



2024-2025

# DANCE STUDIO HANDBOOK



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# WELCOME



**Anna Compton**  
Owner & Teacher

Welcome to the 8 Count Dance Handbook, your ultimate guide to everything dance and performance this year. We've put together a comprehensive resource to provide you with clarity and address any questions you may have as we embark on an amazing new year of dance together. While we encourage you to read this information carefully and keep it in a safe place for future reference, remember that our friendly instructors and staff are always here to support you. No matter how big or small your question is, we promise to assist you with enthusiasm!

At 8 Count Dance, we are driven by a shared vision, purpose, and philosophy that permeates everything we do. Our studio is a place where children, teens and adults discover the joy of dance and performing. We foster an environment that celebrates creativity, individuality, and self-expression, forming a vibrant community of teachers, students, and families who are passionate about the performing arts. Our ultimate goal is to create a positive and inspirational experience for each and every student. We strive to nurture and develop their talents, celebrate their achievements, and inspire a deep love and appreciation for all styles of dance. Most importantly, we are committed to providing a safe and empowering space where every student can freely express themselves. We aim to lead by example, to create a program of excellence so that you and your child have cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

8 Count dance is proud to partner with both the Town of Queen Creek Parks & Recreation & the Las Sendas Community Association.

We can't wait to share another exciting year of dance with you and your dancer. Welcome to 8 Count Dance!



**RECREATION  
PARTNER**



**LAS SENDAS**  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# **POSITIVE EXPERIENCE** **POSITIVE INSPIRATION.**

8 Count Dance is dedicated to providing dance & tumbling instruction in a positive learning environment that will encourage creativity and self esteem. Each student will not only learn dance/tumbling technique, but valuable lessons that they can carry with them throughout life.

With our teaching experience, we are devoted to inspire, encourage, and support every student as they learn about dance/tumbling. We strive to have fun and watch every student grow with confidence and dedication. 8 Count Dance's vision in each class is for every student to appreciate and be as passionate, as we are all about DANCE and TUMBLING!

This handbook serves as a roadmap, offering our students a parents a clear understanding of what we offer at 8 Count Dance, important dates and information regarding your registration. All information can also be found on your Dance Studio Pro (DSP) account.







## OUR STUDENTS

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8 Count Dance is a second home for many of our students. There is a feeling of joy that flows through the halls and in our classrooms. They support and inspire each other; they work together as a team. Together, we go far! Dance makes so much more than just great dancers... it makes great kids. You are taking the first step towards having your child become an amazing dancer, strong leader and confident person in an environment of love, support and respect.

## OUR PARENTS

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We believe that your support is a crucial role in your child's dance education. Your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, and we encourage you to actively participate in your child's dance journey. Our programs thrive in a positive atmosphere that involves the love and nurturing of all parents.

Together we foster a spirit of teamwork and dedication that forms an essential part of our educational process. We share a common goal: ensuring that every child receives the best possible training, physically, emotionally and mentally.

We appreciate your faithfulness to ensuring your dancer is on time to class, wearing the appropriate attire and valuing the performing arts!



# UNDERSTANDING DANCE EDUCATION

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As a parent, your support is invaluable to your child's dance journey. Encourage them to be the best version of themselves, focusing on their own accomplishments rather than comparing themselves to others. Dance is an individual art form, and each student progresses at their own pace. Our dedicated teachers not only work on technique and steps but also essential life lessons. Through dance, children learn commitment, teamwork, and the rewards of hard work. Our goal is to educate their minds, bodies and souls; providing them with skills that will serve them well in all aspects of life.



## 01. Class Placement

Generally speaking, we advise parents to enroll their dancer in the class that matches their age first. Our experienced teachers may advise you that your student should be placed in a different level class. Placement decisions are based on a dancer's maturity, number of years dancing/tumbling, natural and earned ability, and the like; and aim to promote self-esteem and confidence. We understand that every child is unique, and factors influencing placement are complex. Our priority is to provide a positive and empowering environment for each dancer. If you are unsure of your dancer's placement, don't hesitate to reach out to our instructors for advice.



## 02. Medical Information

Your child's well-being is of the utmost importance to us. Please note in DSP & inform your instructors of any medical conditions, learning disabilities, or medications your child may require. Our teachers are trained professionals who are eager to work with all children, and the more we know about your child, the better we can provide a fulfilling dance/tumbling experience. Rest assured that all information regarding our students is treated with the utmost confidentiality. All our teachers are CPR and First Aid Certified.



