



2025
Recital Handbook

ENCORE

School of Dance

31st Annual Recital

June 6th, 7th & 8th

Parents and Students,
For 31 years, ESOD has provided students with an exciting performance experience through its recitals. The recital - that annual staple of the dance school - conjures images of childhood and brings back memories for many. The recital offers our students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to their families and friends the results of a year's hard work, dedication and progress.

A big part of dance training is learning through performance. Although performance opportunities can help prepare some students for a possible career in dance, they also contribute to children's success in non-dance activities. The performance experience helps build self-esteem and self-confidence and can result in better in-school presentations, improved social skills and strong interview skills for future college or job opportunities. Dedication to recital commitments is the responsibility of both students and their parents. We've created this handbook in an effort to clarify our vision regarding recitals, commitments and responsibility.



Michelle Ritenour
Owner

Important Dates

April 7th - 12th: MANDATORY Parent/Recital Costume Meetings @ ESOD
(during regularly scheduled classes)

May 5th: Program Ads Due

Visit the Recital 2025 page on the ESOD website to submit a program ad.

May 5th - 10th: Recital Pictures @ ESOD (main building only)
(during regularly scheduled classes)

May 30th - June 5th: Awards Week
(last 10 minutes of class)

June 6th, 7th & 8th: Mandatory Dress Rehearsals & Recitals @ Brewer High School

Updates

As the season progresses, additional recital information and/or updates will be emailed, posted on the ESOD Facebook page, in weekly notes and posted throughout the studio. It is your responsibility to stay updated on the important information. Our goal is to make the recital an organized and exciting experience for everyone involved. It's a team effort: students, their parents, the teachers and the director are key players in the show's success.

When in doubt, check the handbook! This handbook is full of all the recital information you need to succeed. If you don't know, ASK! Email, call or stop by the studio. We are here to help you. It is our goal to make the recital an organized, exciting experience for everyone involved.

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Making sure you are informed is one of our primary goals. Please read this handbook carefully!

Recital Policies

Dress Rehearsal

Dress rehearsal is **MANDATORY!**

The dress rehearsal allows the students to become familiar with the auditorium surroundings and feel comfortable with their performance, costume(s) and being onstage. Lighting, music cues, set changes and all other logistics for an organized and professional performance are rehearsed so that the students make the best impression possible.

STUDENTS THAT ARE NOT PRESENT DURING DRESS REHEARSAL WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM IN THE RECITAL!

Video & Photography

Parents or guardians may video or photograph their children at dress rehearsal only. Video and photography is prohibited at Recital. Flash photography is never allowed as it can be distracting to the dancers. Parents are not permitted to enter the orchestra pit to take photos or video at any time.

All ESOD families will receive a digital copy of the Recital.

There is no reason to video! Audience members who are videoing or taking pictures during recital will be asked to leave.

Auditorium Rules

No eating, drinking or smoking is allowed in the auditorium. We ask that you do not smoke at or near the entrances to the auditorium as well. Out of respect for others in the auditorium, please keep your cell phone in your purse or pocket. The light from cell phones is very distracting to the dancers and can be seen in the professionally recorded videos. ***Please relay this information to your guests!***

Audience Etiquette

The sound of clapping is one of the best noises a dancer can hear! If you see something you like, feel free to applaud! Please do not cheer or yell a dancer's name - this is a dance recital, not a football game! It can also be discouraging for a dancer to hear their friend's name called out from the audience but not hear their own.

Entering & Exiting

Please be respectful of everyone around you and do not enter or exit the auditorium while a dance is on stage. You would not want someone to block your view of your child on stage by walking in front of you, so do not do it to someone else! We will have ushers stationed at each entrance and exit to hold you until a dance is over. Please be respectful of this.

Backstage

Family members and friends (other than one female parent or guardian that is dressing and undressing the dancer) are not permitted backstage or in the dressing rooms at any point. Those who wish to greet performers after the show or present flowers may do so in the lobby. Parents are not permitted to watch the show from backstage for any reason.



