

# December 23' Newsletter

Can you believe it is December already! As we all prepare to spend time with our family and friends and celebrate the holidays in all the ways that are special to each of us, we wanted to wish each and every one of you Happy Holiday's! We hope everyone stays healthy and safe during our time off. **As a reminder, we are closed from 12/20/23-1/2/24.**

Parents, please share this message with your students: We encourage you to take time during this break to have fun, rest your mind and your body. We strongly believe that if you take this time to mentally and physically decompress, it will help you come back from break ready to work hard. When we return from break, classes are going to dive right into end of year recital choreography. Our competition teams will begin competing as well!

We have many students who are at the studio for 3 or more hours a day, multiple days a week. Our teachers are noticing that some of their students are struggling to make it through all of their classes. Please encourage your students to eat healthy and hydrate well when they are outside the studio. Getting plenty of rest and proper nutrition/hydration goes a long way in building stamina and strength. Students should bring plenty of water and healthy snacks while they are at the studio. If they have breaks between classes and need to eat dinner or a more substantial snack, please make sure they pack it. If they do not have a long break between classes, please send food that can be quickly eaten between classes.

## Tuition Policy Reminder

- **TUITION IS DUE ON THE 1ST OF EVERY MONTH.** A \$25 late fee will be applied to your dancer's account if tuition is paid after the 10th of the month. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- **AOD DOES NOT send out a monthly tuition statement.** Each family is responsible for knowing their monthly or quarterly tuition commitments.
- **Tuition can be paid online at:** [TuitionInfo/Pay\(academyofdancejax.com\)](https://tuitioninfo/pay/academyofdancejax.com)
- AOD sends out monthly "tuition due reminder emails".
- Tuition due information is located on our website, at our lobby desk, in the monthly newsletters and in our AOD studio policies.
- There should be no confusion as to when tuition is due.
- If there are extenuating circumstances, please call and speak with us BEFORE tuition is late.
- **AOD will only send out a statement if there is/are outstanding balances dues for your student's account.**

## ILLNESS POLICY

Many of our families noticed how hard hit the studio was in November with illness. We had the flu spread quickly through many of our classes. It is imperative that our families adhere to our illness policy, especially as we move into January. Our classes hit the ground running with end of year recital choreography and our Dance and Thespian teams start their competition season. We want to keep our teachers and students healthy, so class absences are kept to a minimum.

**As a reminder, here is our illness policy:**

- Dancers should not be in class if they are exhibiting ANY TYPE OF SYMPTOM at all.
- If your dancer has a fever within 24 hours of class, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, malaise, sore throat, etc. **PLEASE KEEP THEM HOME.** Our teachers will catch them up if they miss anything and we will work with you to find a make-up class.
- We do not want to risk spreading illness through the studio. If you have any questions at all about whether your dancer should be in class, please call us.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **12/4/23** ~ Inspire, Fusion & Shake the Ground registration forms and fees are due.
- **12/13-12/20/23** ~ Spirit Week
- **12/16/23** ~ Dance Team performance at DECK THE CHAIRS @ 5pm
- **12/20/23** ~ Hurricane make up day. See page 3 for details.
- **12/20/22-1/2/24** ~ STUDIO CLOSED for Christmas Break
- **1/2/24** ~ Make up classes for Ms. Jill's Tuesday classes cancelled on 8/29/23 due to hurricane Idalia.
- **1/3/24** ~ Classes resume
- **1/18/24** ~ Dress Rehearsal for Thespian Team. Mandatory
- **1/20/22** ~ Dress Rehearsal for ALL DANCE COMPETITION TEAMS. Mandatory.

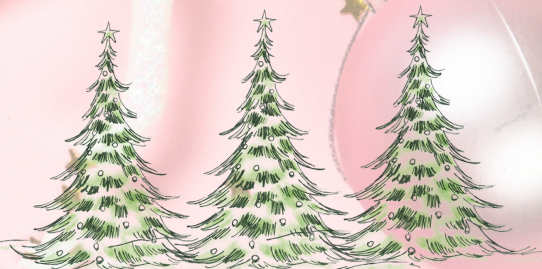
## LOBBY HOURS

If you need to speak with us in person, please stop in and see us during our lobby hours.