## 03. Arrival and Departure

We value punctuality and safety for all our students and staff. We kindly ask students arrive no later than five minutes after their schedule start time. This allows dancers to properly warm up and stretch to avoid injury. In addition, arriving early will allow your dancer to settle in and prepare for an amazing dance experience.

Please ensure that your child is carefully dropped off and picked up. Site regulations mandate that younger students are to be dropped off and picked up in the building.

We understand that unforeseen circumstances or emergencies may arise, causing delays. If you find yourself in such a situation, please contact your child's instructor immediately. Our priority is to keep your child calm and safe!



## 04. Attendance

Every class at 8 Count Dance is a step forward in the educational dance journey of our students. Regular attendance is essential for continuous progress and growth. During October through November and February through May, choreography for our annual recitals will be taught and rehearsed. It is crucial for dancers to feel completely confident with the choreography and their performance. Missing classes during this period could lead to frustration for the students, their teachers, and their classmates. We encourage all students to prioritize their dance education and attending classes a top priority, especially during this time frame.



## 05. Makeup Classes

We understand that students may miss class for various reasons. To ensure they don't miss out on their classes, we offer makeups. Please note our policies:

1. Dancers must be reported absent prior to their missed class by logging the absence on DSP.
2. Dancer has until the end of the season to makeup any missed classes.
3. Dancer must currently be an enrolled student at 8 Count Dance.
4. Makeups are available for classes that show open enrollment; please contact the studio to schedule a makeup class.

# KEY INFORMATION

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## Key Contact Information

### SITE LOCATIONS:

Queen Creek Parks & Rec. Library Recreation Annex  
21802 S Ellsworth Rd  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Las Sendas Trailhead Clubhouse  
7900 E Eagle Crest Dr  
Mesa, AZ 85207

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 480-848-0943

EMAIL: [8COUNTDANCEAZ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:8COUNTDANCEAZ@GMAIL.COM)

WEBSITE: [WWW.8COUNTDANCEAZ.COM](http://WWW.8COUNTDANCEAZ.COM)

OWNER/DIRECTOR: ANNA COMPTON

## Studio Closures

LABOR DAY: MON, SEPTEMBER 2

FALL BREAK: MON, SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH  
SAT, OCTOBER 5

HALLOWEEN: THURS, OCTOBER 31

THANKSGIVING: MON, NOVEMBER 25 THROUGH  
SAT, NOVEMBER 30

WINTER BREAK: MON, DECEMBER 16 THROUGH  
SAT, JANUARY 4

CIVIL RIGHTS DAY: MON, JANUARY 20

PRESIDENT'S DAY: MON, FEBRUARY 17

SPRING BREAK: MON, MARCH 10 THROUGH  
SAT, MARCH 15

MEMORIAL DAY: MON, MAY 26



# KEY

## EVENT INFORMATION

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### Community Performance Dates

Queen Creek Hometown Christmas:  
Sat, December 7 2024

Spring into QC: Sat, March 22 2025

### Recital Dates

Holiday Performance n' Picnic: Sat, December 14

- Holiday Performance Shirt Form Due: August 31

Spring Recital: Thurs, June 19

- Recital Costume Order Due: Fri, February 7
- Recital Tickets On Sale: Mon, May 5
- Recital Dress Rehearsal: Tues, June 17 and  
Wed, June 18

### Ruby Dance Co. Season 9 Tryouts

April/May 2025; Exact Dates TBD





# INTRODUCING: DSP

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DSP – Dance Studio Pro – is our parent portal center for 8 Count Dance. You can access and accomplish many things here:

- \*Add and drop classes, workshops, and camps
- \*Log a pre-planned absence (vacation, school events, etc.)
- \*See a history of all emails sent
- \*Access important documents/class info
- \*Order costumes & studio merch
- \*Enroll in auto payment or make a payment on class fees



## ACCESS DSP

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### Get the DSP Parent Portal App

You can always log in from our website, but the app provides an easier snap shot view of all things 8 Count Dance and DSP related, such as your account, payments and classes. The DSP app is available on both the Apple App store & the Google Play store.



