



Dance Newsletter

January/February 2015

Calendar Updates

- Jan. 12-17 Sock Hop Theme Week
- Jan. 19 3rd Quarter Tuition Due
- Jan. 31 A Step Beyond Dance Company performs at MGHS at 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 13-15 Tremaine Dance Convention
- March 2-7 Ballet Theme Week
- March 14 Father/Daughter Ball
- March 9-14 Parent Observation Week
- March 23 4th Quarter Tuition Due
- March 30-April 4 Spring Break (no classes)
- April 11 Spring Performance Ticket Sales begins at 3:00 p.m.
- April 20-25 A.M. Costume Distribution
- April 25 Opening # Rehearsal
- April 26 Structured Improv Workshop
- May 2 P.M. Show Rehearsal and Costume Distribution
- May 9 A.M. Show Rehearsal
- May 11-15 Spring Performance Rehearsal Week
- May 16-17 Spring Performances

Contact Us

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

Spring Recital Costume Orders have been placed!

On December 27th, A Step Above placed orders with four costume companies for the over 400 costumes needed for this year's Spring Performance. We appreciated everyone getting costume deposits and permission slips in promptly so we could order early! Your cooperation has allowed us to ensure our costumes will arrive in *plenty* of time for any necessary alterations or adjustments.

Costume catalog prices have once again increased greatly like everything else in this economy. As always, we asked our teachers to choose their costumes carefully and are pleased to announce that our average is around \$65 for costumes. Your balances will be included in your March Newsletter, but may be paid for earlier if you wish—just ask for your balance at the desk after February 1st.

Because our ballet students are required by our dress code to wear the same brand and color of tights for class, we did not need to order special performance tights for ballet students. We did order tights for all other students if their costume needed them and their cost will be included in your balance. All dancers must have a clean, run free pair of **our dress code tights** prior to dress rehearsals and the spring performance.

The March Newsletter will be devoted to Spring Performance information, including detailed rehearsal schedules, ticket information, hair and make-up requirements, and more. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the newsletter, please ask at the desk!

The Opening Number is Saturday, April 25th!!!!

Dancers who are in Intermediate, Elementary, Teen and Advanced levels will be able to begin signing up for our Opening Number Workshop starting the first week in February! The Opening Number is the large group dance that kicks off and sets the theme for our AFTERNOON Spring Performance. In the past, we have had as many as 60 dancers between the ages of 7 and 25 perform together in the Opening Number.

Space is limited and the \$65 fee is due at the time of registration. The \$65 covers the workshop itself, the extra rehearsals during the week of the performance, and the parts of the costume supplied by the studio. All female dancers in the Opening Number need to supply their own leotard/tank top (color will be determined at workshop). Try to borrow if you don't own one!

Participating in the Opening Number is a terrific experience for dancers of all ages! In addition to extra performance experience and exposing dancers to different students and teachers, it's FUN!

SNOW REMINDER:

We have already gotten some severe winter weather and we are bound to see more before winter is over. When we do, keep in mind that our winter cancellation policy is to automatically cancel classes whenever Madison Schools close. This happens rarely, so if the surrounding schools close or if the weather turns nasty in the late afternoon or early Saturday morning, the director will decide whether or not A Step Above will close. Keep in mind that the studio will either be closed for all classes or all classes will be going on. If we close, we will post it on our website under News, post on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, change our voicemail, and send out a text via Remind 101. **WE WILL NOT CALL OR SEND AN EMAIL OF CANCELLATIONS.**

If we do have to cancel classes, please stop at the desk to check for available class make up times.

Martin Luther King Day

The studio is open and classes are running on Martin Luther King Day, January 19th even though school is not in session.

At Home Practice

Yes!! Just like with music or athletics, dance takes practice to improve! It is especially helpful to practice your performance dances at home during the week between your classes. Going through the steps a few times before you go to bed will help you remember them better until your next class.

