



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca



MARSHALLTOWN YMCA-YWCA

Miss Kimberlee Kups-Benson

Dance Director/Owner

thedancekonnection@gmail.com

YMCA-YWCA SCHOOL OF DANCE: THE DANCE KONNECTION 2022-2023 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022 SOUTE NEWS

Classes are still open for enrollment, contact us today!!! Limited space available!

!!!!Please read the entire news letter. There is a lot of information included in all the monthly news letters and if you just skim you will miss something!!!!

Newsletters will be emailed at least once a month. Sometimes we will email additional things that come up during the dance month. All information will also be posted on our web site www.thedancekonnection.com.

Remember to check our web site. www.thedancekonnection.com. We will be updating it regularly. You can also check us out on Facebook if you are registered. Just search for The Dance Konnection! and The Dance Konnection business page, Twitter The Dance Konnection @TheDKdance & on Instagram @thedancekonnection

Feel free to email me with questions or concerns. You may email me at the studio email: thedancekonnection@gmail.com I may use either one to send you correspondence. If you need to call the office the number is 641-752-8658 ext. 304. Our main source of communication is by email. If you are not receiving emails and would like to, please contact the dance office and we will add you to our list. If you know of someone who is not receiving emails from us let them know that they may also call the office to be added to the list. We also have a studio group message system, if you would be interested in receiving these text messages email the dance office for the link.

Remind- If you would like to receive reminder information (workshops, weather, etc,) by text message please follow these steps to enroll to be put on the text list. You will not be able to respond to the text message. Website Instructions: www.remind.com/join/ next enter @thedancek (the @ sign is already there, so just enter thedancek, with no spaces) you will then be prompted to enter your phone number that you wish to receive the text message too, include your area code. You will receive a text message from remind which will include a code that you will need to enter to validate that the number you entered is correct. If you would rather you can download the remind app on your phone and then the above instructions. It is very easy to do!!! You can not respond to these text messages @thedanceko

Some clarifications: Reminder that all monthly payments for dance classes that your student is taking that are paid to the Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA are now on a monthly auto pay system and will be drafted from the account (checking, savings or credit card) that you provided when you turned in your dance registration sheet. If you have not turned in your account information for monthly drafting please contact Ashley Woodruff immediately at 641-752-8658 ext 302 or email ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org. If you choose to pay for the entire dance year in full that needs to be done the first week of dance please contact Ashley Woodruff at 641-752-8658 or email ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org.

Dates To Remember:

- September 5- No Dance (Labor Day)
- September 24- Oktoberfest Parade
- October 6 at 7:30PM- Christmas Extravaganza Meetings
- October 9th- NHSDA Meeting at 5PM
- November 1- 1st Costume Payment DUE
- November 14-17- Parent Viewing Week
- November 23-27- Thanksgiving Break
- December 4- Christmas Extravaganza
- December 5-8- Bring A Grown Up To Dance Week
- December 12-15- Christmas Parties in Class
- December 19-January 1- No Dance - Merry Christmas
- January 2- Classes Resume
- January 15- Final Costume Payment DUE
- February 10- Tights/Accessories Forms and Money DUE
- April 10-13- Parents Viewing Week 2
- April 21- Dance Pictures
- TBA- Tumble Tots Demo.
- TBA- KaMotion Recital & Acro Demonstration
- Recital Dress Rehearsal- April 30th-May 4th, 2023
- May 5th & 6th- Recital

The YMCA YWCA will only offer scheduled payments for Youth Programming. All payments must now be drafted from a checking, savings, or credit card account. Dance tuition payments are due on the first of each month unless paid in full at the start of classes. An electronic method of billing must be completed and returned in order to attend. Accounts must be kept current in order to attend dance classes at the Y. A \$30 service charge will be applied to accounts for any returned payments due to nonsufficient funds.

