



# WMDC Newsletter

March

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## Special Interest Dates

April 6<sup>th</sup>: Student Recommendation Letters

May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dress Rehearsal

May 25<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Day (No WMDC Classes)

May 30<sup>th</sup>: Spring Performance

## Show Preparation & Attendance

As we head into the final months of our 12<sup>th</sup> Performance Season. I must remind everyone of the **IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE**. I understand schedules are about to shift as we head into spring time sports leagues. Please consider the number of practices and games available to your athlete in their spring sport and compare that to the number of practices they have left at dance. Dance has far fewer.

I am hoping with the altered schedule for the studio's spring break, and costumes arriving in advance. We can make significant progress on the routines in the coming weeks. As always, I tailor dance routines to fit the dancers. It is more important to me to present a clean routine they can feel good about. Rather than something difficult to 'read' as an audience member or 'feel' as a dancer. Depending on how the classes overcome the challenges presented in the choreography. I provide more, less, or maintain the difficulty of the next phrases. The more dancers practice the better they remember the choreography. The more opportunities they have to showcase additional skills and talents within the routine.

Please review the [WMDC Studio Policies, Procedures and Liability Agreements](#) subsection "Spring Performance Participation, which states.

"A student's level of participation in the spring performance is determined by the student's attendance during choreography months, January – May. [...] It is the student's responsibility to come prepared to class with knowledge of the previous week's choreography."

We take time to review the previous week's choreography for every student. The time we take is generally limited to 15-20 minutes. We spend the next 40-45 minutes on new choreography. Expecting a student to learn 40 minutes worth of work in 20 minutes followed another 40 minutes. It is a big ask of them (that could equate to 1 full minute to 1.5 minutes of actual dancing. That's A LOT of movement to memorize). I recommend on these days (post absence) parents try to come in and video at the end of class. The option is available to any student who would like to practice at home. Please see me BEFORE CLASS to discuss best arrival times. As I try to leave enough time for videos of both a 'walk/talk' followed by a run through with music.

So far, the dancers seemed to be excited about the Intro. I hope to continue to provide them with exciting routines. Inspired by their and community member's dreams. It really has been an amazing year. I know I say it every year, but every year is different. I have always told them that dance is about setting the bar higher with each season. So many of the dancers have stepped up to the higher rung of the ladder. I'm excited about their potential in the performance.

## Student Recommendation Letters (SRLs)

It's that time again!

We are transitioning from lessons/training to choreography ending the 2025/26 Performance Season and beginning to prepare for our 2026/27 Performance Season.

One of the ways the studio honors this transition is by taking the time to acknowledge the accomplishments of individual dancers. Dancers are constantly attempting feats of incredible physical and mental difficulty. It's a lot for any person to keep track of. Sometimes we can get 'bogged down' by all the information and miss acknowledging our moments of success! So, we would like to pause and reflect for a moment – acknowledging where the dancers have improved and areas we can continue to focus on should they decide to continue dancing into next season.

Dancer's adults (parents, guardians, etc.) will receive an email with an attached SRL. In this personalized letter, students will receive a couple notes under each category (Areas of Improvement and Areas of Continued Focus). The letter will also note recommendations on dance style and/or level – if they choose to continue into the next season. The studio never assumes dancers are returning, we want dancers to feel supported in whatever decision they make going forward. IF\* students do choose to continue the recommended style/level can help guide students and their adults to selecting the class or combination of classes that appears to suit a dancer the best.

Lastly, while instructors may recommend more than one style. We are not committing you to signing up for more than one class. Sometimes, offering more than one style is a way of providing options. "The dancers may prove successful in EITHER style". Likewise, it may be the instructor's way of signaling perceived ability of the dancer to take on the responsibility of more than one class, again, if it is the student's desire to do so. Please do not take one suggested style as the opposite of either of these circumstances. Instructors chat with students and may perceive students to have a busy schedule or that they are only interested in one style. We try to keep the student's

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interest/availability in mind when writing these letters. If you have any questions, please reach out to your instructor.

\*It is important to note, dancers do not automatically move the next level after one year. There are so many different ways to approach the building of confidence. Jumping levels before a student is fully prepared can be to the detriment of the student physically, mentally, and emotionally. Remind your dancer, even PROFESSIONAL dancers will drop in to “beginner” level classes – there is ALWAYS SOMETHING to work on.

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## Dress Rehearsal / Spring Performance

Have you saved the dates???

**Dress Rehearsal: May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Performance: May 30th 4:30pm (Doors open at 4pm)**

Dress Rehearsal schedule was released with the Newsletter and is available on the website. Hair and make-up has also been released to the website, ahead of schedule.

**Dress Rehearsal is MANDATORY, as is attendance to photos.** While a parent may not wish to purchase pictures. The studio pays for access to all group and individual photos. (Savannah Wilson has again agreed to be our photographer. She stepped up in a time of need last year and did a fantastic job. I'm excited to work with her creativity again.)

It is also important to remember on these days there are a variety of helpers and assistants present. ANYONE who is employed or volunteering for the WMDC must be treated with the utmost respect at all times. This is in the contract agreed to at the beginning of the season. Failure to abide by contractual guidelines of respect can result in fines assessed to family accounts (if unpaid may result in non-performance) or removal from the studio and all subsequent performance opportunities.

Dress Rehearsal is closed to non-guardian units. Please do not bring friends or extended family. If there is a conflict for Firefighter dads, other seasonal positions, or out of town relatives, please contact the studio owner. To maintain fairness, tickets prices will be assessed to those who attend Dress Rehearsal in lieu of Performance Day.

**\*Special note\***

Parents, I would recommend researching solo dance pictures with your students. Work with them on developing their own individual photo. Yes, I can and will be helping during dress rehearsal. However, I would like to take this moment to recognize the strain dancers experiencing on dress rehearsal. Taking extra time to help them consider poses for their pictures. Even practicing and letting your dancer see the differences in their body's placements and the changes a smile can make. Helps dancers a great deal when they stand in front of the camera.

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## Nude Leotards

Please, purchase a nude leotard for your dancer to wear underneath their costume. We have yet to experience a costume malfunction on stage, but that can be interpreted as “our time is coming when it WILL happen.” Please, do not let it happen to your student. It can be embarrassing, and make it difficult for them to continue the show if it cannot be completely repaired backstage.

Nude leotard or undergarments (underwear and bra) with nude straps – the ‘clear’ straps cut into dancer's shoulders which make the dancer uncomfortable and bring attention to their now very red shoulders. If you are unsure what to buy, please contact the studio owner.

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## Studio Closures & Notifications

Studio Closures are listed;

- “Special Interest Dates” Left Column of the Newsletter
- “WMDC Season Calendar” (Printable)
- [www.warnermountaindance.com/calendar.html](http://www.warnermountaindance.com/calendar.html)

Notifications:

If your student is going to miss class, please try to notify the office ASAP. Even if it is 20 minutes before, it helps me to adjust class lesson plans more efficiently. Please remember student's choreography for the show can change based on attendance. Certain choreographic elements require certain skills – too many missed classes result in dancers missing those skills. In general, missing class means missing material, help me help your student to keep on track and please let me know if they will be absent.