



ANN FREEMAN DANCE ACADEMY

"Where dance is not only an art, but an education...for life!"

STUDIO INFORMATION KIT

Everything You Need to Know Before You Dance

Season 2026-2027

*Ballet · Tap · Jazz · Hip-Hop · Contemporary ·
Musical Theatre · Acro/Tumble*

www.annfreemandanceacademy.com
info@annfreemandanceacademy.com
828-324-6058



Welcome to “AFDA”

We are thrilled that you are considering Ann Freeman Dance Academy for your dance journey! Whether you are stepping onto the dance floor for the very first time or refining skills you have built over years of training, our studio is a place where passion, artistry, and community come together.

This information kit has been designed to give you a complete picture of who we are, what we offer, and how to become part of our family. Please read through each section carefully, and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Our Mission

At AFDA our mission is to provide students of all levels with an opportunity to grow both physically through movement and mentally as a dancer, while promoting hard work, self-confidence and an education in dance. Our classes are age appropriate and emphasize a strong base of technique.

A Little History

Ann Freeman Dance Academy was established in 1961 when Ann Freeman, our founder, moved to Hickory from England with her family. Upon starting AFDA, Mrs. Freeman continued her own dance education by taking her exams with Dance Masters of America, Inc. The education of dance was, and still is, an important part of what AFDA believes in. Eventually expanding the studio into 3 locations for more than 20 years, AFDA has seen thousands of students come through the doors over those years. In 2012, daughter Jackie Olson bought the studio and Mrs. Freeman retired in 2023 after more than 63 years of teaching.

What We Offer

Traditional Track: This path in dance is for students who are beginners, just starting out and for those students who want to improve their technique and their “love” of the art of dance. Students on the traditional track usually attend classes one or two days a week. Traditional students are welcome to perform in our holiday parades, Nutcracker performance and our Spring recital.

Company Track: The AFDA Performing Company track is for those students who want to take their dance training to the next level of advancement. There are more requirements, classes and commitments, but also the opportunity to perform 5-7 times per year.

Class Options

Dance Programs Available

SUMMER Program	Age Group	Subjects Available
June - “Drop-In” class	Ages 3 - 5	Ballet – Tap – Hip Hop - Tumble

Enrollment & Registration Process

Joining Ann Freeman Dance Academy is simple. Follow the steps below to secure your spot in class:

Step 1 — Give us a call. *(optional)*

Give us a call or schedule to stop by to ask any questions. Summer appointments are Tuesday-Thursday between 3:00pm and 7:00pm. Fall & Spring appointments are Monday- Thursday between 3:00pm and 7:00pm.

Step 2 — To Register

Login to the [Parent Portal](#) to set up your parent/guardian account. Once you enter your child's information, all classes for their age group will appear for you to choose from. You may also see us at the studio or give us a call, we would be happy to help you.

Step 3 — Pay Membership Fee

Once your child is registered for classes, the annual \$39 membership fee (per student) will appear on your account. We accept credit/debit cards, checks payable to AFDA or Ann Freeman Dance Academy, and cash.

Step 4 — Purchase Required Attire

Each dance style has a specific dress code (see our Dress Code Policy below). Our online studio boutique carries all required items at competitive prices, or you may purchase from approved retailers. ([AFDA Online Dancewear Store](#))

Step 5 — Attend Our “Open House”

Come meet the staff and enjoy the fun at our **“Open House” held August 17th – 20th!** We'll have special classes with your child's teacher along with the opportunity to for games and prizes. Times and more information will be posted on our social media at the beginning of August.

Step 6 --- Your First Class!

For our Fall/Spring classes students may begin attending classes as soon as enrollment is complete. We recommend arriving 10 minutes early on the first day. Our staff will be on hand to welcome you and answer any remaining questions.

Enrollment is accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year, subject to class availability. A waitlist is maintained for full classes.

Studio Policies & Rules

Attendance Policy

- Regular attendance is strongly encouraged. Dance is a progressive art — consistent participation is key to growth and performance readiness.
- Please notify the studio at least 2 hours in advance if your child will miss class.
- Make-up classes are available and must be scheduled within 30 days.
- Students with more excessive absences per semester may be reassigned to a lower level at the instructor's discretion.

- Our dance year consists of 34 lessons, a rehearsal and performance. Please note that the months with 5 lessons make up for the months with less than 4.

Dress Code Policy

Style	Required Attire (<i>We'll give you a list of our required colors for leotards and shoes when you come for our Open House</i>)
Ballet	Leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes. Hair in a ponytail, braid or bun. Dance skirts & tutus are welcome if students don't play with them.
Tap	Leotard, tights, black tap shoes (Debut Level), tan tap shoes (all other levels). Solid black leggings (optional). Hair in a ponytail, braid or bun.
Jazz	Leotard, tights, tan jazz shoes. Solid black leggings (optional). Hair in a ponytail braid or bun.
Hip-Hop	Comfortable athletic wear, clean non-marking sneakers. Hair in a ponytail, braid or bun.
Contemporary/Modern	Leotard, convertible tights, bare feet or half-soles. Hair in a ponytail, braid or bun. Black leggings optional.
Lyrical	Leotard, convertible tights, bare feet or half-soles. Hair in a ponytail, braid or bun. Black leggings optional.
Musical Theatre	Leotard, tights, jazz shoes. Hair in a ponytail, braid or bun.
Tumble/Acro	Leotard, convertible tights. Bare feet. Hair in a ponytail, braid or bun.
Adult Classes	Adults can wear athletic wear that makes it easy to move in.

