Responsibilities of a Dance Educator | Teacher

Whether you identify yourself as a teacher or an educator is a personal choice. The terminology can vary, but the role is the same. All teachers have responsibilities to their students, colleagues, students’ parents, the community, and themselves.

Teachers’ responsibilities to students
- Acting as a mentor or role model
- Providing a safe environment—physical, emotional, and psychological
- Showing respect for all students through
  - a fair and equitable distribution of time
  - the use of encouraging language in offering positive reinforcement, constructive criticism, and acknowledgment of achievements
- Offering challenges that will raise them to the next level
- Encouraging them to progress to next level and/or teacher
- Making everyone, regardless of ability level, feel included
- Providing appropriate discipline
- Engaging in an appropriate relationship
- Delivering the best possible age-appropriate skills, content, and materials (including movement, terminology, music, choreography, technique, and historical influences)
- Modeling a healthy lifestyle
- Establishing clear expectations for behavior and attire
- Offering criteria for being respectful, appropriate audience members

Teachers’ responsibilities to colleagues
- Offering mutual respect
- Giving support
- Engaging in open communication
- Interacting in a non-threatening, collegial manner
- Using diplomacy in interpersonal interactions
- Behaving in a professional, ethical way

Teachers’ responsibilities to parents
- Communicating clearly and concisely about expectations regarding
  - appropriate and respectful attire
  - compliance with school policies
- Using multiple modalities for communication
- Creating a safe environment for the students
- Delivering quality instruction by well-qualified teachers
- Offering criteria for being respectful, appropriate audience members
- Providing opportunities to view classroom instruction
- Introducing parents to their child’s instructors
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Teachers’ responsibilities to the public sphere
- Educating the community through performances at public events, arts festivals, etc.
- Demonstrating professional conduct as a positive reflection on the dance-education field
- Offering criteria for being respectful, appropriate audience members

Teachers’ responsibilities to themselves
- Engaging in continuing education and professional development activities
- Gaining leadership through membership in local and state organizations
- Maintaining personal health (proper rest, nutrition, stress management)
- Giving themselves permission to profit from their expertise
- Fostering a self-concept as a valuable person and educator
- Believing that they can command respect and authority because of experience, training, education, and affiliation

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We envision a nation in which dance is a respected and integral part of life for all, and where the dance profession actively and collectively contributes to education and participation in Dance.

Learn more about UNITY: www.unitydance.org
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