

MODERN MOTION

2025–2026 Family Guide



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Welcome.

Thank you for joining the Modern Motion community! We are so happy to have you and your dancer as part of our school. Our mission is to boost confidence and nurture creativity through dance, art, and camp. From tiny little children to big kids and teens, we delight in seeing the joy, passion, hard work, and achievements of our students. This guide was designed with you in mind - to provide you with resources and information, and to answer some questions you might have. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at info@modernmotion.org.

ABOUT US

Modern Motion boosts confidence and nurtures creativity! Every student is given opportunities to explore and create movement, expand their worldview of dance, art, and culture, and to perform their dance and showcase their art for an audience. Students from all backgrounds are welcome to take our classes. We started with humble beginnings, with just 13 students taking class in the Spring of 2010 in the fellowship hall of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We've since grown and expanded to our current facility on Railroad Avenue in the Historic Middlebush District of Franklin Township.

The school is an IRS recognized 501c3 non-profit corporation run by a board. We receive tax-deductible donations from grants and generous donors to help us further our mission and to offset the cost of programs.


TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Our role as dance and art educators is to pass on a love and appreciation of dance and art to future generations.

We believe:

- in doing what is right and prudent for every child.
- children deserve age appropriate costumes, music, choreography, and themes.
- it is more important to learn dance technique vs choreography.
- it is more important to learn your own personal art abilities vs exactly copying an art piece.
- that excellence requires hard work, commitment, and repetition over years training.

We will:

- introduce movement at the appropriate time with the appropriate strength, training, and maturity.
 - introduce artistic techniques and styles for appropriate ages and abilities.
 - be lifelong students committed to learning and professional development.
 - use a diverse toolbox of resources and media to reach visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners.
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DANCE CLASS PLACEMENT

Student placement is based primarily on grade and then on our school's syllabi for Acro, Ballet, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Tap, and Jazz. Children are taught age appropriate skills and must demonstrate an understanding of the material and vocabulary in order to progress to the next level. Modern Motion dance teachers reserve the right to place each student in the classes that we believe is most appropriate.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at class and rehearsals are vital. Good attendance builds a strong group dynamic and helps students when working on choreography and projects, and preparing for a performance and/or art show. Please make every effort to be on time and present for all classes. If you know in advance that you will be late or have to miss class, please email info@modernmotion.org to let us know and we will let you know make-up class options.

There will be no refunds for missed classes. Excessive tardiness or absences defined as missing more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of class and rehearsal time may lead to removal of the student from dances/art projects in an upcoming performance/show.

PAYMENT PROCEDURES

Our main season runs from August to June; upon registration, students are committing to the remainder of the season. Tuition is calculated for the season and broken into equal monthly payments due on the 1st of each month via Autopay. Autopay is required of all customers. Students with unpaid balances will not be permitted to participate in class or performances.

We accept ACH, Visa, and Mastercard for our monthly recurring charges. If, for any reason, your card declines, we will notify you to update your card on file. A 5-day grace period will be permitted to allow you to update the card on file and make payment to the account. You agree that if any such debit is dishonored, for any reason, Modern Motion shall have no liability for any fees charged to you by your financial institution. Modern Motion will automatically reattempt any failed debits for 5 days after their failure.

Tuition is non-refundable. Withdrawal requests must be received in writing through the online form by Modern Motion by the 15th of the prior month in order to discontinue auto-pay. (<https://www.modernmotion.org/drop-or-transfer.html>) No exceptions.

Tuition is not refunded due to student absences. We offer make-up classes within the season. Make-up classes are a courtesy offered to our students and are not redeemable as class credits. We will reschedule when class is canceled due to inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances.

THE CUSTOMER PORTAL

You can view and update your account, register for next season, pay online, and access important notices and class music online. Your login is your email address and you'll set-up your account when you first enroll with us. Find the Portal on the main website ModernMotion.org or visit <https://app.gostudiopro.com/online/modernmotion>

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Invoices, information, news, and weather updates are communicated electronically via email, calling, posted messages and texts, the website, and social media. It is each family's responsibility to read our email communications and stay abreast of what is happening at the school.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

Emergency closing notices are posted online on our website and communicated by automated emails and text.

CUSTOMER FACEBOOK GROUP

Join our group where we'll share pictures, videos and upcoming events.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/modernmotion/>



CODE OF CONDUCT

It is expected that staff, students, and parents will maintain a courteous and family friendly atmosphere at the school and related Modern Motion events, including online presence. If a person does not adhere to this code of conduct, they will be asked not to return to the school, releasing Modern Motion from all obligations and liabilities.

Only staff are permitted inside the studio rooms before and after class and students are not to enter until instructed to do so. A staff member must be present in the studio so that all activity is properly supervised. Family members may not enter the studio or interrupt class. If you need to give something to your dancer, our desk representative will be able to assist you.

If you arrive late, please wait until a song has ended to join the class to minimize disruption. Please be considerate of the learning environment and refrain from distracting students by waving and/or talking to them, or taking photos or videos while they are in class. Teachers may close the studio doors at their discretion to avoid disruption and distractions. If you must make a phone call, please do so outside so as not to disturb the other customers.