Studio Conduct & Safety

- Students should arrive dressed and ready to dance. There are cubbies for dance bags.
- No food or drinks (except water) are allowed in the dance studios.
- Mobile phones must be silenced and stored away during class.
- Respect for instructors, fellow students, and studio property is always mandatory.
- Parents and guardians are asked to wait in the designated waiting area during classes.
- Children must be picked up promptly at the end of class.

Tuition & Refund Policy

- **Withdrawal requires 30 days' written notice submitted to the front desk.**
- You may pay your tuition by cash, check, credit card both at the studio or online. You also have the option of signing up for auto-draft (*available for Sept-May tuition only. Summer has no auto-draft options*) so you never miss payment or get a late fee.
- The studio reserves the right to dismiss any student whose behavior is detrimental to the studio environment, without refund.
- Tuition is based on the fee for 9 months, divided by 9 months. Not based on the number of lessons.

Frequently Asked Questions

My child has never danced before — is that okay?

Absolutely! We welcome students of all experience levels. Our instructors are skilled at working with beginners and will help every student build confidence and technique from the ground up.

At what age can children start taking classes?

We accept students beginning at age 3 by August 31, 2026, in our Combo (“Debut” Level) program, which introduces children to movement, rhythm, and basic dance concepts in a fun, nurturing setting.

We also offer classes for every age in between all the way through our adult classes, as you are never too old to “fall in love” with dance.

What if my child wants to try a class before enrolling?

We offer a paid trial class (*\$18 per class*) for new students. If a student decides to join classes, \$18 will be deducted from your first month’s tuition. Simply call, email, stop by or create your account in the [Parent Portal](#).

Do you offer classes for adults?

Yes! We offer weekly adult ballet classes that are held from September through May. For tap, jazz, hip hop and line dancing we offer **8-week rotating sessions**, so that you can make classes fit your schedule as we get it that adults have a lot going on. It is never too late to start dancing!

Do you hold a year-end recital?

Yes, we hold our Spring recital in mid to late May depending on venue availability. Students who are in the show and purchased their all-inclusive costume/media package will receive (2) two tickets. Family and friends are welcome to purchase a ticket online or at the venue.

Participation is encouraged but not mandatory. Recital information will be posted each month building up to our performance.

What happens if a class is cancelled?

In the event of a scheduled cancellation (holiday, instructor illness, etc.), families will be notified via email, through our studio Band App at least 24 hours in advance whenever possible. A make-up class will be offered.

Is there parking at the studio?

Yes, we have a parking lot both in front and at the back of the building. We are a multi-level building with an entrance both up front and back as we have 2 studios upstairs and 2 studios downstairs.

How do I stay informed about studio news and events?

We communicate via monthly email newsletters, our studio Band app, and our private parent Communication Hub where you can find everything you need throughout the year. You will receive access information upon enrollment.

Can I watch my child in class?

While your child knows you...other students do not, and that can be stressful and disruptive. Therefore, we do not allow parents to watch their students in class. However, we do hold “Parent Observation” mid-year so that you can see the work the students have put into their classes.

If my child misses a class, do we get a refund?

While we understand things come up and students get sick, we do not offer refunds for missed classes. We do offer unlimited “makeup” classes. Speak with our office manager to schedule a makeup class.

In case of a prolonged absence, special arrangements can be made.

Do you sell souvenir programs for the recital?

Yes, the all-inclusive costume price includes (1) souvenir recital program (in full color). We also offer the opportunity to purchase additional programs and an “Applause” ad featuring your child in a variety of sizes.

Are there other performing opportunities for my child besides the annual recital?

For students who are ages 6-18 we have multiple opportunities for students to gain performing experience. All students at AFDA are welcome to participate in our holiday parades, and our annual Nutcracker performance as well as our end of the year recital showcase.

Does AFDA have a competition team?

Yes, AFDA does offer competition experience for ages 6-18. This path does require extra classes, extra rehearsal time and some travel to some of the competitions as well as auditions for placement on the team.

Contact & Location

We would love to hear from you! Reach out to us through any of the following channels:



Studio Address

532 10th Street Blvd.
Hickory, North Carolina 28601



Studio Hours

Mon – Thurs: 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Friday: Closed
Saturday/Sunday: Closed for rehearsals



Phone

(828) 324-6058

Email

info@annfreemanceacademy.com



Website

www.annfreemanceacademy.com

Follow us on social media:

Facebook: @AFDAance

Instagrams: @annfreemanceacadmy (note: no “e”)

Tik Tok: @jackieolson550

We look forward to welcoming you to AFDA family!

