

Hirschl School of Dance Arts: Studio Safety Curriculum

The safety of students is important to the staff of the HSDA. Whether a student is taking dance as a recreation or pursuing a professional career in the arts makes no difference- the same precautions will always be adhered to. All students are given the same equal respect and attention, regardless of age, talent, potential, physique, or reason for taking.

We take pride in the fact that the HSDA has had an extremely low occurrence of injuries. We expect the best long-term progress from all students, so that they may continue to dance for as long as they wish. To do this, we wish to challenge them to the limits of their physical and emotional capabilities, while still keeping a safe environment.

The following is a list of items the HSDA staff & management follows:

1. Analysis, assessment and realization of each student's capabilities & limitations, and challenging them safely up to, but not beyond, those physical boundaries.
2. Knowing of any long-term or permanent situation a student may have that could prevent them from otherwise performing at their optimum during any lesson.
3. Continuously seeking out and using outside educational resources for safety in the classroom.
4. Being in attendance of the class, or having a responsible adult in the room if the need arises.
5. Checking that students are properly dressed for the lesson.
6. Checking shoes for proper fit, loose shoestrings, etc.
7. Checking to make sure hair is in the proper fashion for the lesson.
8. Checking for anything that might lead to any unsafe situations (chewing gum or ill-fitting shoes, for example)
9. Making sure all students are in a physically & mentally ready state for the lesson, and to make any realistic allowances for deviations from this optimum. If the student has any situation where they are not able to perform their best (headache, aches or pains, etc) they should inform the teacher before the beginning of the lesson. Otherwise the teacher will assume they are in a condition to perform their best, and teach accordingly.
10. Making immediate decisions if there is any physical injury to any student during the lesson. Recourses would depend upon the situation. These include having the student sit for a few minutes, sending them to the restroom, getting an ice-pack, or whatever would seem the most common-sense and advantageous at the time.
11. If the need arises, to have the receptionist, a parent, or other adult from the lobby tend to the student.
12. If the situation warrants (for younger students, if the parents are not on the studio premises), to have someone call the students parents.
13. To note as soon as possible if the injury warrants more attention than the studio staff are qualified for, or if the teacher is not certain what correct recourse to take.
14. To make sure they know where medical/emergency supplies are on the studio premises.
15. To fill out an HSDA Injury Report at the soonest available opportunity after the occurrence.
16. Having any student sit out of the lesson, or any portion thereof, if the teacher feels for any reason the student might cause injury to themselves or others. This would include students that are not fully focused, or in any way being a disruptive influence to themselves or others.
17. Making certain the classroom is in a safe condition to teach the lesson. (Example: clean flooring, with no unexpected slippery or sticky areas.) Any items or situations in the room that may pose a threat to this condition should be attended to immediately, or should be brought to the attention of the director.
18. Making any required adjustments during hot weather, primarily consisting of less emphasis of aerobic activity, and being aware of any students with asthma or similar conditions.
19. Making certain ALL students attending have properly filled out Release of Liability and HSDA registration sheets prior to attendance. This would include any new student, or students "just trying out" the lesson.
20. Making certain that all students have up-to-date emergency phone numbers written in on the Registration sheets in the in the registration book in the front lobby.
21. Making sure that the first aid equipment is correctly stocked, and to inform Mr. Hirschl if otherwise.
22. Making sure all students are taking the correct amount of lessons for their level. If they are not, then safety precautions and disclaimers must be noted to the student, and parents of the student, if the student is under 18 years of age.
23. Making sure the curriculum taught for the lesson is age & level appropriate, and within safe parameters for the student's capabilities.

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