Monday: 4:00-7:00p  
Tuesday: Desk Closed  
Wednesday: 3:30-6:30p  
Thursday: 3:30-6:30p  
Friday: 4:00-7:00p

## STAY CONNECTED! LIKE AND FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

 Academy of Dance Jax  @AODJAX  @AODDANCETEAM  @AODTHESPIANS  @AODJAX  
 904-880-2275  [www.academyofdancejax.com](http://www.academyofdancejax.com)  [academyofdancejax@gmail.com](mailto:academyofdancejax@gmail.com)





## STUDIO ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY REMINDERS

We are getting ready to start the second and busiest half of our dance season. Parents, you have had time to discuss with your students, studio rules and etiquette expectations when in the studio and lobby. We are still having issues with dress code and arriving to class on time. Please read below as we will be implementing a new process for students who arrive late to class and continue to arrive to class out of dress code.

- **It is important for students to arrive to class ON TIME.** Being tardy is distracting to the teacher as well as the rest of the class. It is also a safety issue as your student must be properly warmed up so that they can participate in class safely. Going forward, once class has started the door going into the studio will be closed. If your student arrives after the door has closed, they will be considered late and must wait for the teacher to let them in. Students arriving after their class warm up may be instructed to sit out of the class and observe.
- **AFTERNOON & EVENING PICKUPS:** Please pick your students up on time!! We do not want any student waiting outside alone after class. Especially in the evening. Teachers are holding class and cannot monitor students outside, and our lobby desk is not always staffed in the evenings.
- Students not picked up on time after the last class of the evening will incur a late fee for each minute the teacher or staff member must wait for their ride to arrive.
- **It is important to come to class prepared and ready to dance.** This includes having the proper shoes, attire and hair. Hair must be pulled back into a neat and secure bun (or ponytail if the class allows). When hair is not secured, it quickly becomes a distraction and students are not able to focus on learning and technique. **Teachers will be enforcing these rules and will be speaking with parents if students are arriving out of dress code.** AOD is not responsible for providing proper tools to put hair up and secure it. Students should carry their supplies with them if arriving to the studio with hair not already put into a bun (or ponytail if allowed).
- **Please be aware that the desk has limited hours.** This means there is not always someone in the lobby supervising if your student is in-between classes, arriving early, etc. **PLEASE TALK WITH YOUR STUDENTS about safety when coming and going from the studio.** If their ride is not here when their class is finished, they should wait inside the studio until someone is here to pick them up.
- **We will be locking the doors when possible at night as an added precaution.** We have been hearing from a few parents as well as staff regarding concerns that there have occasionally been people wandering in the parking lot after dark. **This is another reason why it is very important for your student to be ON TIME!** If the teacher has to continuously come to the door to unlock it, then it will quickly become a distraction.
- **IF YOUR STUDENT WILL BE LATE, ESPECIALLY IN THE EVENING, PLEASE CALL THE STUDIO AND LET US KNOW!**
- **Please speak with your students about being respectful of our studio space!** This means that they should be cleaning up after themselves and not leaving food, trash, etc. laying around the studio. Anytime food is left out ants find their way into the building very quickly.
- Our lobby is small! Students should wait outside prior to class starting. Because our lobby is small, we ask that unless you have a young dancer (5/6 year old classes and below), **PARENTS PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE THE STUDIO during class.** Having a lot of people in the lobby can be distracting for teachers, staff and students. There are benches available for you to sit and socialize while your child is in class.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping to keep our studio clean and looking nice AND we appreciate everyone's cooperation in speaking with your students about studio behavior and etiquette. If you ever have questions or concerns, please reach out to us!

## SPRING SHOW INFORMATION

- PLEASE SAVE THE DATE ~ our annual Spring Show will be held on Sunday June 9, 2024 @ 2:30pm at the Thrasher Home Center. More info coming in the Spring regarding tickets and recital fee.
- **Please let the studio know ASAP if your dancer is not participating in the Spring Show. Our teachers are starting to plan out choreography and need to know which students will not be in the dance.**
- Students that take more than 1 technique class (i.e., 2 ballet or 2 jazz classes, etc.) SHOULD NOT double up for recital performances. They will be placed in the highest-level class piece. Any questions, please ask.
- It is imperative that student absences are kept to a minimum when we return to classes in January. This allows teachers ample time to set choreography and clean it before the Spring Show.

## RECITAL COSTUMES - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Recital Costume Deposits are now OVERDUE!** All classes that perform in the Spring Recital require a \$40 costume deposit. **Please make your deposits with your December tuition payment!** If you have questions or concerns, please stop in and speak with us or email us. We must collect deposits so we can order and receive costumes timely. Students are measured & costumes are ordered in January, as soon as we are back from Christmas break.