Participants will be notified at the time of returns. Participants have 30 days to take care of any returned payments and NSF fees. If past due balances and fees are not paid after 60 days, participants will be dropped from dance classes. It is the card/account holder's responsibility to inform the Y of any changes in billing methods

All other payments need to be brought to the dance office that is located outside the studios upstairs at the Cultural Center by dancers only or you may pay online through your parent portal. **These payments are for EVERYTHING BUT tuition. (shoes, costumes, accessories, gifts, etc.) These payments need to be made out to "The Dance Konnection".**

The Dance Konnection **does** send out statements on the 1st of each month. If the balance of your account is not paid in full, a late fee of 3% will be charged on the 20th of each month. We accept cash or checks or you can make a payment through your parent portal.

*****PLEASE NOTE***** If you have questions about shoes, dancewear, payments, statements, etc. you will HAVE to wait until someone is in the dance office to help you. Please don't interrupt the dance classes. Once the attention is lured away from the teacher it is very hard to get the students to focus again. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ka-Motion If you are a member of Ka-Motion 1 or 2 you need to purchase pom poms for each dancer. You can purchase these through your Dance Konnection parent portal.

Shoes are coming in daily. Please have your dancer check with the dance office. There are no refunds only exchanges.

Christmas Show t-shirt.... We will soon have order forms for t-shirts available in the waiting area of the studio and on the website with our Christmas show logo on them. Just a WARNING!!!! They will be due when they are due and **not a day later**. I will not be ordering extras. So get them in early. I will be ordering them the day after they are due. These places are very busy around Christmas so we are on a limited time table. \$1.00 from each t-shirt sold will be given to a charity that the Christmas Show Committee will choose. We will let you know which charity has been selected after the decision is made. So what a great way to give plus you get a cute shirt too!!! You will be able to purchase your Christmas t shirts using either your parent portal or in the dance office.

At this time we are having all 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 year old classes start in their tap shoes and have their ballet shoe bag.

September Birthdays:

Melody Sanchez

Spencer Peck

Susie Whitacre

Alexis Hughlette

Georgia Caryl

Calliope Engle

Delilah Hernandez

Bia Benson

Estelle Halsted

Elijah Blanchard

Genevieve Caryl

Kinnley Smith

Annabelle Maxwell

Quinn Flack

Kaitlyn Beare

Grace Whitmore

Georgia Eicher

Baylee Gummert

Harper Fredregill

Sophia Stone

Zayda Woodbury

Oaklee Crook

Nova Hendershott

Quinlan Hendershott

Angeline Gomez

Makenzie Carrillo

Amelia Deeter

Jade Mauseth

Dance Objective of the month– Making New Friends

Private Lessons- if your dancers are interested in doing private lessons this year please contact me and we will set up a time. Contact Miss Kimi at kimi.kups-benson@ymca-ywca.org. Book and pay for lessons on your parent portal.

Parent/Tot Class: This class is geared towards toddlers, 18 months to 3 year olds, and the special adult in his or her life. It is designed to help students feel comfortable learning in a group setting. Activities will include dance games, playing instruments, and singing songs while having fun together. Learn new and creative ways to enjoy music and dance. This class will be in three 6 week sessions.

Classes are offered on Tuesdays from 6:15-6:45PM

Session 1: October 4th-November 8th

Session 2: January 10th-February 14th

Session 3: March 7th-April 11th

Sign up on the Y's website.

PARENT PORTAL INFORMATION!!! You have each been emailed individually a parent portal, if you have not received this via email please email the office and we can resend it to you. On the parent portal you can see what you owe on your Dance Konnection account (NOT the Y for regular classes), order shoes/dance wear on line, your dancers attendance in class, see your DK statements, add another parent or contact to your account/ update your information (such as address or phone number), add a photo of your dancer to their profile so the teacher knows exactly what they look like, teachers may share class notes or homework for your dancer. You can still order shoes and dance wear. If you order through our on line store you will have to pay via pay pal or stripe. Which you can pay with your credit card or pay pal account but it will be via pay pal. There is a 3.78% convenience fee added to on line orders. Plus if you order the incorrect item and/or size you will be charged a \$10.00 restocking fee. So if you are unsure order in the office!!! You can also order shoes and dancewear on our 2nd online store which is www.shopnibly.com/thedancekonnection

