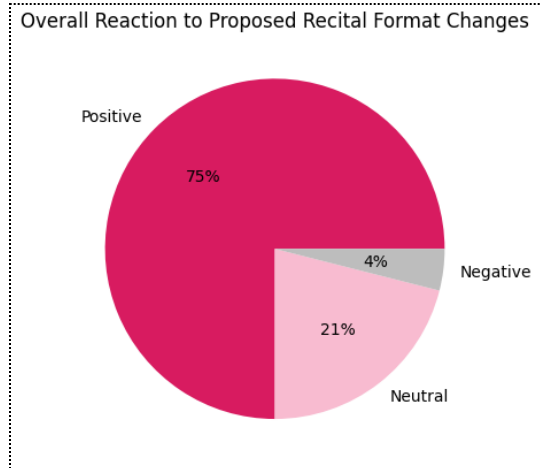


# Amy's School of Dance

## 2026 Recital Changes - FAQ

We polled our studio about a significant, proposed change in recital performances this year. That is, moving solos and duets from the main recital performances, and adding a Saturday showcase those performances.

### ***How do you feel about the proposed recital format and schedule overall?***



As you can see, the results are overwhelmingly positive.

Our recital is the culmination of months of thoughtful work by our entire team. Teachers carefully select music, develop technique, and choreograph routines that support dancers at every level. Behind the scenes, our staff plans recital structure, performance order, scheduling, and logistics to ensure the weekend runs smoothly.

The information below is intended to show how these pieces come together and to clarify the decisions that shape our recital experience.

## *Big Picture: Why We're Making The Change*

### **Why are changes being made to the recital format this year?**

This year's recital program is projected to be 3.5+ hours long, which prompted us to explore ways to improve the experience for dancers, families, and audience members.

As our studio continues to grow, more dancers deserve their moment on stage. Our goal is not to reduce opportunity, but to manage recital length and pacing thoughtfully while prioritizing dancer care, family experience, and long-term sustainability.

### **Why are the recitals still long, even with these changes?**

Recital length is one of the main reasons we are introducing a separate Solo & Duet Showcase. However, even with these adjustments, recitals may still feel long—and that is largely a reflection of our studio's growth and success.

As our studio grows, so does the number of dancers, classes, and performance opportunities, and the variety of programs we offer. This growth is something we are proud of. Our focus is on managing that growth thoughtfully rather than eliminating opportunities for dancers to perform.

## *Structure, Space, and Scheduling*

### **Why not just hold one long recital instead of two recitals and a showcase?**

While we understand the appeal of a single recital, this is not a feasible option for our studio.

Our performance venue cannot safely or comfortably accommodate all dancers, families, and guests in one show. The auditorium simply isn't big enough. Maintaining two main recitals—and a separate showcase—allows us to manage space responsibly while celebrating all dancers.

### **Why do we hold recitals at the local high school instead of a larger venue?**

We intentionally use the high school auditorium for several important reasons.

Larger venues come with significantly higher rental costs that would ultimately be passed on to families through increased ticket prices and fees. In many cases, these venues cost several times as much as a school auditorium.

The high school auditorium also offers important benefits:

- It is local and centrally located within our Ballard community
- It allows staff to move easily between the studio and the venue throughout the recital weekend
- It is a familiar space for our dancers, as we have proudly held recitals there for 10 years

Choosing the high school auditorium allows us to balance cost, convenience, familiarity, and quality while keeping recital expenses as reasonable as possible for families.

### **Why can't recitals be split into a "younger" recital and an "older" recital?**

We explored this option carefully, but it presents several challenges.

- Many families have dancers in multiple age groups, which would require attending and purchasing tickets for multiple recitals
- A mix of ages allows us to space performances so dancers have adequate time for costume changes and preparation
- Back-to-back performances of the same dancers would increase stress and reduce performance quality; it would also increase delays between numbers to wait for dancers to catch their breath and change costumes/shoes.

The current structure best supports both family logistics and dancer wellbeing.