Which Recital is my child in?

This year we have FIVE different Recitals! It's very important to know what show(s) your child is in and when the dress rehearsal and recital is.

Check the running orders for each Recital to find your child's class.

The running orders can be found on the Recital 2024 page on the ESOD website.

Red Recital - June 6th & 7th

Orange Recital - June 6th & 7th

Yellow Recital - June 6th & 7th

Green Recital - June 6th & 8th

Blue Recital - June 7th & 8th

Why a Dress Rehearsal?

Often parents question the importance of the dress rehearsal for their child. In fact, the key to a successful performance for your child is the dress rehearsal. Here's why:

- The stage is much larger than the classroom and is often intimidating to the children.
- The stage lights can be bright and disorienting to young children.
- Modifications to the spacing and formations can be made at dress rehearsal.
- Students have the chance to practice their stage entrances and exits.
- Confidence is critical to a successful performance. The dress rehearsal offers your child the chance to feel fully prepared for the show.
- Dress rehearsal is the only opportunity for parents to video or take pictures of the show.



Costumes

Our instructors spend many hours determining just the right costumes for each class that follow the theme, character and song. They are always age appropriate and of the highest quality possible.

Costumes include all accessories (hats, gloves, tights, etc.)

YOUR ACCOUNT MUST BE UP TO DATE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE YOUR COSTUME(S)!

Note: No jewelry or underwear is to be worn with costumes. This includes during picture week, dress rehearsal and recital.

Sizing: Students were measured for costumes in class during November. All measurements are compared to each vendor's sizing chart and sizes are chosen accordingly. Costumes are not made to fit each child individually. Because measurements were taken several months before recital, growth is taken into consideration when placing each costume order.

Alterations: Although rare, alterations are sometimes needed after the costumes have been distributed and are the sole responsibility of the student's parent or guardian. ESOD will be offering complimentary alterations to those in need.

Costume Care: Label all costumes, shoes, accessories and tights with your child's name. Costumes come in a garment bag courtesy of ESOD with your child's name on the outside. Pack accessories in a clear plastic bag (labeled with your child's name). Carefully remove any tags that could hang out of the costume.

Note: To ensure that there are no costume problems, students should NOT wear their costumes, accessories or tights prior to Picture Week, dress rehearsal or recital.

Costumes with fringe: You will notice a string at the bottom of the fringe skirts or trim which is to keep the fringe from getting tangled before pictures or dress rehearsal/recital. Do not pull the string until picture day. After that date, place the skirt on a hanger to keep the fringe from getting tangled.

Ironing: DO NOT use a traditional iron when pressing costumes! Silks can burn, sequins can melt and fabric colors may change. Use only a steamer. Steam costumes with caution because of glues that may have been used to attach appliques and/or trim.

Tutu Maintenance: Grasp the waist and give it a gentle shake, then use your fingers to "comb" out any pieces of tulle that are wrinkled. To store a tutu, put it on a hanger upside down. To help remove persistent wrinkles, hang the tutu in the bathroom during a shower or use a handheld steamer.

Costume Cover-ups: All students must wear a cover-up when in costume but not performing. A bathrobe or button up shirt works best. The cover-up helps keep the muscles warm and prevents costumes from being soiled.

DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD PLAY IN THEIR COSTUME BEFORE RECITAL.

DO NOT WASH YOUR CHILDS COSTUME.

COSTUMES THAT ARE DAMAGED BECAUSE OF IMPROPER USE CANNOT BE REPLACED.





Tights, Shoes, Hair & Makeup

Tights

To ensure that there are no discrepancies in color and style, students are required to purchase recital tights through ESOD. Do not wear or wash your tights before dress rehearsal or recital.

NOTE: Having a second pair of tights on hand offers students and parents a great sense of security in the event of an accident.