Costume Deposit Policy-Reminder: Per your signed registration paperwork below are the following costume deposit changes. **Primary classes; preschool& elementary Ballet & tap combination classes have a one time \$80 (plus tax), total due on November 1st. Dancers in any leveled classes (1-9) dancers taking more than one leveled class have a \$110 deposit due November 1st with remaining balance due on January 15th.** Dancers taking only one leveled class have a \$90 deposit due November 1st with the remaining balance due January 15th. **All costume fees are non-refundable.**

Reminder All Dancers must have their hair in bun or pony tail. All shoes must have their names in them. No gum or candy in the dance room. You must follow the dress code for your classes. Please take your little dancers to the restroom before they come to dance class.

Dance Journals- We started doing this program last year with some of the dancers and it was a great success. We are now asking that all Jazz 1-8, Ballet 1-5, Pointe 1-4, and Tap 1-7 dancers to have a "Dance" journal in their dance bags and a pen. We use them to write choreography, words of encouragement, thoughts, goals all sorts of things. It helps the dancers remember steps and be uplifted when they may have had a rough rehearsal. You can use an old notebook, a diary or a journal. They can decorate them. They can glue pictures of dancers or anything dance on them. It is also a great remembrance to look back on their dance year. We are starting it this coming week, so throw a journal and pen in their dance bags.

Communication Devices- We know this may be obvious but we need to remind everyone that we do not allow dancers to have Gizmos, Apple watches, ipods, cellphones or any other communication devices in the dance rooms while their classes are being held. These items are a huge interruption/distraction to the entire class and also to the instructors. We are asking that all devices are kept out of the dance rooms and are kept in dance bags. If instructors see that these devices are in the dance rooms they will be collected by the instructors and will be kept until afterclass is over.

Here is a friendly reminder on the guidelines and procedures for this year at DK. If you have any questions please feel free to email the dance office at thedancekonnection@gmail.com

1. There is Hand Sanitizer All over the building! We have wall mounted dispensers outside of Studio 1/2 and Studio 4. All the studios will have bottles available for the dancers to use. But it's also a good idea the dancers have some of their own in their dance bags. We will remind them to use it but please reinforce this with your dancers also. And HAND WASHING with soap and water is always the best!
2. No street shoes allow (this is not a new rule this is a reminder) in the actual studios. Only dance shoes!!! Also reminder to wipe them down and sanitize them after each use. So it's a good idea for your dancers to have some wipes in their bag to do that. Hey the best case scenery is that their dance bag may not smell AWFUL this year!!!
3. Dancewear and shoe pick up. Most of the items have arrived if you ordered them -except Kamotion uniforms- the Registration nights. If you ordered online through our parent portal after registration days those items are in route. We have a few items backordered. We will try on the shoes etc on your dancer when they arrive into the studio their first nights of dance. If you ordered in our Nimble Store I do believe they give you a notice when it should arrive at your homes.
4. Pick up and Drop off dancers. Dancers should not be dropped off for classes more than 10 minutes early. And Please be here promptly when their class is over so they are not waiting here at the Y.
5. If you are in KaMotion until we get your cheer shoes in please bring a different pair of tennis shoes to wear inside the studio.
6. PBT make sure you bring your own equipment and cleaning products as stated in your own separate email you received a few weeks ago.

National Honors Society for Dance Arts– The National Honor Society for Dance Arts™ (NHSDA) is a program of the National Dance Education Organization. This is for high schoolers who are interested in the new opportunity.

Student Benefits:

Recognition of their artistic merit, academic achievement, and leadership throughout their educational experience.

Certificates at each level of induction, opportunity to receive the gold Honor Pin and wear the blue and white Honor Cord and/or Medallion at graduation.

