

DANCE DEPARTMENT STUDENT NOTICE
FEBRUARY 2012



Welcome To our New Students:

For all of you who joined us in January - we're happy you're here! Students who joined classes in January are still eligible to participate in our year-end recital downtown at the Newmark Theater the week of June 18th. Check out our website at www.westsideacademy.com for all the information, or check with our office for a handout. We hope everyone can make it!

It's Not Too Late for Recital!

If you have been attending class, but haven't signed up for recital - it's not too late. Stop at our front desk to sign up and be measured for a costume.

Who's in which recital?

In the next couple weeks we will let you know which recital to expect your child's class to be in. We do our very best to accommodate families with multiple dancers as well as dancers with more than one class. Unfortunately, it is not possible to make this happen for all families since there are so many classes and students with overlapping needs.

Costumes Are Arriving Daily!

It's like Christmas every day here, opening boxes of beautiful costumes! Don't worry if your own costume hasn't arrived yet, we use many different companies which all have different delivery schedules. Please check with your teacher or the dance director (Melia Martin, mmartin@westsideacademy.com) if you have any costume questions. The unopened tights you receive with your costume may be exchanged at the front desk if you need a different size.

Class Evaluations

In February, our dance directors will be observing classes for student evaluations. They will be making recommendations for our accelerated dance programs. If you are not familiar with the Westside Accelerated Dance programs, see Page 2 for a description and requirements. Let us know if you are interested in a specific program so we can help you get there!

Arriving Late?

It happens to all of us - the traffic jam, the school bus is late - and your student is late for class. When this happens, please have the student prepare for class (take off jacket, put on dance shoes, etc.) outside the studio and then quietly enter and join the class.

If you are interested in the various Westside accelerated programs for your child, the following is for your information. WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?

Why do you dance? For fun? For exercise? Do you want to perform? Do you want to work towards being a professional dancer? Whatever your goal, Westside has the opportunities to help you meet them! As we move into spring, we will be evaluating students for advanced placement classes. If you are interested in a particular program, your teacher or a dance director would be glad to discuss steps to help you reach your goals.

Kids in Motion (KNM) Classes - These classes introduce preschool-aged students to dance, while promoting movement and musicality. Fun, age-appropriate monthly themes and music are used, while teachers have developed many dancing "games" that teach skills while having a great time. Level II KNM classes introduces new activities and skills.

*Express Classes - Preschoolers who have completed a year of a KNM class and want a more focused program may be invited to an Express class by their teacher. Express classes move more quickly, expectations are higher, require more focus, and the skills are more challenging. In addition to recital, the express classes may have an additional performance opportunity.

Recreational Classes - For ages 6 and up, recreational dance classes provide a fun way to learn a variety of dance styles in a once-a-week format. Teachers emphasize the joy of dance while teaching the basics. Various recreational levels provide students a path to continue to learn and enjoy dance and perform in our yearly recital throughout their dancing years.

*Pre Companies - Do you want more from dance? Do you want to become a more well-rounded dancer and try out competitive dancing? Pre-company dancers take tap, jazz and ballet as a group. With the additional training and discipline comes the opportunity to try out competitive dance. Dancers invited to this program are focused on taking their dance skills to the next level - and start establishing friendships in their groups that will last throughout their Westside years.

*Westside Performing Company - This is the program for accelerated dancers who love to dance, perform and compete. The program is an intense combination of classes in several dance disciplines with a high level of focus and commitment expected. Lifetime friendships are cemented as members of these elite groups work together towards group performance goals. Members compete and perform in groups and as soloists locally and nationally.

*Dance Force - A group of our most dedicated Performing Company members who take additional hours of training each week.

*Northwest Fusion - Is dancing your ultimate goal? Northwest Fusion is a pre-professional company for advanced dancers looking for intensive dance training that will prepare them for a professional dance career. Does your goal focus on one dance style? Westside's Ballet Company, Elite Acro, and Hipnotic programs provide accelerated training in their specific discipline.

*Invitation only classes

Pick your path - meet your goal - live your dream!