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# STAYING INFORMED

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We strive to make the dance experience organized and enjoyable for everyone involved. To keep you well-informed, please take note of the following:

- \*All information is emailed from 8 Count Dance
- \*All information that has been emailed can also be found in your DSP Parent Portal Account
- \*Additional information is also posted in studio spaces
- \*Join our Recreation Student BAND for immediate class updates:
  - 8 Count Dance AZ
- \*Information, pictures and fun stuff is added to our social media
  - Instagram - 8countdance\_az
  - Facebook - 8Count Dance AZ

# DRESS CODE

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At 8 Count Dance, our dress code is designed to foster focus, inclusiveness, and equality among all dancers. By adhering to a uniform dress-wear, we create an environment where teachers can assess technique, alignment, and other crucial aspects of dance training effectively. It is also designed for your dancers overall safety and comfort.

Please remember to label your dancer's bag and all its contents with their full name, especially shoes! During classes, we kindly request that students avoid wearing jewelry. Dance shoes should never be worn outside to preserve their quality and cleanliness. Hair should always be secured off the face. A water bottle should be brought to every class.

For more information on how to dress for class, please see the following pages.



# DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

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LEOTARD/BALLET DRESS



HAIR IN A BUN/PONYTAIL



SKIRT/TUTU OPTIONAL



TIGHTS OPTIONAL



PINK BALLET/BLACK TAP



NO DANGLING JEWELRY



*Gemstone  
Combo Classes*

# DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

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LEOTARD



HAIR IN A BUN



SKIRT/SHORTS OPTIONAL



TIGHTS



PINK BALLET SHOES



NO DANGLING JEWELRY



*Ballet*



# DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

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LEOTARD/TANK/SHIRT



HAIR SECURED OFF FACE



NO SKIRTS



SHORTS/LEGGINGS



JAZZ SHOES



NO DANGLING JEWELRY



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# DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

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SHIRT/TANK TOP



HAIR SECURED OFF FACE



NO SKIRTS



SHORTS/LEGGINGS



TAP SHOES



NO DANGLING JEWELRY



// 8 COUNT DANCE

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# DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

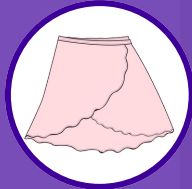
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LEOTARD/TANK/SHIRT