Mentorship from Chapter Sponsor and networking with peers

Leadership and development opportunities within their NHSDA Chapter, as they can assist the Chapter Sponsor with Chapter administration, record keeping, fundraising, and event planning

The National Honor Society for Dance Arts is run on an institutional basis. Chapters are set up at individual schools, and only students who are enrolled at that school may apply for induction.

Individual students, not enrolled at a school that hosts a current NHSDA Chapter, are not eligible for induction.

***There will be a parent and student informational meeting on October 9th at 5:00PM.**

If we have any dancers ages 4-18 still interested in trying out for competition team, please contact Miss Kimi.

Congrats to our dancers who auditioned and got parts in the Iowa State Centers Nutcracker.

Oktemberfest Parade- The Oktemberfest Parade will be held on Saturday September 24th this year & we will be having our KaMotion spirit squad walking in the parade this year along with all studio dance students will be able to participate in this fun day! We are in need of the following parents to volunteer to help during the Oktemberfest Parade: driver & truck to hall sound system, and also parents to walk in the parade with us. If you would be interested in volunteering your time for any of these please send us an email. **KaMotion 1 & 2 Spirit Squads**, if you already have your uniform, you will wear that. If you ordered your uniform at registration or on the first night of dance, your uniform will not be here on time for the parade on September 24th, so please wear pink & green. Poms will be here on time for the parade. We are asking all the dancers and parents who will be walking/dancing with us to purchase a parade t-shirt so we look the same. Below is the link to purchase the shirts we are using Bonfire. These shirts will get delivered straight to your house. Please don't delay ordering them so you get it on time. This is open to all our dancers ages 3-up. Please note we will not have a float so 3-4 year olds will be walking/dancing with us. As soon as we have more information about time and where to meet we will email. <https://www.bonfire.com/parade-shirt/>

****Please Note:** I don't take used shoes. If you want to sell them you may post a note on the bulletin board outside the dance studio. Please do not leave notes or used dance shoes in my office.

Lost and Found: We have many shoes and other items in the hallway left from recital. They will all be going to Good Will after Friday, September 10th. Check now to see if it's yours!!

****Christmas Show-A Note For All The New Parents**

Every year The Dance Konnection puts on a Christmas Show. This is a very informal show and we use it as a way of teaching our students to give to the community at the holidays. We don't get any elaborate costumes, usually just t-shirts and pants or whatever is around. We sell t-shirts and a dollar from each t-shirt goes to a good cause/charity--we try to do a different one every year. We usually collect items at the door for different organizations and cash donations for another organization. One of the youth groups in the community sells concessions to earn money for their group. It is just a fun way to celebrate the holidays and focus on giving to others.

****Christmas Show-** We need lots of help from parents in order to pull both Christmas shows together. We will have our first meeting on Thursday October 6th at 7:30p.m. We will meet upstairs at the Cultural Center in Conference Room #205. Many hands make light work so come join us to help with the planning!!



Volunteers Needed!!

It takes a lot of parent volunteers to help put on these fantastic recitals, parades, Christmas shows, etc. This year we are going to start getting our volunteer lists started early! It is going to be a FUN year celebrating 33 years at The Dance Konnection, there is a lot in store so be ready!! Here is a list of volunteers that we will be needing throughout the year, we may need additional volunteers at some point, but this is a good starting point. If you are interested in volunteering for any job/jobs please send us an email stating what you would like to be signed up for so we can put your name on that list.

Oktemberfest Parade:

Driver & truck/SUV

Parents to walk in the parade

Volunteers for Christmas Extravaganza– planning, set up, costume removal, front table, prop building, etc. If interested in helping please attend the October 6th meeting at 7:30PM.

KaMotion Recital:

Provide Lunch

Hand out Programs

Help dancers get ready

Recital:

Prop Building– this will start in January

Backstage Helpers with Little Girls & Boys Classes

Backstage Dads

Take Tickets– Friday & Saturday

Programs– Friday & Saturday

Flowers– Friday & Saturday

***Please do not volunteer for picture night at this time!**