Shoes

The shoes the students wear to class according to the ESOD dress code will be the shoes they wear for dress rehearsal and recital. Please make sure your child's shoes are fitting properly and have their name in them. Be sure that all shoes are cleaned prior to recital. If you purchased new shoes just before the recital make sure you break them in so they are pliable and comfortable for show day. Please make sure your child has the required shoes!

Hair & Make-up

All female students are required to wear make-up. Red lipstick, blush, brown eyeshadow and mascara. Uniform hairstyles are required. All female students must wear their hair the way the instructor specifies. No bangs are allowed. Dancers with short hair must pull their hair away from the face as neatly as possible.

Dressing Rooms

Only **ONE FEMALE** parent or guardian may accompany each student to the dressing room. Please, no siblings who do not dance! This female parent or guardian must have the required wristband on in order to gain access into the dressing room for dress rehearsal AND recital. Each family will receive their 1 wristband upon check in at dress rehearsal.

All students and parents must respect other students' space and property in the dressing rooms. The students will spend more time in the dressing rooms than onstage or in the auditorium so please do your best to keep costumes organized and clean. We recommend bringing something for your child to do in the dressing room while they wait for their turn to go on stage.

Dressing Room Assignments

Visit the Recital 2025 page on the ESOD website to see what dressing room your child's class has been assigned to!

Be Prepared



Planning

The Recital isn't a one day activity. Gather all costumes, accessories, shoes and make-up several days in advance so you'll know if something is missing or isn't right. Make a checklist of your child's routines, listing the costume(s), tights, shoes and any accessories and refer to it to make sure you have all your supplies before going to the auditorium. Bring at least one pair of extra tights. Bring extra hair gel, hairnets, bobby pins, hairspray, etc.



Snacks

Do not send your child to dress rehearsal or recital with snacks or beverages that could stain their costumes. Crackers, energy bars, apples, carrot sticks and string cheese are good choices. Water is the best beverage.



Recital Tickets

Tickets will go on sale April 19th at 1:00pm and can be purchased through the ESOD website!

Q: Will my dancer need a ticket?

A: Only if they want to watch the show from the auditorium after they have completed their dances.

A: If your dancer is small enough to fit on your lap, they would not need a ticket.

Q: Do we need to purchase tickets for each show we are in?

A: Yes.

Q: Do we need a ticket for dress rehearsal?

A: No!

Recital T-shirt

ESOD's commemorative recital t-shirt for your child is included in your Recital Fee! Additional shirts will be available to purchase beginning the week of April 14th. Recital t-shirts are required to participate in the Finale. Shirts may not be pre-ordered and no shirts will be held.

NOTICE: The smallest size available for the Recital t-shirt is a child small. The t-shirt cannot be printed on a smaller size because of the design on the front of the shirt as well as the hundreds of names listed on the back. Please keep this in mind while deciding when to purchase your t-shirt. Small sizes sell out quickly!

Picture Week

Professional pictures are included in your Recital Fee! Dancers may take photos in up to 5 costumes. If you wish to take photos in more than 5 costumes, an additional fee of \$10 per costume will apply. Individual pictures will be taken May 5th - 10th during the students regular class time. There is no obligation to purchase photos. Please arrive on time for your child's photos! Students who are late will not be waited on. Waiting on a student can push back the schedule for the rest of the day and affect other peoples schedules.

Hair & Make-up

Hair and makeup may be worn however you choose! Light makeup is suggested.

Photo Purchase

Photos will be available for viewing and purchase in the lobby at dress rehearsal and Recital.

If your dancer is absent

If your dancer is absent on their picture day because of sickness, traffic, etc. you may bring her/him on a different day during the week of May 5th - 10th to have individual portraits done. You **MUST** contact the front desk to schedule a makeup session. Do not show up at a random time to make up for your missed pictures!



Have a question?

Give us a call! 817-232-9393

Awards & Recognition

During the week of May 30th - June 5th parents will be invited into the last ten minutes of their child's class to watch them receive their award. Students who have dedicated to ESOD for 5,10 & 15 years or more and graduating seniors will be introduced and recognized onstage during Recital. Award presentations will be rehearsed at all dress rehearsals.