POLICY ON BABYSITTING AND TRANSPORTATION

We do not allow our faculty or staff to babysit or transport students in their personal vehicles, please do not ask. Likewise, students shall not babysit for faculty members.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Class format may change during the season, based on state mandates or Executive Orders that will be followed by the school, its employees, volunteers, and board members.

Families should not allow children to attend class in person if they are sick, exhibiting severe or frequent symptoms associated with a respiratory illness, or have a fever. There will be no compensation, discounts, or refunds for classes that are offered online as a result of any future state mandates for the school.

In the event of a pandemic or outbreak of a communicable disease, Modern Motion reserves the right to deny access to the facility, events, or classes to any student, parent, or individual accompanying an attending student who refuses to comply with New Jersey Department of Health guidelines.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Please park in the lot across the street; avoid blocking traffic or driving on the grass in front of the school. Arrive 5 minutes prior to class. Please stay and supervise your child until the class is taken into the studio.

Please greet your child inside the studio at the end of class so our staff can see that all children are picked-up by a parent or guardian. Children should not exit the school or cross the street without a responsible adult. Please do not instruct your child to walk themselves to the parking lot.

WHAT TO BRING TO DANCE CLASS

Dancers should arrive on time for class with a water bottle - it's important to stay hydrated during class. Children with long hair should have their hair up in a ponytail or bun and bring an extra hair tie just in case; shorter hair must be secured away from the face. During the winter, a lightweight, fitted sweater or shrug may be worn. Heavy coats, sweatpants, jeans, and tutus are not permitted in dance class.

Toys, snacks, jewelry, music players, and all other personal items should be left with a family member for the duration of the class.



Art Department



Frequently Asked Questions

What should my child bring to art class?

Bring a water bottle, their creativity and an open mind and an enthusiasm for learning art! We recommend artists wear a t-shirt and pants that you would be ok with getting paint, marker, or pencil on; creating art can get messy.

Toys, snacks, jewelry, music players, and all other personal items should be left with a family member for the duration of the class.

What should my child wear for art class?

Art can get messy sometimes, so we recommend a t-shirt and pants that you would be okay with getting paint, marker, or pencil on.

Will my child bring home a project every week?

No. Some projects require longer dry time, multi-step process, or simply more time to create. We also have two annual Art Shows where projects will be put on display for an audience, so artwork will be held for these shows, and then sent home afterwards.

What will they learn in art class?

We believe strongly in giving children a great foundation in art. They will learn the proper name and terminology for the parts of their brushes, techniques, tools, and materials. Our teachers also incorporate age appropriate art history and information about famous artists and diverse cultural influences on art.

How many children are in the class?

We keep class size to no more than 12 children per adult Art Teacher. In addition to the Teacher, we use Art Ambassadors to help deliver the program to younger students to provide smaller group support and one on one attention when required.

Ambassador Program

The Ambassador Program is our leadership program for students ages 10-18. Our widely successful program is now in use at dance studios across the United States and Canada! Teachers and staff observe students who have great attendance, superior maturity, and show initiative to recommend to the Ambassador Program. New students interested in the program (as well as continuing Ambassadors) will be required to attend our annual training/refresher course in July.

Our Education Support Team learns classroom management, structure, as well as nurturing children through the learning process in both our dance and art classes, while our Business Support Team learns the valuable lessons of daily office duties, studio functions, basic clerical duties, and helping with studio events.

Community Involvement

As a non-profit organization, giving back to the community and teaching the students about community involvement is a part of our mission. We are involved in community events throughout the year that give the dancers and artists an opportunity to perform, bring joy, and provide assistance to our community in our outreach program.

Matching Gifts & Volunteer Hours

If your employer provides matching gifts or incentives toward volunteer hours with a registered nonprofit, we would love to work with you! Volunteer opportunities vary and we can arrange assignments based on your hobbies and skill set. Parental volunteers are welcome to join our Parent Partnership where we organize backstage support, events and fundraisers.

Memorial Day Parade

Each year, students ages 6 and older are invited to perform in the Franklin Township Memorial Day Parade. There is a mandatory rehearsal where they will learn the choreography.

Me & My Guy

Me & My Guy offers dads, uncles, grandfathers, and other important male role models a chance to learn a dance and perform with their dancer in June. Me & My Guy includes monthly rehearsals, along with video and music to practice with at home.



REQUIRED DRESS CODE FOR DANCE

Our school has a dress code for each class to ensure the optimal learning experience. Students must not wear baggy clothes, jeans, graphic tees, or street shoes to class. Please check with your dancers to ensure they come prepared for class and have their hair in a ponytail, bun, knots or braids away from the face.

There are two options for our dancers to wear what is most comfortable: either traditional leotards and tights or school logo fitted jogger pants/leggings and a school tee. For added modesty, students may also wear solid black shirts or leggings with their leotards.

Shoes, tights, and leotards are available online at shopnimbly.com/modernmotion, and our front desk staff is happy to assist you with sizing using our fitting kits. School logo items are available for online purchase quarterly via a third party website.



SHOP OUR STUDIO'S
ONLINE
DANCE BOUTIQUE!

