**Aspire Dance Academy 2023-2024 Season-Tuition Policy/Fees Q & A on BACK
TUITION Instruction begins the week of September 11th, 2023 through our spring showcase June 1st, 2024
~A $45 non-refundable registration fee with student’s first month tuition is due at registration to secure position in class
~8 remaining tuition payments are due by the 5th of each month; A $30 LATE FEE is charged if not received by the 5th of each month
~$25 fee for all returned checks
~5% discount on total tuition if paid in full via cash/check, 2% if paid in full via credit card at registration in Aug or Sept
~10 class card is offered for Adults (17+) for $190 for all adult classes. Expire 1 year from issue date. Non-transferable
~Individual classes can be purchased by Adults (17+) for $25/class by making a one-time payment online
~There is no refund given for any students that discontinue taking classes after payment is received
~Any student that discontinues taking classes before December 21st is required to pay the remaining tuition through December in full; any student that discontinues taking classes after January 7th is required to pay the remaining tuition through May in full
~ Students with more than 4 unexcused absences between February and June, will be required at instructor’s discretion to attend private lessons, at standard fees, for each missed class in order to participate in the Spring Showcase.

HOLIDAYS INCLEMENT WEATHER
Aspire will be closed:
 All weather related closures are done on a class by
Nov. 22nd –Nov 26th Thanksgiving class basis. Students will be notified of closures by
Dec. 22nd- –Jan 7th Winter Break 3pm (8:30AM Sat.) by email, outgoing voice mail, TV closings,
March 31st-April 7th Spring Break Aspire website (www.aspiretodance.com).

IMPORTANT DATES
~Annual Spring Showcase with mandatory Dress Rehearsal-June 1, 2024 Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center**Ticket sales will begin in May. Tickets are assigned seating and required for ages 3+. *ALL dancers will be required to wear stage appropriate make up, as it is an expectation for dance performances. Additional showcase fees may be announced at a later date.***~Saturday, December 9th-$100 per costume\* if paid by 12/09/23. $110/costume if paid between 12/10/23-12/17/23.** \*All students participating in the showcase will purchase their costume. NO REFUNDS ON COSTUMES. Costumes payments not received by 12/18/23 will result in $25 addl fee to be ordered. Students must have a $0 balance on account in order to receive costume.

**Hours of Instruction per week (*per family)* /Monthly Tuition Fees** *Please call regarding tuition for additional classes.*

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| **45 min** | **$82 per month** | **2 hours 30 min** | **$195 per month** |
| **1 hour** | **$97 per month** | **2 hours 45 min** | **$206 per month** |
| **1 hour 15 min** | **$114 per month** | **3 hours** | **$217 per month** |
| **1 hour 30 min** | **$131 per month** | **3 hours 15 min** | **$228 per month** |
| **1 hour 45 min** | **$148 per month** | **3 hours 30 min** | **$240 per month** |
| **2 hours** | **$166 per month** | **3 hours 45 min** | **$252 per month** |
| **2 hours 15 min** | **$183 per month** | **4 hours** | **$262 per month** |

 **PRIVATE INSTRUCTION- Call regarding tuition. Cancellations require a 24 hour notice to avoid being charged.**
***DRESS CODE: Please note: underwear, if worn, should not be visible******SEE our ‘Dress Code’ page on our website aspiretodance.com*** **Class Expectations:
*Skirts(except pointe) or leg warmers are not permitted during class.* No sweats or baggy clothes are permitted during class*.* For the safety of students, they should have a cover-up over their leotard coming to and returning home from classes. No jewelry is allowed, except small stud earrings. No rolled up or footless tights in ballet, tap, or jazz. Leotards are required under hip hop attire; absolutely no bare mid-riffs may show. Chewing gum/food and street shoes are NOT permitted in the dance studio. Dance shoes MUST NOT be worn outside the studio and only dance shoes are permitted in the studio.
For their safety and to prevent injuries, students more than 10 minutes late to any class will not be permitted to dance. *OVER***

***Frequently Asked Questions:*Why are students required to take private lessons if they miss more than 4 classes between February and June?** Our instructors begin teaching choreography for our annual spring showcase starting in February, using steps and technique taught during September-January. While it is important for students to attend classes the entire year to avoid missing important instruction, the classes between February and June are critical to producing an excellent final product where dancers are confident and proud of their accomplishments. Students that miss more than 4 classes during this time impact the class progress and frequently feel frustrated as they try to catch up to their fellow dancers. Private lessons are required to help alleviate this.

