



# CDPA SPRINGING FORWARD

Updated Protocols and 2021 Expanded Schedule  
Programming Model (updated 12/26/2020)

## Safe-at-Dance Programming Plans will Continue

COVID-19 has unveiled opportunities to unpack and discover creative ways to address and clarify real needs for our children, their families and our community. We are excited to offer a course of action plan that parallels and supplements educational needs and social-emotional gaps presented by our post-COVID reality. Dance is more than steps! At CDPA it will be one of the best steps to success for our students as we recognize gaps and respond to the needs of whole-child development that may become lost in other aspects of our COVID-19 prescribed conditions.

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*Education looked different in the Fall of 2020 as the new normal emerged as our post-COVID reality. Since March of 2020, CDPA has stayed on the front side of this mindset shift to limit the gap in our training programs. At CDPA, our process over product approach to learning in and through the arts develops life-applicable skills necessary to the success of the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner and a creative workforce. In addition to protecting our CDPA families, I took the lead and embraced the potential of dance education to remain grounded during this unprecedented time. Through my work with NDEO, I was part of a team of dance educators that went above and beyond to address the business and personal challenges of studios and teachers across the U.S. I believed that using my experience with our CDPA community, I could lead other dance educators to sustain programs that would promote student success despite COVID-restrictions. Looking back, it was the scariest time in the history of this business and, the most rewarding.*

Dance at CDPA has always been designed to align my personal and professional knowledge and experience in dance with the needs of the developing child. I consider every moment I have spent dancing, performing and learning since my first class at age 2, to be a part of my dance education equally valuable to my advanced degrees and years of leadership on a national level. Thirty years ago, I didn't know if the "way I do things" would work to the favor of the student or not, but now with 30 years to look back on, I feel confident in the whole-child dance education we provide at CDPA. I have the joy of seeing the evidence in the students who have graduated and the ones who have shown a breadth of character and grace during this unusual and transient time.

These foundations of character and growth do not come in vast square footage and trophy-lined walls, rather they are packaged in small increments of mitigated development that aligns with educational benchmarks, emotional and developmental markers and age-appropriate technique and choreography. Take, for instance, our ensemble seniors this year and note that they started at CDPA at age 3, together in my Creative Movement class. The proof is in the body of work; our upper level students' growth in performance and professionalism is unmatched. At CDPA, your child grows through dance in the collective embrace of a broader dance family and is loved through all of life's lessons – especially the tough spots!

I continue to worry daily about having to start a post or email with, "It is with a heavy heart, I..." And that ending could follow through as bad news about a child, or parent or closure of the studio. These are things that whirl around in my head daily. My CDPA family, the students and the parents and siblings are never out of my mind. Each decision I make is calculated by our investment in each other.

If you follow my posts on Facebook, you see, feel, hear – well, you READ the anguish and overt dismay I have at the failure of leadership in our government and school system to honor the health and safety of our community FIRST! I resent children being used as pawns as this has never been about the children-that is standard rhetoric. The needs of the student rest in the hearts of the teachers and parents, that is not a legislative or administrative agenda. Beyond my family, there are two things I will fight for with all my heart and that has always been a child's right to love to learn and the value of dance education for all people.

So how does all of this play out for CDPA? I have used my best judgment, gut instincts and educational undergirding to respond to the concerns at hand in this post-COVID term. I have peers who are using this as a time to grow their business, offering things they cannot guarantee and programming that falls outside of the boundaries of prescribed guidelines. I see business-as-usual approaches and have even seen and talked to studio owners who are charging an annual COVID fee and up-front yearly tuition payments that are non-refundable and non-negotiable. In an unpredictable climate of change, I will not be making those kinds of assertions. I will continue to be transparent and straight-forward with our CDPA families. I will need your continued loyalty, commitment, patience, flexibility and grace as we trod through this all together. I will continue to over-communicate, spill my heart, be outspoken and, when I am unsure, become silent and reserved until I have reconciled my head to my heart on each decision I make. If you are still reading this discourse, I know you value my conviction. 😊

### **CDPA's Framework for Dance Education** in a post-COVID reality implemented **LEARNING CORPS** as a way to

- limit exposure
- support cross-disciplinary study of dance as it leads to the growth of the dancer and the learner
- integrate academic enrichment
- use dance as a therapeutic tool to support the social-emotional learning losses of the COVID-19 options for learning.

Our classes are **Dance-Focused Integrated Arts Experiences**, using *Dance in a variety of genres, to spark the students' creative impulses to develop ideas, choreograph, design, direct, write and produce action-based movement expressions, performance art and dance.* In addition to dance technique, the areas of art, music, creative writing, arts-integrated academics, functional kinesiology, health and nutrition will be incorporated into our weekly classes. The progressive curriculum at CDPA, designed and detailed nearly 25 years ago is presently being incorporated into an outline that will embrace these concepts in order to apply emerging best practices. I am continually identifying how to put these measures into place so that our response to **safe-at-dance learning practices** is embedded in the curriculum and not a burden to the student and parent.

Every student at CDPA will get a range of dance education practices and experiences. All students will be exposed to all forms of dance in the progression of their age and development. In your **Learning Corps** you will study ballet, jazz, tap, musical theatre, and modern in a fluid format whereby the focus may change but the overall concepts of body works in terms of science and art will be practiced. There will be opportunities for genre-specific enhancements (other add-on classes) which may happen onsite or online. Please note that at any time, we may have to return to fully online delivery of our CDPA classes. Part of our commitment to the students and parents is that we will be incorporating the development of **self-driven tactics for success** and **ways to practice** as a way of supporting the student and the parent during these shifts.

