



# Welcome Back!



It is so good to be back! Winter break is always wonderful, but it's just so good to be doing what we love again, and to see all your lovely faces! 😊 We hope you all had a great time off, and are re-fueled and ready to go!

We want to take the time to say a huge thank you to everyone for helping to put on such a beautiful Nutcracker Performance! Thank you, dancers, for sharing your talents with us all, and for all your dedication and hard work! You were all so beautiful! Thank you, parents for your patience and support, and for getting your students

everywhere they needed to be. We want to thank the Elsinore for once again allowing us into their beautiful space, and for all their help over the weekend. And then there are our amazing volunteers! Thank you so so much! There is just no way this would happen without each and every one of you. From sewing costumes and making props, to the bake sale and roses, to helping back stage or being a class coordinator, to all the other hundred and one jobs that have to be done, we thank you for all your hard work. We feel so blessed to be surrounded by such a loving and supportive community.

## New Year Reminders

This time of year dancers come back inspired from the performance, and ready to move forward with their dancing! Here are a few reminders to help your student become the best dancer they can be:

- Please be sure to bring your dancer to class on time. The first few exercises are the basis for the rest of the class. It is very detrimental to your dancer's training to be regularly missing these exercises.
- Please use the rest room before class.
- If a class is missed, please come in for a make up class.
- Proper class attire is a must. Ballet 1-Ballet IV should wear hair in a bun, a solid colored leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet

shoes. Creative Movement-Pre-Ballet II can also wear a removable chiffon skirt. Ballet V can also wear a skirt.

- Please remind your dancers that dance class is not the time to be carrying on conversations, or chatting with their friends. We ask that talking be kept to a minimum. Please also talk with them about the importance of avoiding distractions during class time, whether it's messing with clothing that is uncomfortable, or another student who is constantly needing to be redirected.
- And of course, listen to your teacher. 😊

We hope that these reminders will help keep our classes running smoothly, and our students to get the most they can out of each class they attend.

## Placement In the New Year

Coming back to dance you may notice some new faces in your classes. This time of year we often have new students joining, and sometimes students switch class times or move up. Regardless, please help everyone feel welcome in their new classes!

The normal time for advancement to the next level is in September, but sometimes dancers do get moved up mid year. When this happens it always raises questions in the minds of other dancers, even if they know it's not their turn to advance.

We do, of course take technique into account when considering advancement, but we also look at focus in class, and consistency in attendance. We also take into consideration if a dancer keeps dancing over summer (especially for the older students). Age and amount of time dancing are other factors.

Please remember that placement is done on an individual basis. Dancers can expect to be in the same level two years Pre-Ballet-Ballet II, and sometimes even longer Ballet III-Ballet V.

**Parking Lot Safety**

We also wanted to take some time to bring up a few items regarding parking:

Please do not park in front of any of our neighbor’s driveways, even partially. We very much want to stay on good terms with all of our neighbors.

The parking spots in the lot are designated by lines. Please do not park anywhere that is not between two lines. This is especially a problem at the entrance to the lot. If we have families parking beyond the last designated space, it causes problems for others trying to enter and leave the lot.

Remember that the first few spots closest to the front doors are designated 10 minute spots for families to pick up their dancers safely. We would appreciate it greatly if everyone used them appropriately.

Please avoid blocking the driveway to the studio as much as possible. With the studio being located on a blind corner, we want to keep vehicles from having to wait on the street to enter the lot. Thank you all for your cooperation in keeping all of our families safe!

**IDA Awards**

Nutcracker was a huge success, and we’ve all had a nice break. Now it’s time to look forward to IDA Awards! For those of you new to ABA, here is a general idea of what IDA Awards are. Each class learns a few set curriculum exercises, and a dance (the amount and what they learn varies from level to level). We then spend many weeks practicing and perfecting these exercises. At the end of this period of time, we have a judge come in and watch the dancers perform these exercises in small groups or solos, and grade each dancer individually based off of technique and performance quality. We then have an awards ceremony where every dancer gets a medal, and a sheet of paper with their “grade” listed on the back. This is for just the judge, the parents, and the student to know (unless they wish to share this information, but they are not in any means required or expected to).

We know that this can be a very nerve wracking experience for our dancers, but it really is an opportunity for personal growth. The judge is very nice, and is there to help and encourage the dancers, not to

make them feel bad. This event is not required (although we will be practicing the exercises during class time), but we highly encourage it! We see the most growth in our dancers through this process; even more so than our other performances. It gives our students a concrete goal to work towards, and is another performance opportunity besides! Parents are asked to come and sit in the studio to watch when the judge is there, and we go in small groups so that each dancer is able to perform in a small group or even solo.

We will have more details in the future, but for now, please save March 12<sup>th</sup>, as the IDA Performance day. We will have sign up forms and sign ups for extra practices soon. IDA Awards are for dancers 5 years old/Pre-Ballet I and up.



**Calendar**

**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

President’s Day. No Class!

**March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

IDA Awards. Sign ups to come!

**March 21<sup>st</sup>-March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Spring Break! Plan a fun trip!

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

First Mandatory All Cast Rehearsal for the Spring Show!

Time TBD at ABA.

**May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Memorial Day. No class!

**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Second Mandatory All Cast Rehearsal for the Spring Show!

Time TBD at ABA.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Spacing Rehearsal for the Spring Show at the Elsinore Theatre.

**June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Dress Rehearsal and Spring Performance at the Elsinore!

**CONTACT**

Please feel free to contact us at any of the following:

Phone & Email: (503) 364-4738

[americanballetacademy@gmail.com](mailto:americanballetacademy@gmail.com)

PO Box 2671 : Salem, OR 97308

[www.americanballetacademy.net](http://www.americanballetacademy.net)

Like us on Facebook!

Store Hours:

Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm

Saturday 10:15-11:45am

By appointment