



DANCE THEATRE ♀ HARLEM



2025-2026 FALL/SPRING SESSIONS SCHOOL DRESS CODE

While our Founder, Arthur Mitchell, was a male dancer, the impact of the equity promised by the Civil Rights Movement, raised in his head a question; a question inspired by the experimentation of one of his dancers; a female dancer who boldly dyed her tights and shoes to match her brown skin tone. From that point on, the up to five different flesh tone tights and shoes of the female Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) dancer would be both applauded and reviled for decades. Now, 55 years later, the rest of the world has caught up to Dance Theatre of Harlem, where all shades have always mattered. The classic “DTH Look.”



The Dance Theatre of Harlem School (DTHS) requires students to report to class in our standard DTHS Uniform – no leg warmers, sweats, shorts, head coverings, etc. are allowed. **Jewelry is dangerous while dancing and should not be worn in class. Only stud earrings are allowed.** Nails must be kept trimmed for all students.

We recommend that older students have **more than one** set of their DTH uniform. They are to be clean and not reused across multiple days.



FOR FEMALES: The DTH School (DTHS) requires all female students wear flesh tone tights, slippers, and/or pointe shoes to match as close to the student’s natural skin tone as possible. This will prevent a break in the visual “line,” from the top of their head to the tip of their toes. Students are expected to wear tights without runs or holes. **If this is your first experience at the DTH School, please wait until you have consulted with our staff regarding proper matching of the student’s tights and shoes.**

DTH contracts with a third-party vendor, Movimiento Harlem, for School uniforms. School uniforms can be purchased directly from Movimiento Harlem, movimientoharlem@gmail.com or on [the website](#). Leotards are color coded with the official logo and according to DTHS Program and Level as follows:

Lower School	Levels 1, 2, 2A 3, 4	White Tank	
Upper School	Levels 5, 6, 7, 8, 8A	Black Tank	



(camisole with attached bra)

To ensure that all female students have the proper inconspicuous support, we are **recommending** the following leotard purchase as well. The undergarments (bras and/or leotards) should be your skin tone. If any assistance is needed to purchase the proper tone, please inquire.

FOR MALES: The male uniform for all levels consists of a fitted white dance top. No regular tee shirts. Transitional tights/leggings and socks must be black, coupled with a dance belt (older boys), and black Ballet shoes.



HAIR: Female students must wear their hair swept back and up in a secured ballet bun. Bun placement should be at the crown and NOT forward close to the hairline at the forehead. Braids are accepted but should not exceed a length much lower than the shoulder. The thickness of the braids should allow for a safe, secure, appropriately sized ballet bun that does not move. Females with short hair must keep their hair neat, secure, and away from the face.

Male students must wear their hair neat and short. Long hair must be secured back and away from the face without heavy facial hair.

ATTIRE FOR JAZZ CLASSES (upper school only): Students are to wear their assigned Ballet attire. Jazz shoes may be worn instead of Ballet slippers but are not required.

ATTIRE FOR HIP HOP CLASSES (lower school only): In addition to their leotards, shirts (males) and tights, students should bring additional casual clothing items to be worn over them as well as sneakers they can dance in.

For any DTH School Dress Code questions, please contact
registration@dancetheatreofharlem.org.