**We began our 2020-2021 dance season on August 10<sup>th</sup>** with an open-mind and flexibility befitting of these uncertain times. We can now reflect on a very positive outcome! Applause!

Now, as we expand our schedule in order to provide supplemental classes for students who are seeking more weekly training or New-to-CDPA students, I ask for your continued flexibility and patience as I strive to meet the needs of each individual dancer and provide work for our teachers, gradually bringing them back on board. Making recital plans and ordering costumes will be the next big challenge, but if I can have a clear picture of what class enrollment looks like, that too will fall into place. We will be taking measurements the first week back and costume deposits will be due by January 15<sup>th</sup> unless other arrangements are made (remember they usually come due in November). Recital fee (\$50 per student) will be due with the January payment which will enable us to secure our venue/s. Please keep in mind that with a lower enrollment, the recital fee will not be enough to cover expenses which may lead to an increase in ticket prices to cover production expenses. As always I will strive to keep costs down as I am able.

Dress code will still be relaxed and flexible. Please make sure you get your dancewear from Geared to Dance. There are several reasons... 1) It is the same business so your purchases through Geared to Dance help to keep the business stable, 2) you get a discount and have no shipping costs, 3) you have access to special order and 4) it keeps the “look” consistent even when we have a relaxed dress code!

The important thing will be to always be in leotard, tights and have your proper shoes for class. Hair must ALWAYS be secured in a bun or braid and flyaways secured. This is an essential protective hygienic measure we must take. Boys need to investigate a headband/sweatband of some sort to absorb sweat and every needs to have separate bags for your shoes. I suggest drawstring bags you can toss in the wash.

## CDPA LEARNING CORPS

Foundations I: PreK (1hr/wk)  
 Foundations II: Kindergarten/1st (1hr/wk)  
 Level I: Grade 2/3 (2hr/wk)  
 Level II: Grades 4/5 (2hr/wk)  
 Level III/IV: Grade 6&up (2hr/wk)

Garden Kids: Open Age (2<sup>nd</sup> hr/wk)  
 Apprentice Company (by audition 4hr/wk)  
 Junior Company (by audition 6hr/wk)  
 Senior Company (by audition 6hr/wk)  
 Scottish Highland\*

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Time	Saturday
5:00	Foundations I	Garden Kids	Jr & App Co	Level I	Level II	9:00	
6:00	Foundations II		(5pm to 7pm)	(5pm to 7pm)	(5pm to 7pm)	10-12	Scottish Competition
7:00-9:00	Senior Co (7pm to 9pm)	Level III/IV (7pm to 9pm)	Senior Co (7pm to 9pm)	Scottish Highland*	Junior Co (7pm to 9pm)	12:30-2:30	Ensemble

**Additional Membership Services:** Homework Hangouts, FB Care and Connect Activities, FB Live PopUp Classes, CDPA Resources Portal, NHSDA

**Scottish Highland Classes:** Breakout class groups by level on Tuesdays and Thursdays to be parsed out internally and in keeping with enrollment numbers. Each Scottish student will have a **one-hour weekly class**, and if a competing student, will attend the Saturday competition class. Private lessons online or onsite during this post-COVID term are encouraged. Contact Dr. K to schedule with any of our teachers or watch for SignUpGenius notices.

**Performance Groups:** Garden Kids offers a performance group option without audition. Students must be enrolled in a weekly **Learning Corps** at CDPA. This class will be dedicated to learning choreography and working on performance skills, energy and dynamic expression, bonding as group, and (when available) public performance. The CDPA Performing Ensemble is by audition only and that group has been set for the year ahead. Junior and Apprentice will come to class at the same time but will be grouped, take class and rehearse as their own **Learning Corps**.

Base rate: \$56 per month per class x **11 months** (multiply \$56 x # of hours and apply percentage discount from chart below. Round **DOWN** to the nearest dollar for monthly fee)

1 hr class = No Discount  
2 hr to 3.5 = 10% off total  
4 hr to 6.5 hr = 15% off total

7 hr to 12 hr = 20% off total  
12hr and up = 25% off total  
Loyalty/Family Discounts: Case by Case

## SCHEDULE GUIDE

All classes are generated onsite, however, the studio will be equipped to handle **disDANCE** choices! Please indicate if you are choosing to attend class virtually so that you will receive the appropriate login and any support materials.

Classes resume January 4, 2021 (This is a change from a previously posted January 11<sup>th</sup> but the first week is subject to online platforms if COVID numbers are too significantly on the rise.

Because school start dates have been pushed back, the school end dates have been as well. This will affect the availability of performance spaces and rehearsal time for the 2021 recital. There are so many unknowns that we simply must remain flexible and open to all solutions. I applaud each of you for rising to the challenges of everyday and overcoming them with creativity and grace. It will be a part of your child's skill set! *#silverlinings #cdpacantbecontained*

## SEE OUR SPRING FORWARD SCHEDULE FOR NEW CLASSES BEGINNING JANUARY 25, 2021

Fee Schedule for New-to-CDPA students is modified.

Please refer to website information or email the director at [kwadance@gmail.com](mailto:kwadance@gmail.com)