Many A Step Above students bring in a blank CD and have their performance music copied so they can practice at home. Please label a new CD-R with your name, class, teacher and day. Once it is copied, we will give it back to you so that you can practice with it at home. The better you know your dance, the more fun you can have on the stage!

Attendance Reminder

A Step Above Dance & Music Academy requires students performing in the Spring Performance to attend at least 80% of their classes January through April and to attend at least 2/3 of rehearsals. This commitment is important all year long in order to progress and strengthen, but it becomes especially important once classes begin working on dances for the performance. Each dance is a group effort and a missing group member at rehearsal can slow the progress of the whole group! We realize that conflicts arise, but we ask that everyone make an effort to miss as few classes as possible so that *everyone* can feel confident with their dances on May 16 and 17!!

Summer Plans

We are still working out the details regarding our summer classes and camp schedules.

Summer session will begin June 22 and continue through the month of July. We are looking at the week of August 3 for our dance camp. We also plan on offering many other camps such as Frozen, Princess, American Girl, Broadway and more! We'll keep you posted on any changes and announce the schedules as soon as they are completed.

We will have more information coming up in March on all of our summer programs.

A Step Beyond Dance Company News

A Step Beyond Dance Company will soon begin performing around town in preparation for the Tremaine Dance Convention and Competition in St Louis in February. You won't want to miss A Step Beyond's show at **Monona Grove High School on Sunday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m.!** The group will perform its entire repertoire for family and friends. Admission is free and the dancers would love to perform for a large audience!

On Friday, February 13, A Step Beyond dancers, 2 additional students, parents, and teachers will board a bus and head down to Chicago for a weekend of dance with the Tremaine Dance Convention and Competition. We are looking forward to a fun and rewarding learning experience.

The 2014-2015 A Step Beyond Company members are Lillian Bernhardt, Grethe Blum, Mackinley Dennis, Megan Dieter, Jordan Dukes, Lily Freeland, Presley Gill, Courtney Gotto, Kayla Gotto, Lily Hannibal, Abigail Harrington, Emma Hoenecke, Anya Hunter, Grace Hunter, Klahryn Huschka, Kate Huskey, Emily Johnson, Haley Johnson, Macy King, Mary Konz, Holly Korfmacher, Allie Kunesh, Kate Ludgate, Caitlyn Pahmeier, Bailee Patt, Piper Schmidt, Jewel Sherchok, Macy Skubal, Ashley Stankovsky, Hayley Stoneman, Mercedes Theil, Anne Thompson, Cassidy Wallom, and Nora Wroblewski

Are you interested in joining A Step Beyond Dance Company for the 2015-2016 season?

Information and Application packets will soon be available at the desk!

Structured Improvisation Workshop

We have several of our students who enjoy improvisation in their dance classes. Since the interest has been so overwhelming we have decided to add a new workshop! On Sunday, **April 26th from 1-3 pm** we will have a structured improvisation workshop. Dancers will not only work on their improvisation skills, but we will also set a structured improv to be performed in the recital!

Space is limited and the \$35 fee is due at the time of registration. The \$35 fee covers the workshop, any props/accessories and extra rehearsals. Dancers will need to supply their own leotard/tank top (color will be determined at workshop). Try to borrow if you don't own one!

This workshop is open to all dancers in our Afternoon show. Please understand that we will only have a few rehearsals so the dancer must learn quickly and not be afraid to improvise!

Participating in this workshop will help develop important improvisation skills. Improvising not only helps the dancer explore dance and their movements, but it has become a staple in the auditioning process for many companies, conventions and television shows. In fact So You Think You Can Dance has several rounds of improvisation before dancers can even show their solos to the judges! We hope to see you there!

Remind 101

If you would like to receive studio closings via text, please sign up for Remind 101. It is easy and we promise to only send out important information such as the studio closing.

You simply text **@asadance** to the number **81010**. You will automatically be added to the list then and receive notifications of the studio closing.