



DANCE CENTER EVANSTON

Recital 2026: Student/Academy

Saturday, May 30 at 6:30pm & Sunday, May 31 at 6:30pm

Information for Ballet 2 & above, Cecchetti Grade 1 & above, Modern 2 & above, Tap 1/2 & above, Men's Technique, Everybody Dance, and all Teen, Jazz, and Hip-Hop classes

See separate handouts for all other classes (Tippy Toes, Pre-Ballet, Ballet 1, Intro Modern, Modern 1, Primary 3, Intro Tap/Hip-Hop, and Boys).

Welcome to Recital 2026! We are very excited to wrap up our 32nd season with our annual performances, and we know you are too. With a production of this scale, it's our job to keep you informed and prepared so everyone has a positive performance experience. Please take a moment to thoroughly read all of the information, especially because things have changed from previous years, and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. We're looking forward to seeing you on the stage!

DRESS REHEARSALS

Each class has a **mandatory** dress rehearsal with their teacher and classmates ahead of their performance. **NEW THIS YEAR: Dress rehearsals will be held at DANCE CENTER EVANSTON (STUDIO5) on Tuesday-Friday, May 26-29.** See attached **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE** for date and time information. **If a dancer does not attend the mandatory dress rehearsal, they will not be able to participate in the performance of that piece.**

- Dancers must arrive at DANCE CENTER EVANSTON in costume **at least 20 minutes before** the start time of their rehearsal slot to ensure they are in costume, hair styled, warmed up, and checked in.
- Dancers will check in with DCE staff in Studio 4, wait with their teacher and class, and then will be led through the backstage area before rehearsing onstage.
- **One (1) adult per dancer** may observe the dress rehearsals from the audience seating in Studio5. No parents/guardians are permitted backstage.
- Each class's rehearsal time is limited to approximately 15 minutes, so it is important to be ready.
- Rehearsal slots may or may not run in order, so dancers should plan to stay for the full block of time listed. Each rehearsal block is typically 45, 60, or 75 minutes.
- If a dancer is rehearsing multiple dances in a rehearsal block, please arrive wearing the first costume listed for that block. There will be dressing rooms available for dancers needing to change costumes during evening rehearsals.
- PLEASE NOTE: Dress rehearsals for Cecchetti Grades 1-7 and the Wednesday Academy Ballet Production take place at NSCPAS.

PERFORMANCES

Recital performances are held at **NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SKOKIE (NSCPAS) at 9501 Skokie Blvd.**, just south and east of Westfield Old Orchard Mall. Each class performs in only one of the performances on Saturday, May 30 or Sunday, May 31 (see attached **WHICH CLASS IN WHICH SHOW**). Dancers with two or more classes should be prepared to perform in multiple performances.

- Dancers must arrive at the **BACKSTAGE DOOR** by **6:00pm** for the 6:30pm evening shows, so 30 minutes before the start of the show. To find this entrance, go to the **BACK PARKING LOT** on the east side of the building (the opposite side from Skokie Blvd.), and go all the way into the parking lot. The backstage door is at the top of the ramp next to the loading dock. Look for the DCE sign marking the entrance. Dancers will check in with a DCE staff member inside and follow the multiple directional signs backstage to get to the dressing rooms. No family/audience members are permitted backstage; they will enter through the main lobby doors. See **TICKETS** and **AUDIENCE ENTRY** for additional information.
- **All dancers remain backstage when they are not performing. Dancers are not dismissed until the entire show has finished.** They will go to the lobby as a group and meet family members in a specific section of the lobby after the show.
- Most dancers will be in the Rice Room, a large rehearsal room. There will be a TV with a direct feed that will allow waiting dancers to watch the onstage performance, as well as some art supplies, puzzles, and other activities. Older dancers will be in the other large dressing rooms during shows—see the postings on the dressing room doors for who is assigned to which room. All dancers must check in at the Rice Room before proceeding to their dressing rooms. The Rice Room and dressing rooms are monitored and supported by DCE staff throughout the shows.
- **No food or drink is permitted in the dressing rooms or Rice Room.** Water bottles are permitted but must close securely to prevent spills.

COSTUMES & APPEARANCE

Dancers wear their dress code base plus one costume item that has been ordered through the DCE office. Most costume invoices have already been sent out and payment is due by April 15. The invoices for Ballet 5-Academy will be sent in April.

- Students who dance in more than one class should come dressed in their first costume with their other costume pieces and dress code items in a clear bag marked with their name. They will be assisted by DCE staff with costume changes backstage. Performance orders for the shows will be available separately.
- **Hair for all dancers should be styled neatly off the face and neck so that it is secure and stays in place while dancing.** Suggested styles include buns, puffs, cornrows & box braids, braids, twists, French twists, etc., and should be pulled back into a bun for ballet and Cecchetti if long enough. Simple stage make-up is encouraged but not required.
- No glitter, no watches/jewelry (small stud earrings ok, but nothing that dangles or loops over the earlobe), and no nail polish (skin-tone/clear ok) are allowed onstage during dress rehearsals or performances.
- Costume pieces will begin to be distributed in classes mid-May. Please label all costume pieces and items brought to dress rehearsals and performances with the dancer's name or initials.

