

Dancers are grouped into different classes by the instructors of GCDC.

In the youngest classes (PRESCHOOL, ADORE, DECLARE, TESTIFY), we are looking for dancers to be able to execute basic dance skills well and without prompting. This includes such things as pointing, turnout and simple rhythm exercises that increase in difficulty and coordination with each class. They receive a foundational set of skills in both ballet and jazz at this time.

All other Monday and Tuesday classes include basic ballet, but mainly focus on jazz technique and choreography. Add-on ballet classes are available for all dancers ages 8 and up on Thursdays. WORSHIP, REJOICE, GLORIFY and SELAH groups are required to attend Thursday ballet classes as well as their Tuesday class. For overall dancer improvement, all dancers are encouraged to sign up for a Thursday evening ballet class and/or acro-dance class. Both will improve the dancer's technique, flexibility, balance, body awareness and provide overall skill refinement. Dancers interested in Pointe must be enrolled in both Ballet and Foot Strengthening classes for at least three years or at our instructors' discretion.

When giving class assignments, we aim to place dancers in a group in which they can showcase their strengths. Some dancers are stronger in jazz/contemporary and others lean more towards ballet/lyrical. We also take into consideration the speed in which the dancer learns, the accuracy of their technique and how well they embrace and retain the instruction for the next class. Some dancers practice a lot at home and are bored with too much review. Some need the teachers to spend a good amount of time reviewing each week. Placing similar dancers together reduces the amount of time that dancers are either bored with review that is unnecessary for them or stressed because we are moving the class too quickly. In older classes, we also consider the behavior and attitude of the dancer, their attendance and dedication to the art.

Dancers should expect to spend a few years in each level. We do not move dancers along according to their age, nor do we take friendships into account when class assignments are given. Mrs. Black, Mrs. Fehr and Miss Porcari reevaluate dancers each year and place them where they feel the students will have the most success. In most classes, we will try to keep dancers within three years of each other, but dance groups EXALT, CELEBRATE and GLORIFY may have a broader age range in each.

If you have questions regarding class assignments, please contact Danielle Black, 412-296-0922 or [psalm149three@hotmail.com](mailto:psalm149three@hotmail.com).