HAIR SECURED OFF FACE



NO SKIRTS



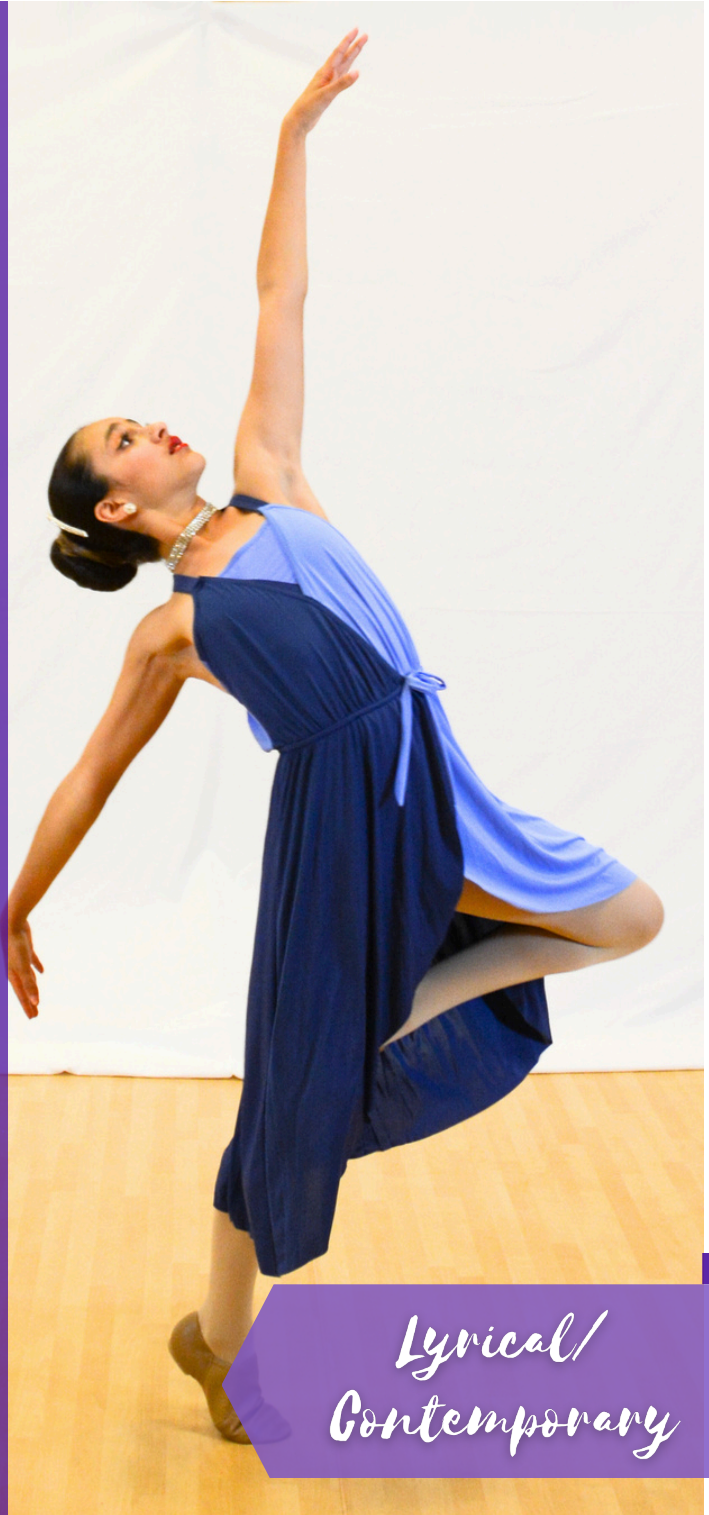
TIGHTS/SHORTS/LEGGINGS



TURNERS/STOCKINGS



NO DANGLING JEWELRY



*Lyrical/  
Contemporary*



# DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

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SHIRT/TANK TOP



HAIR SECURED OFF FACE



NO SKIRTS



PANTS/LEGGINGS



TENNIS SHOES



NO DANGLING JEWELRY



*Hip Hop*

# DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

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LEOTARD/TIGHT SHIRT



HAIR SECURED OFF FACE



NO SKIRTS



SHORTS/LEGGINGS



NO SHOES



NO DANGLING JEWELRY



*Acro*



# DRESS CODE REQUIREMENTS

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SHIRT/TANK TOP



HAIR SECURED OFF FACE  
(IF NEEDED)



SHORTS/TIGHTS/  
LEGGINGS



REQUIRED DANCE SHOES  
(SEE OTHER STYLE PAGES  
FOR EXAMPLES)



NO STREET CLOTHES



NO DANGLING JEWELRY



*Boys*



# REGISTRATION

## CLASS & SUPPLY FEES

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Class fees will vary depending on the number of weeks in the session, class length, and applicable site fees. All student are subject to a \$50 supply fee per session. Supply Fees are due upon registration through DSP. Class fee/supply fee does NOT include Recital fees.

### Fall Registration Dates:

August 2 – Auto Payment Run

August 9 – Late Fee Applied

August 16 – Student Drop From Class

### Spring Registration Dates:

January 3 – Auto Payment Run

January 10 – Late Fee Applied

January 17 – Student Drop From Class

### Discounts:

Family discounts are applied per family and exclude Ruby Dance Co. rehearsal classes & private lessons.

**Family Discount:** 5% off each additional sibling registered in same class. Max 3 additional students.

2nd Student – 5% Off

3rd Student – 10% Off

4th Student – 15% Off

### Technique Private Lessons:

(by appointment only) – \$35/30 min.

**\*Privates must be canceled 24 hours in advanced. Privates not canceled within this window are a "no call, no show" and your account will still be charged.**



# HOW TO REGISTER FOR CLASS

## QC Students Only:

## All 8CD Students:



[LOGIN TO QCPR PORTAL](#)



[LOGIN TO YOUR DSP ACCOUNT](#)

**1** Select '8 Count Dance'

**1** Click on 'REGISTER '

**2** Select Class/Student & add class to cart.

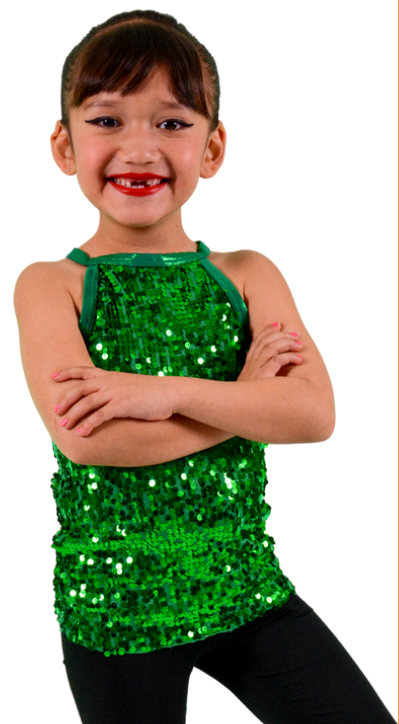
**2** Select Class Site

**3** Complete registration through QCPR.

**3** Select the Season, Camp, Workshop, etc. & Register for those classes.



When signing up for Auto-Pay in DSP, your account will not be charged. You will be billed the Friday before the session starts.