TICKETS

Tickets go on sale **Saturday, May 2 at 11:00am** through the NSCPAS Box Office. Please see the ticket price breakdown below:

Orchestra Rows A-J: \$33	Orchestra Boxes: \$29	All Other Orchestra Rows: \$29
Balcony: \$25	Balcony Boxes: \$29	Children 3-12: \$19
Attendees ages 2 and under are free but still need to arrange for a ticket through the NSCPAS box office.		

Regular box office hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11:00am-5:00pm, closed Sundays & Mondays. The box office phone number is **847-673-6300**.

There are three ways to buy tickets:

- In-Person at the NSCPAS Box Office (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED):** *There is no surcharge for tickets purchased in-person at the NSCPAS box office, so you pay only the base ticket price listed above.* DCE staff will be present on Saturday, May 2 at 11:00am when tickets first go on sale to assist families with any questions.
- Phone: NSCPAS applies a **\$3.50-\$5.50 surcharge per ticket** on tickets bought over the phone. Call 847-673-6300 to place an order.
- Online: NSCPAS applies a **\$3.50-\$5.50 surcharge per ticket** plus an **additional surcharge per order** to tickets purchased online. A link for online ticket purchases will be emailed out and available on the DCE website closer to the on-sale date.

Please note: the surcharges applied to the ticket orders placed online and over the phone go to NSCPAS directly. DCE does not receive any funds from the additional surcharges; they are instated by the theater and Ticketmaster.

All seats are reserved. Please buy only the number of tickets needed, and buy them early, because the shows are very well attended. See **WHICH CLASS IN WHICH SHOW** to ensure you are buying tickets for the correct performance. *NSCPAS does not allow ticket returns or exchanges.*

AUDIENCE ENTRY & SAFETY

Regardless of how the ticket was purchased, **you will need to show the ticket digitally to enter the theater lobby.** Please have the Ticketmaster app downloaded on your phone and/or the tickets added to your phone's digital wallet prior to arrival. Your phone will be scanned upon entry. WiFi is limited at the theater.

North Shore Center provides guests, performers, and employees with enhanced safety procedures including the screening of all guests and their carry-in bags or purses for any prohibited items. They ask all guests to arrive early and travel light. **Each guest must have a ticket to gain entrance to the venue.** Upon arrival for performances through the main lobby doors, all guests are subject to visual inspections of all purses or bags as well as hand-held metal detection screenings. Purses or bags larger than 12" x 6" x 12" are not permitted. Diaper bags and medical bags will be permitted and subject to search. Clear bags are encouraged to keep the entry process moving quickly. Water bottles are not permitted. No re-entry is permitted once a guest's ticket is scanned. For additional information about the NSCPAS security policy and procedure, please visit <https://northshorecenter.org/plan-your-visit/safety-entry-procedures>.

VIDEOS & PHOTOS

Filming and photography are not permitted in the theater during performances.

- NSCPAS staff will take away cameras if seen in the theater during performances.
- Performances will be recorded and edited by HMS Media, an Emmy award-winning production company. HMS provides a two-camera shoot allowing for both close-up and wide shots. Each dancer will automatically receive code-protected digital links to all four recitals for download or streaming. These links are typically made available by the end of July.
- DCE Photographer Matt Glavin will be taking photos during some rehearsals and performances of students and staff. These photos are informal and used for DCE archival and promotional purposes. Not every dancer will have their photo taken.

SHOUT OUTS

A personal note for your dancer(s) makes the program a special keepsake. For \$5.00, you can have a small block of up to 15 words included in the program to express your pride or offer congratulations. To purchase a Shout Out, please fill out the digital form through the QR code provided or via the link on the DCE website. Shout Outs are due by **Saturday, May 9**.



T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Submit your design for DCE Recital 2026 merch! Designs should be eye-catching yet simple enough to see clearly on a t-shirt. You can incorporate "DCE," "Dance Center Evanston," and/or "2026." The winning design will be sold in the lobby at Recital 2026. Paper templates will be available in the office and digital files will be sent out via email. Dancers can submit multiple designs - there is no limit! All designs are due by **Thursday, April 16**.

ATTENDANCE

Excellent attendance in classes is crucial leading up to Recital performances for all students' safety, confidence, and enjoyment of the process. **Students with excessive absences this session and/or who miss more than three classes after Spring Break will not be able to participate in the Recital performance for their class(es).** Please make every effort to attend class if it is safe to do so. Please note that there are no make-up classes after Spring Break (March 30-April 4) as we prepare for Recital performances.

Questions? Call us at 847-328-6683, email us at dce@dancecenterevanston.com, or stop by the office. We're happy to help!