes starting.**

What to do if you or your dancer have questions about class placement:

1. **We encourage your dancer to speak with their teacher during the first two weeks of classes.** Parents can help by encouraging students to communicate their goals and ask for feedback. This may take place after class, through a written note, or by email facilitated through the studio. Learning to respectfully ask questions and seek feedback is an important life skill, and our teachers genuinely welcome these conversations. We are all working toward the same goal: helping every dancer grow and succeed.
2. **Parents' emotional reactions to placements directly influence how their child processes disappointment;** staying calm and growth-focused helps kids work harder, while expressing outrage causes them to dig in their heels and lose trust in their instructors.
3. **To respect our teachers' personal time and privacy, please do not contact them through their personal email, phone number or social media.** All communication should be directed through the Hershey School of Dance & Arts email at hersheyschoolofdance@verizon.net. We are happy to facilitate communication between families and teachers whenever needed.

Please review the Student & Parent Handbook linked below.

It includes important information regarding studio policies, dress code, parent expectations, and student expectations.

<https://www.hersheydance.com/student-parent-handbook>

We are so excited to dance with you for our 50th season!!!