



Dance Dialogue



Every Day Matters!

It's just a little while until IDA Awards! The students have been working very hard, and we are proud of each and every one of them. Let's set them up to do their very best by helping them use these last few days before IDA Awards effectively. Have them practice each of their exercises and dances every day between now and March 12th! For the youngest students with only a few exercises, practicing each dance 3 times would only take about 15 minutes, and honestly, the older students wouldn't take much longer.

Bring your student in, ready to go, early on Saturday, March 12th. Ready to go means with their hair done, and in the proper attire. I would recommend being here at least 20 minutes early, so your

child has time to sign in, get their ribbon on, and focus. Even going over their dance one more time would be very helpful! The older students should honestly arrive earlier, to be sure they have time to be properly warmed up before they start.

After each student in your child's group has performed (about 20 minutes) you will be excused. Please come back at the designated awards time, so they can be given proper recognition, receiving their certificate and award. Remember to be proud of them no matter what (of course all parents are!), and be encouraging, even if the outcome isn't as you or your student had hoped. It is all part of the process.

Proud

I just spoke a little to Awards, and the importance of being proud, no matter what happens the day of the event. The truth is that not every student is going to do their absolute best. In the heat of the moment, there will be a few that forget, rush, go the wrong way... who knows. Their "grades" will reflect upon this, as they should. Do know that the medals are done a little differently with IDA than they were done with Performance Awards. The marks of the dancer are listed on the back of the award, so a dancer doesn't feel embarrassed if they don't do as well as they had planned. Also, know that they don't have to share their grade with their peers. In this sense, it is more like a test at school.

Just as in life, there will be a few

students who don't get the grade they feel they deserve. And, they will probably be disappointed. Please do your best to help them understand that it isn't the score that matters, as much as the work they put in. If they truly worked their hardest, then the purpose of the awards will have been achieved. they will have improved. This is also what matters most to all of their teachers. Remember, the judge only gets to see them dance for a few minutes; we get to watch them for extended periods of time each week. Tell them that no matter what happens we are very proud of their work, and for even just getting up in front of the judge (an accomplishment in and of itself!

What's Next?

Very shortly after Spring Break we will be starting rehearsals for our spring performance! Annie doesn't know what we are doing yet (she always finalizes that over break), but you can be assured that it will be a lot of fun. Annie always puts together a show that is both great fun to watch and perform. Of course it is very important to be aware of the time commitments involved.

Once we begin rehearsals, it is necessary that all dancers involved are present in class for rehearsals, only missing in case of emergency, illness, or a mandatory school function. We will review the attendance policy in next month's Dance Dialogue. Other dates to be aware of are Parent Meetings and costume fittings during classes (April 4th-9th), The two mandatory all cast rehearsals, (May 21st, and June 4th), The Spacing rehearsal (June 10th. No Creative Movement, Boys I, or Pre-Ballet I). and the Dress Rehearsal and Show on June 11th! It is going to be a busy spring, and we can't wait to get started on our next Dance adventure!

The Art of Ballet

Every now and again we like to put in a few words about the art and practice of ballet. At ABA we try to find a delicate balance between keeping ballet a serious recreational activity, and preparing those who have the desire and talent for the dance world. I write "serious" recreational activity mostly for the older students - of course for younger students ballet does teach discipline, but doesn't require nearly the commitment as it does as you advance. Also, for the pre-ballet students, whereas we do start teaching them so basic technique, it is much more important that they really have fun learning the art. As with anything, as you progress, expectations do rise. We don't want ABA to be so demanding that students have to sacrifice all other activities: school, friendships, and family in order to be successful. And there really are many places like that. That being said, to truly do justice in teaching the art, a high level of commitment is required in the most advanced levels.

Of course all us teachers personally think it is 100% worth it to dedicate the amount of time that is necessary to reach this level (which may or may not lead to a professional career in dance). Most of you had a passion when growing up, and through that passion you were able to learn many lessons that hopefully have helped you throughout the rest of your life including work ethic, confidence, dedication, team work, time management... the list goes on and

on. I hope that ballet teaches ABA students all these things and more. And, that the students genuinely love learning and practicing the art. We don't ever want the love of dance to be lost in our students.

Achieving this goal does take work on both sides. Of course as teachers, it is important that while we hold high standards that we remember each student is an individual. What is right for one person may be wrong for the next. It is important for the students to meet their end by respecting all of their teachers, giving their best at **every** class, staying positive, remembering what the expectations are, and giving good faith effort to meet them. I know in everyone's busy lives that it is very hard to fulfill every demand put on them. That is true for me too! But, by doing our honest best, we usually come pretty close, and will have the sense of accomplishment and fulfillment that goes with it.

This is a wonderful thing for students to learn. As parents, helping your child know and navigate these challenges will ensure they get the most out of ballet, helping prepare them for life's other challenges. In the end, even if your child doesn't commit to a career in dance, I hope these lessons will make the dedication that ballet requires more than worth it for everyone involved.

Everyone Have a Safe and Fun Spring Break March 21st-26th



Calendar

March 12th, 2016
IDA Awards.

March 21st-March 26th, 2016
Spring Break! Plan a fun trip!

April 4th-9th, 2016
Costume Fittings & Parent Meetings during class times

May 21st, 2016
First Mandatory All Cast Rehearsal for the Spring Show!
Time TBD at ABA.

May 30th, 2016
Memorial Day. No class!

June 4th, 2016
Second Mandatory All Cast Rehearsal for the Spring Show!
Time TBD at ABA.

June 10th, 2016
Spacing Rehearsal for the Spring Show at the Elsinore Theatre.

June 11th, 2016
Dress Rehearsal and Spring Performance at the Elsinore!

CONTACT

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Store Hours:

Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm

Saturday 10:15-11:45am

By appointment