## QUICK REFERENCE DANCE GENRES

### Take **TAP** if you like rhythms and sounds

Tap develops a strong sense of rhythm, coordination and agility by creating sounds with the feet.

### Take **BALLET** if you like feeling royal and poised

Ballet develops discipline and technique that is essential to all forms of dance, as well as proper posture, placement, alignment

### Take **JAZZ** if you like to move & groove

Jazz is stylized dancing that is energetic and fun. It focuses on developing proper technique, flexibility, leaps and turns.

### Take **Pom** if you like fast pace, high energy movement

Pom combines the technique elements of jazz & hip hop styles with sharp motions and high energy performance.

### Take **ACRO** if you like to tumble and stretch

Acro focuses on tumbling, cartwheels, bridges, and walkovers. It focuses on flexibility, strength, balance, and agility.

### Take **HIP HOP** if you like trendy music and dances

Hip Hop is a freestyle form of dance that stems from the roots of jazz, but incorporates modern urban movements and is performed to modern music

### Take **LYRICAL** if you like to express your emotions through movement

Lyrical combines the technique elements of dance with feelings and emotions. It tells a story through fluid and smooth movement.

### Take **TURNS, TECH, STRETCH & STRENGTH** if you like to improve technique and dance strength.

Turns, Tech, Stretch & Strength focuses on improving technique, strength, flexibility, balance, and stamina. Learn & perfect more advanced dance techniques & tricks.

# RECITAL

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Our Holiday Performance n' Picnic and Spring Recital are an exciting opportunity for dancers to showcase their hard work and progress.

## 1. Rehearsals:

For our Holiday Performance, we only hold in class rehearsals. There are no additional dress rehearsals held. For our Spring Recital, we have two additional dress rehearsals at the theatre. All other practices will happen in class. Dancers are required to be registered for the entire Fall/Spring session in order to participate in HPNP/Spring Recital.

## 2. The Power of Performance

Recitals are the cherry on top! They not only enhance dance training but also contribute to a dancers' overall personal development. The experience builds self-esteem, confidence, social skills, problem solving skills, teamwork and leadership. Recitals reinforce and showcase all the training and skills learned in class to show friends and family their achievements in class.

## 3. Recital Information:

Comprehensive information for both the Holiday Performance and Spring Recital will be emailed and posted in August and January, respectively. Please take careful note of due dates! These emails and postings contain all the necessary information for a smooth and enjoyable experience, ensuring everyone is well-informed and prepared for these exciting events.







At 8 Count Dance, we offer amazing opportunities to all of our dancers, including our competitive dance company, Ruby Dance Co. RDC members perform at community events & competition throughout the year as well as special opportunities to perform at out of state events like Disneyland and Nationals.

## Is RDC Right For My Dancer?

Ruby Dance Co. is a year long commitment for dancers that are serious about dance. Dancers must meet the following requirements in order to tryout for RDC:

- Turning 6 years or older this season
- Have a passion for Dance
- Are coachable and ready for a new challenge
- Excited to work together with a team



## Tryout Information:

Tryouts for Season 9 will be held in April/May 2025. Stay tuned for tryout information and more Coming Soon!!



## A Final Note:

We are thrilled to have you on board for an extraordinary dance journey filled with passion, growth, and boundless possibilities.

Our team of dedicated, enthusiastic, and talented teachers considers it an honor to be part of your family's dance education. We are wholeheartedly committed to supporting and guiding you every step of the way. Whether you have questions about registration, class fees, or special events, we are here for you to ensure a positive and uplifting dance experience for your family.

Get ready to shine, express yourself, and embrace the magic of dance at 8 Count Dance. Welcome to our family, where dreams become reality, opportunities surround you and where you'll find a home for your passion, talent, and love of dance!

## Welcome to the 8 Count Dance Family



Email Address  
[8countdanceaz@gmail.com](mailto:8countdanceaz@gmail.com)



Text/Call  
480-848-0943



Website  
[8countdanceaz.com](http://8countdanceaz.com)