Recital Program Ads

Each year, ESOD publishes an annual program for the Recital. The Recital program is a wonderful keepsake and a great way to wish your child good luck on their special day or advertise your business! Ads must be submitted through an online form and all pictures must be emailed.
Receive **1 FREE RECITAL PROGRAM** with each ad purchased!

Ask a business to sponsor your childs ad! It's a free ad for you and advertisement for them!

Visit the 2025 Recital page on the ESOD website to submit a program ad.
Email all images to...
maci@encoreschoolofdance.com

Ads are due no later than May 5th - no exceptions!

- ¼ page - \$40.00
- ½ page - \$60.00
- Full Page - \$120.00
- Inside Cover - \$190.00

Recital Videos

Metroplex Multimedia will be professionally videoing each Recital in its entirety. **A digital copy of the Recital is included in your Recital Fee!** Once the videos are ready, a link and password to access your show will be sent to the email address on file with ESOD. You can view, download, and share the videos on any laptop, phone or tablet and have them digitally forever! Physical DVDS will be available for purchase for \$20 at the front desk - no pre-order necessary. Videoing is allowed during dress rehearsal only. **Videoing during Recital is prohibited. A digital copy of the Recital is included in your Recital Fee. There is NO reason to video on your own!** Any audience members caught videoing will be asked to leave - please pass this information on to your guests!

Recital Flowers

Pre-ordering flowers for your child allows you to make one less stop on your way to the Recital! Flowers will be available for pick up in the lobby before the show. Visit the 2024 Recital page on the ESOD website for a direct link to order.

Parking

Parking is FREE! ESOD will provide complimentary golf cart rides to the auditorium entrance for grandparents, expecting mothers and those with mobility limitations.



Maisie,

We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, and Taelyn

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Finale

Each recital is finished off with our Finale. Every student is invited to participate! The Finale gives each student the chance to come on stage one last time and take a bow. The Finale will be rehearsed at the end of each dress rehearsal. Every student that participates in the Finale is required to wear their 31st Annual Recital t-shirt, black leggings and ballet, jazz or hip hop shoes.



Questions & Answers

Q: What day and time is my dress rehearsal? What day and time is my recital?

A:

Red Recital - June 6th @ 11:00am & June 7th @ 1:00pm

Orange Recital - June 6th @ 1:30pm & June 7th @ 3:30pm

Yellow Recital - June 6th @ 4:00pm & June 7th @ 6:00pm

Green Recital - June 6th @ 6:30pm & June 8th @ 12:00pm

Blue Recital - June 7th @ 10:00am & June 8th @ 3:00pm

Check the running orders for each Recital to find your child's class.

The running orders can be found on the Recital 2025 page on the ESOD website.

Q: Is the Recital held at ESOD?

A: No! Recital is at Brewer High School Fine Arts Auditorium. Ask all questions and be 100% prepared before June 6th. We will not be at the studio to answer questions or phone calls! All staff will be at Brewer High School Fine Arts Auditorium.

Q: Can I video and take pictures of my child on stage?

A: Pictures/video are allowed at dress rehearsal ONLY. Flash photography is never allowed at any time. Pictures/Video are strictly prohibited during recital. Anyone videoing or taking pictures during recital will be asked to leave.

Q: What does my child wear for Dress Rehearsal?

A: All dancers are required to wear their costumes with full hair and make-up done. This is your opportunity to practice hair, make-up and dressing and undressing costumes for the big day!

Final Thoughts

The Recital is for everyone! When everyone puts the children first, the recital experience is one they'll never forget. We appreciate your compliance with the rules and guidelines in this handbook and hope that our annual recital will be as fun and exciting for you and your family as it is for all of our staff.

Thank you for working with us to create a memorable and educational experience through performance for all of our students.

Thank you for choosing ESOD and being a part of our family!