## *Dancer Experience and Care*

### **How do the different types of dancers at the studio affect recital planning?**

Our studio serves a wide range of dancers, including:

- Young dancers performing in one or two routines
- Recreational dancers balancing dance with other activities
- Dedicated and competition dancers performing in many routines

Because of this variety, recital planning must carefully consider:

- Adequate time between numbers
- Costume changes and preparation
- Rest and focus backstage
- Avoiding back-to-back performances

This complexity is one reason recital pacing must be managed thoughtfully rather than compressed into a single block of performances.

### **How are you planning the recital order to support our youngest dancers?**

We intentionally plan recital order so that Tiny Tots, Combo dancers, and boys' class perform before intermission whenever possible. This allows young dancers to finish earlier and avoids long backstage waits. It also reduces the need for extended backstage supervision and volunteers.

# Showcase Performance

## **How will competition group dances be handled?**

Competition group dances will remain in the main recitals as they have in past years.

## **Will competition dancers be required to attend the Solo & Duet Showcase?**

All solos or duets will participate in the showcase, except seniors.

## **If my dancer has both group dances and a solo or duet, will they perform multiple times on Saturday?**

Yes, many dancers may perform in the Saturday morning showcase and again in the Saturday afternoon recital.

To support dancers and families, lunch will be provided for performers and staff participating on Saturday.

## **What about families who are traveling and may not be able to attend multiple performances?**

We recognize that many families travel to attend recital weekend, and this was an important consideration in how the schedule was built.

The Solo & Duet Showcase is intentionally scheduled between the two main recitals to help minimize travel challenges and reduce the need for multiple trips. This spacing also allows dancers who perform more than once to have adequate rest, time for costume changes, meals, and mental breaks.

## **Will the Solo & Duet Showcase feel less important than the main recitals?**

No. The showcase is designed to be a celebration of individual performances and will be professionally run and free to attend.

## **Why are senior solos treated differently?**

Senior solos and special senior performances are a meaningful part of our graduation and recognition traditions. Seniors will continue to perform these pieces during the main recitals.

While graduation and senior recognition may feel far away for families with younger dancers, it is important to remember that every senior once stood where your dancer stands now. Senior recognition reflects years of dedication, and when today's youngest dancers take their final bow, they will deserve that same spotlight and farewell.

# Awards, Volunteers, Performances, and Cost

## **Awards or closing recognition after the final recital?**

Yes. We will continue to have seniors' recognition after the final recital. This portion was significantly shortened last year, and we will continue to be mindful of timing while preserving what matters most for our seniors.

## **Why are parent volunteers needed for recital weekend?**

Recital weekend is a large event that requires many hands. Studio staff and instructors are deeply involved in teaching, choreography, and backstage management, but they cannot manage every aspect alone. Volunteer availability directly impacts what we can offer.

## **Why don't we offer more performances throughout the year?**

With the size of our studio, it is already a significant undertaking to rehearse and prepare one routine per class while balancing rehearsal time, schedules, and teachers'/dancers' availability.

Additional performance opportunities are available through our pre-professional and competition programs, which involve greater time commitments and financial investment.

## **Why does recital cost what it does?**

Dance is an expensive sport. Amy works intentionally to keep recital costs as reasonable as possible. However, producing a recital includes venue rental, technical staff, sound and lighting, and event coordination.

We frequently check with fellow central Iowa studios to ensure we remain in line with others in the business and to keep our costs modest, especially for families with multiple dancers.

# Decision-Making

## **How are final decisions about recital planning made?**

We value feedback from our families and carefully consider all perspectives. Every suggestion is evaluated alongside what is best for our dancers, family experience, staffing, venue limitations, and long-term sustainability.

While not every idea can be implemented, decisions are made intentionally and with the best interests of our dancers at the center.

## **Is this format permanent?**

This format is being introduced thoughtfully and will continue to be evaluated and adjusted, as needed.

## **When will the rest of the important information about recital be released?**

We are experiencing a significant transition behind the scenes, with our long-time recital coordinator leaving her role after 11 years, upon completion of the 2026 recital. We have plans in place and have been training and co-leading recital processes for the past few years to ensure a smooth transition by 2027. Our plan and hope is that families won't experience any major interruptions in the recital experience, you know.

As we do every year, upon completion of the recital, we will sit down and evaluate what went well and what we can improve for next year.

Because of the upcoming transition, we are working hard to move ahead of schedule and plan to have most of the information out by April 1, 2026. Keep an eye on your inbox.