

What does PAW mean by “we prioritize growth over perfection”?

We want students to develop strong skills without measuring their worth against other dancers. Progress built through effort, curiosity, patience, and perseverance develops both ability and genuine self-confidence.

What does PAW mean by “we foster collaboration over competition”?

Students focus on their own development while learning to support the people around them. Learning to celebrate peers, accept individual differences, and contribute to collective success helps students develop healthier attitudes toward achievement.

Why aren't instructors consulted about class placement?

Placement considers a student's broader program experience, and decisions made by the Director ensures the best possible outcome for the student, as well as consistency across the program.

Why should classroom or policy questions be directed to PAW Administration via email or phone rather than social media?

Social media rarely provides the context needed for meaningful communication and can quickly include people who are not directly involved. Communicating with PAW Administration allows us to listen, gather the relevant information, protect student and family privacy, and provide an accurate, thoughtful response directly to the people involved.

Why is Early Childhood enrollment limited, but other classes are not?

Our youngest students require greater hands-on guidance, redirection, assistance with transitions, and individual attention. Limiting Early Childhood enrollment with an 8:1 student-to-teacher ratio helps us maintain an environment that is safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate. As students mature, they become increasingly independent in the classroom and require less hands-on support. Older classes can therefore accommodate enrollment based on the age and level of the students, class format, studio size, and available instructional support while maintaining the quality of instruction.

What is the big deal about attendance?

Performance work depends on more than knowing individual steps. Spacing, formations, partnering, timing, and staging require students to work together consistently. Missing rehearsals can also interrupt a student's own development, limiting the repetition, corrections they need to progress and perform confidently. When there is not enough rehearsal time for a student to be fully prepared, adjustments may be necessary to support that student's development and protect the progress and experience of everyone in the class.

Why does PAW encourage makeup classes so strongly?

Dance training is cumulative and physical. When students miss class, they lose not only instructional time, but also valuable time moving, building strength and coordination, and reinforcing muscle memory. Makeup classes help replace some of that missed physical training while supporting continuity and progress.

Why doesn't PAW discuss another student with me, even when my concern involves them?

We take concerns involving other students seriously, but every child is entitled to privacy and dignity. We can address the situation and its effect on your child without discussing another student's behavior, progress, placement, personal circumstances, or any action taken with their family.

Why does PAW require such specific class uniforms?

Proper dancewear supports safe movement and allows teachers to clearly observe alignment and technique. Consistency minimizes distractions and helps prevent students from feeling “othered” or left out because their attire differs noticeably from their classmates. Following a class uniform also reinforces the discipline of arriving prepared and ready to work. Class-specific uniforms can help distinguish age groups, levels, and areas of study while creating a shared sense of identity, belonging, and pride in representing PAW. Our goal is for students to feel comfortable, included, confident, and ready to focus on learning.

Why can't I send my child in dancewear that I bought on Amazon or at Target?

Our Nimble Uniform Store provides the specific Revolution Dancewear items approved for each class, allowing us to ensure appropriate fit, construction, movement, and consistency. Revolution provides high-quality dancewear at an accessible price point, eliminating the need for families to search for and purchase lower quality items based solely on price.

Why might the classroom viewing monitors occasionally be turned off?

Part of learning is becoming comfortable being uncomfortable. Students need opportunities to attempt unfamiliar skills, receive corrections, problem-solve, and sometimes struggle before something clicks. For some children, awareness of an audience can shift their attention from learning to performing, making them more concerned with getting something right or how they look doing it. Giving teachers the option to create a more private classroom environment when beneficial helps students develop independence, resilience, confidence, and greater trust in the learning process.

Why can't families/visitors enter the studios?

Even brief interruptions can have a greater impact on a class than they may appear to from the outside. When someone enters the room, students' attention shifts, teachers may need to pause or redirect the class, and the concentration and momentum built during instruction can be difficult to regain. This is particularly significant for young students and during activities that require sustained focus. Keeping the studios reserved for students and instructors allows everyone in the class to receive the full benefit of their instructional time. Families can still observe regular instruction through the lobby monitors.

What if my little one is too nervous without me?

Beginning a dance class is a big step toward independence, and some of our youngest students need a little time to become comfortable in a new environment. For first-year students ages 3 to 5, one parent/caregiver may join the student inside the studio for their first three classes. The accompanying adult must fully participate in all movement activities alongside their child, helping them experience class as something safe, positive, and fun while they build confidence participating independently. To preserve the classroom experience for all other students, siblings and additional adults may not enter the studio during this transition period.

Why aren't strollers, scooters, bicycles, and similar items permitted inside?

Entrances, exits, stairwells, hallways, and other pathways need to remain clear for safe movement through the facility. Families bringing these items should plan for secure storage elsewhere.

Why aren't street shoes and food permitted in the studios?

Keeping street shoes and food out of the studios allows us to maintain a clean, safe training environment for every class. Our dance floors are specialized surfaces and need to remain clean, dry, and free of debris. Street shoes track in dirt, grit, moisture, and unsanitary matter that can damage the floors and create slipping hazards. Food introduces crumbs, grease, liquid spills, and allergens into spaces where students frequently sit, stretch, roll, and place their hands directly on the floor. Our studios are sanitized nightly and immediately following any program or event that requires street shoes and/or food, but it is not practical to fully sanitize the floors between classes during regular program hours.

What if I disagree with a policy after I've already signed the Release & Acknowledgment Form?

We want every family to make an informed decision about enrollment, which is why PAW provides the applicable policies, expectations, and financial terms before accepting any payment to confirm enrollment. Families are encouraged to ask questions or raise concerns before completing enrollment, and the Release & Acknowledgment Form establishes that they have reviewed and accepted those terms. Signing the form and completing enrollment represents a commitment to participate under the policies agreed to at that time. A later disagreement with a policy does not change the terms that were provided, reviewed, and accepted before enrollment.

Questions not answered in our published policies nor the FAQs above?

Please contact info@performingartsworkshop-nj.com at your convenience.