



A Step Above Dance & Music Academy's Newsletter

October 2013

Calendar Updates

- Oct. 21-26 Parent Observation Week
- Oct. 28 2nd Quarter Tuition Due
- Nov. 19-23 Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
- Dec. 1 Costume Deposit Due
- Dec. 23- Winter Break
- Jan. 4 (no classes)

Contact Us

5901 Monona Drive
Monona, WI 53716
(608) 221-4243
asa8135@sbcglobal.net
www.astepabovemadison.com

Thanks!

...For bringing placement and behavior problems to our attention. **If we don't know we can't help!** We honestly appreciate your help in making sure such problems are addressed so that all of our students can have a good experience in their classes.

...For following the studio dress code! Our teachers are thrilled and **we've noticed lots of positive results.** Keep up the good work!

For those of you paying your tuition Quarterly...

Your tuition is due Monday, October 28th.

As stated in our policy sheet, a \$4.00 late charge will be added for each of your classes held after the due date. **You can pay your tuition through our office staff or through your customer portal.** If you prefer to use your customer portal, please let the front desk know so we can set that up for you. **We really don't** like having to charge the late fees, but it is absolutely essential that we collect tuition in a timely manner for several reasons. Obviously, tuition is what pays our hardworking teachers and keeps our studio running—if it is not collected on time, we have a hard time meeting our obligations. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Upcoming Events

Parent Observation Week: October 21-26

Although our observation windows allow parents to watch our **classes from the waiting room areas, they don't allow parents to** really hear what is going on during class or give the teachers the opportunity to explain to parents why their children are doing **certain things.** **Parents' Week will give you the opportunity to watch class from the inside and learn about your child's development as a dancer.** Another Parents' Week will be held in the Spring.

Referral Credit

We know that our best way of getting new students is from you! Therefore we would like to thank you for spreading the good word about our program.

Remember if you refer a friend to our program you will receive a \$50 credit towards your tuition! So be sure if you refer a friend to our program to tell them to let us know so we can give you your well deserved credit!

Homework Room

We now have a homework room by the music rooms for quiet study. No food or drink is allowed in the room. The other rules are posted on the door.

And a plea for help...

As the cold and flu season approaches, we remind all parents to act sensibly regarding sick children. If you think your child may be ill, please do not send them to class! If you are not sure and **don't want them to miss class**, please stay at the studio during their class in case something happens and we need to contact you quickly. Nothing is worse than being really sick and not being able to go home with mom or dad right away. We hope that everyone has a relatively healthy winter but ask your cooperation in helping us to **keep the inevitable "plagues" from spreading!**

Also please encourage your student to wash their hands with soap right after classes (especially before buying a snack!). Our school is cleaned daily but the barres and pianos are touched by many and our little ones do a lot of hand holding.

And a Warning!!

As the weather gets colder, it is extremely important to remember not to go outside in just your leotard and tights. Please cover up even if you are just running out to the car. Sudden cold air on muscles that have been working hard can cause injuries and going out in the cold after sweating and raising your body temperature can help get you sick!

Are you in a Holiday Show?

We know that many of our dancers have auditioned for local Nutcrackers or Holiday shows. Please let the front desk know this

A Myth and Myth understanding



A Myth: My dancer has had to miss a lot of classes, but is going to make them up in another class. Making up all these classes will keep my dancer caught up.

Reality: Make up classes, *if used too often*, can cause real problems for everyone involved: the dancer, their regular class, the class they use for a make up, and the teachers of both classes. Too many make up classes confuses the dancer and slows the progress of both classes. We encourage dancers to make up the **classes they miss, but we also expect that dancers won't miss their regular class unless it is absolutely necessary.**

HELP I'M NEW HERE!!

Question: *My child has class on Monday. We missed a Monday for Labor Day. How do we make up that class?*

Answer: The Labor Day part of the question is easy. Our **Monday students don't have class on Labor Day, but they are the only ones who have class the week of Thanksgiving.** You also **don't have to worry about MLK Jr. Day, Columbus Day, President's Day and other Mondays that happen to be federal holidays—we'll have class anyway even if the kids don't have school.**

Question: *The calendar says "Spring Performance" on May 19 and 20." Will my dancer perform both days?*

Answer: Our plan is as follows...

May 18 at 10 a.m.—All beginning levels, Preballet, Creative Movement, Junior Hip Hop & Company

May 18 at 2 p.m.—All Intermediate, Elementary, Teen, Adult, Advanced & Company

May 19 at 10 a.m.—All beginning levels, Preballet, Creative Movement, Junior Hip Hop & Company

May 19 at 2 p.m.—All Intermediate, Elementary, Teen, Adult, Advanced & Company

Please Remember...

Our teachers work very hard to give all of their students the best dance or music education possible. Sometimes, class dynamics can be a bit challenging. Please remember that all of our teachers are qualified and experienced teachers. Some classes do take **longer to find what works with the group of kids and what doesn't.** Please give our teachers time to find what works.

If you have concerns about a class, please direct those comments or questions to the front desk so the director can be informed and involved in solving the issue. Please do not keep the teacher from going to their next class on time to talk about it. Thank you.

month and we'll put your show and role in the next newsletter.

Customer Portal 101

Question: I have new credit card information, should I update it in my customer portal?

Answer: You may of course update your customer portal with any information at any time. However, you must contact our office with your updated credit card information directly. To ensure your card information is safe, our customer portal software hides some of your credit card information, even from us. Please contact our desk staff to update any credit card information and we can also update your customer portal as well.

If you are just going to update your address, email or name, you may do this at any time in your customer portal and we will receive a notification that you have changed your information and can take care of it everywhere else for you!

If you have any problems with your customer portal, please contact our desk staff and they will be able to help you out. Please understand it is still relatively new, but we will be able to help with basic issues or call you back if we need to look it up.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

For those of you who use social media, please take the time to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/astepabovedance and on Twitter @StepAboveDance. We do use these places to update people with information about the studio as well as if we need to close the studio for weather.

New Private Lesson Opportunity

We have a new opportunity for our Intermediate, Elementary and Teen Jazz and Ballet students. Since we have some openings in our schedule due to cancelling some low enrollment classes, we are offering the opportunity for students to sign up for some technique privates.

The point of these privates will be to work solely on technique and dancers should come to the private with a list of technique they are struggling with or want to improve on. New technique will not be taught in these privates. They are meant to complement their current classes and give some one on one feedback.

Dancers will be limited to signing up for 3 privates at first. After that if there are openings that are not filling then a dancer will be able to sign up for more. We will create a "waiting list" for dancers who wish to do more than 3 privates or who would like to be called for a specific day that is already taken. All spots will be on a first come first serve basis and must be done through the front desk. The cost is \$20 per 30 minute private. Payment must be made in advance for each private and no refunds will be given for missing your private (planned or unplanned) unless it can be filled by another dancer. Therefore please make sure when you are scheduling that it is a day you can make it.

Times available are:

Mondays 8:30-9 pm with Sara Williams

Wednesdays 8-8:30 pm with Sara Williams

Thursdays 4:15-4:45 pm with Sara Williams (NEW TIME!)

Thursdays 4:45-5:15 pm with Jessica Duplessis (NEW TIME!)

*Jessica's time slot must be for 3 consecutive weeks only.

Thursdays 7:30-8 pm with Sara Rohs

Coming Soon Birthday Parties!!!



Soon A Step Above will be offering birthday party options! This information will be emailed out and posted around the studio in a few weeks so keep an eye out and remember to tell your friends!