**Why are students not permitted to dance in class if they are more than 10 minutes late to class?**Every dance class begins with a warm up that is used not only for instructional purposes, but most importantly, to prepare a dancer’s body for higher impact activities later in the class. While we understand extenuating circumstances happen, our primary focus is a dancer’s safety. As is typical in most dance classes, students who arrive more than 10 minutes late and, therefore miss some or all of the warm up, are welcomed into class but asked to participate via observation rather than dancing in order to avoid possible injuries.

**Why are students not permitted to wear skirts, warm up attire, or jewelry during class?** Aspire’s focus is to provide exceptional technical training. Skirts, warm ups (such as leg warmers, bulky sweaters), etc prevent instructors from being able to see the placement of a student’s body and therefore prevents corrections. This can lead to incorrectly performing steps which ultimately could lead to injuries. Jewelry is not permitted in most dance classes as it can get broken or cause injuries as well.
\*Please note: BLACK DANCE sweaters are permitted in classes during cold months. Please verify your dancer’s attire with their instructor if you have questions.

**Why are dancers required to have their hair in a bun and footed pink tights for ballet?** Not only are buns and pink tights traditional in a ballet class, they are essential for proper training. Buns pull the dancer’s hair off their neck, allowing the instructor to view and correct the proper head placement and line. They also prevent the hair from ‘flying’ during class and becoming a distraction. Pink tights are a standard in ballet class not only for appearance but for training. Pink tights show the shadowing of leg muscles, therefore help instructors to coach proper muscle usage and training. Footed tights provide a consistent line of the leg with the shoe, also helpful for training.

**Why don’t dancers wear underwear under their tights?** Both tights and leotards have cotton lined panels and act as an undergarment. Underwear is NOT to be seen if your dancer chooses to wear them.

**Should my child take a bathroom break before class? YES!!** YES!In order to eliminate class disruptions and possible accidents, please help your child to the bathroom before class. Dancers must be potty trained to be enrolled; no diapers or pull-ups permitted.

**Why are cover ups necessary for my dancer to leave the building?** While wearing just tights and leotards is normal attire to dancers, it is not normal to people outside the studio. For the safety of your dancer and to help educate them on professional etiquette, please ensure they wear a cover up over their tights and leotards. Thank you for helping to keep our dancers safe! **Why can’t my dancer wear their dance shoes outside?** Dancers should NEVER wear their dance shoes outside the studio. Not only will it damage their shoes, they also track in small rocks and dirt that can hurt our bare feet while dancing.

**How do I know what class my dancer should enroll in based on their age?** Similar to most public school systems, Aspire uses September 30th as the guide for enrollment based on age. All class placement is at the instructor’s discretion.

**What is the ‘Word of the Week’ and ‘Knowledge Celebration’?** Part of dance education is learning about terminology and influential dancers in the industry. In order to present these in a fun manner, Aspire uses a ‘Word of the Week’ program for classes ages 6+ where dancers receive a term, definition, or influential dancer each week. After instructors have educated and shared 8 ‘Words of the Week’ with students, dancers participate in a knowledge celebration to share what they know about the terms they have learned.  **Have additional questions?** Just ask! We want to help! Our focus at Aspire is to provide high quality dance instruction in a fun, inspiring, and professional environment. Our policies and requirements are intended to assist us in providing the best dance education for your dancer.