

# Express Yourself FAQs



We take our recital planning very seriously here at Expressions Dance Studio. Participating in recitals is all part of our students dance education journey. Learning how to put it all together, learning how to perform and interact with everyone during the show and showcasing their personal talents and passions for dance! Below are some good FAQs to get you started in the process this year! If you are a first time recital participant, have no fear..we will get through it together. If you are a returning dancer, be sure to read everything this year as it has all changed..for the better!

Q. Why does my child have to be at all the practices the week of recital?

- A. It is important for your dancer to know what and how things happen so they are comfortable and confident when they step on stage. If they miss a day that week and something needs to be changed, they will have no idea and may be caught off guard themselves or cause a staging issue for someone else.

Q. Why do they need costumes and accessories for each routine?

- A. Each genre of dance is different and each routine tells a story. Much like a play at school or a baseball game each person has their part. In order for the routine to have the most successful impact and showcase the full potential of the piece and students, they need to have all the components. Also, for those dancers looking to further their dance career, it's important for them to know and be prepared for the process so when they get a professional job/call back they know the expectations and how to prepare.

Q. Why are recital costs so expensive and is it worth it?

- A. Costumes are made specifically for the type of movement we present and need to be designed specifically for the message the routine is relaying. Costumes have fine detail, some more than others and a lot of the time are handmade. The earrings and hair pony provides dimension and light to the dancers as does their makeup. Without these things the pieces the dancers showcase are bland and not nearly as entertaining. In the industry they will have costumes for each and every role or routine they play in. This also keeps the dancers uniform and professional. As a studio we want to uphold our professional standard and set them up for success! The worth is in the eye of the beholder. When your dancer puts on their costumes and feels the success of earning that performance is worth more than any costume cost! Ticket cost and recital fee keeps us performing at a safe, clean and adequate venue! The show costs are extremely expensive and having these fees is one way to keep our monthly costs manageable.

Q. Why aren't parents allowed backstage or in the audience during rehearsals?

- A. Students will always focus better and be engaged when they have one director, one stage manager and one supervisor! Part of the process is them learning how to follow directions, learn patience and learn to wait their turn. Professional shows run on a very specific timeline and process to keep the show running in order. Sitting in on rehearsals creates distraction and can create tension for the dancers as we are working out kinks. They want to put their best foot forward and need to have the space and time to do so. We do also know how littles can be intimidated so we do have a different process for our toddlers, don't worry, your dancer's perspective is extremely important to us.

Q. What is the best way to keep my dancer's items organized amongst recital week?

- A. Labeling your dancer's items and keeping them in a laundry basket (small) labeled with your dancer's name on it is incredibly helpful. The studio will have baskets on hand to use as well.

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Q. What is the process during the week of recital?

- A. You will bring your dancer to the location of the show at their normal class times the week of the show. Classes that meet on Saturdays will be worked into the Monday-Thursday rehearsals. Monday through Thursday that week you will drop them off at the check in table 10-15 minutes before their class time and pick them back up at that spot at the end time. Dress rehearsal: you will be permitted (with your parent pass that is part of your recital fee) to bring them to their station and prepare them and then will be asked to exit at 5:45 when they go down to the staging area. Students are released as they are done performing. It is a long night, however the practice will not be more than 3 hours. Saturday's process is the same, however pick up does not happen until the entire show is completed! Toddlers will have their own protocol.

Q. How do I know where my dancers station is?

- A. At check- in the beginning of the week, you will be given a dancer's station and directions regarding that.

Q. Are there incidental costs the week of recital?

- A. Yes. You pay your recital fee which covers extra costs our studio has to ensure a seamless show. Your costume cost covers just that. You also will have the OPTION to pay for pictures, dvd, swag bag (a cinch bag of the show filled with great supplies), recital shirt (not req., however dancers love to wear them for the finale and save it for practices the next year), flowers for your dancer and show tickets. There are concessions the week of recital and show night!

Q. What if my dancer loses or needs supplies during that week?

- A. There will be extra tights, earrings and pony holders for those that lose or damage theirs. Students will be given the items they need and billed for the cost. Students are not permitted on stage without the appropriate attire.

Q. What if there are multiple shows?

- A. We plan to do two shows on Saturday, one at 2 and one at 7. We have a third show on standby for Sunday at 2. When purchasing your tickets, you will be required to pick your show day/time, The week before recital week, as a studio we will decide if the third show is required based on attendance for the two Saturday shows. There is a protocol for tickets reserved for Sunday, if there are any. We want everyone that wants to see our show to have the opportunity. Of course all dancers' attendance for all shows is required to assure everyone purchasing tickets gets the same great show to view and all the dancers have the same great opportunity to perform.

There are so many components to cover all at once. You will receive a full recital packet that will detail everything! We put all these policies and procedures in place to give you and your dancer a great performance experience!

Once you have read this sheet and have questions, feel free to ask our front desk any questions you may have!

Happy Dancing,  
Expressions Staff