**Recital costume deposits are a credit that sits in your account so that costumes can be ordered in January.** Once costumes are ordered you will be billed for the full amount and a statement with your remaining balance will be sent out. **It is important to know that your account must remain current to maintain this credit.** This means tuition being paid on time each month, no late fees, payments made timely for other items ordered for your student by the studio, other deposits or payments due (i.e. team fees, competition fees, etc.). Any outstanding balances due or past due are paid using any credit on your account.

Not all classes will perform in the Spring Show. A list of classes performing in the Spring Show is posted in the lobby. Students in multiple levels of any style, will perform with their highest-level class for the show.



## DANCE AND THESPIAN TEAM INFO

Registration forms and payments for Inspire NDC are DUE MONDAY DECEMBER 4th! A late fee of \$50 will be added to all forms submitted after 12/8/23. Payments can be made online. Forms must be turned into the front desk by Monday DECEMBER 4th! This is a required competition for both DANCE & THESPIAN TEAMS. Dance Production and Mamma Mia Production are competing at Inspire. If there are any questions about what pieces are attending Inspire, ask your director ASAP!

In addition, if your dancer or thespian is attending Shake the Ground or Fusion optional competitions, those registration forms and fees are due MONDAY DECEMBER 4th! Late fees will be added if paid after 12/4/23. If you have any questions at all, please reach out to Ms. Kathie or your team director ASAP!

Competition Season is FAST APPROACHING!! All of our dance and thespian team members and our teachers have been working hard since the summer learning and rehearsing for the upcoming competition season. We are so proud of all the hard work being put in week after week. We know this competition season is going to be our best yet. Please read below for reminders on important MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL DATES and for information you need so you can ensure you have all the supplies needed by dress rehearsal dates and competition. If you have any questions, please reach out to your team director ASAP!

- MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL for THESPIANS is on 1/18/2024. TIME TBA and a detailed email and line up will be sent out in January.
- MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL for ALL DANCE TEAMS is on 1/20/24. Time TBA and a detailed email and line up will be sent out in January.
- REMEMBER, MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL means FULL STAGE HAIR AND MAKEUP and FULL STAGE COSTUMES. You will be performing your routines (all team and specialty dances) like you are performing on stage at competition.
- NOW is the time to check your competition supplies and make sure you have what you need. Supply companies will be out of stock or in short supply as competition season starts. Team directors have emailed out REQUIRED team items needed already. Check your emails and connect with them if you have questions.  
Make sure you have:
  - Required shoes
  - Required tights (plus backups)
  - Required earrings
  - Required makeup
  - Required hair pieces
  - Hair supplies - hair pins, ponytail holders, hairspray, gel, brushes, etc. Everything you need to have your student's hair in the required competition style.
  - Garment bag - It is strongly encouraged that you have a garment bag (with storage pouches) for each costume. This will help ensure you have the correct items needed for each dance (costume, tights, shoes, earrings, hair pieces, etc.). We cannot stress enough that the more organized and prepared you are BEFORE COMPETITION, the less likely you will get to competition without everything you need for your student. **LABE YOUR GARMENT BAGS and SHOES!!**
  - All required competition costumes and any accessories (team, solo, duo, trio, small groups, productions).

### Hurricane Idalia Make Up Day reminder

The following Wednesday classes cancelled on 8/30/23 will be made up on Wednesday, December 20th at their regularly scheduled times:

Beginning Acro - 4:15 - 5:00  
Beginning/Int. Contemporary Modern - 5:00 - 5:45  
Intermediate Lyrical - 5:45 - 6:30  
Intermediate Team Rehearsal - 6:30 - 7:00  
Production Rehearsal - 7:00 - 7:30  
Advanced Ballet - 7:30 - 8:30  
Advanced Pointe - 8:30 - 9:15

Wednesday Rhythm & Movement class cancelled on Wednesday 8/30/23- The fall session will be extended one week to account for the makeup class. The last class will now fall on Wednesday, December 6th.

Wednesday 5/6 Ballet & Tap class cancelled on 8/30/23 - Students may attend one Saturday 5/6 Ballet & Tap class on a date of their choosing until we close for winter break. (please note that Winter break starts on 12/20/23. You will need to make up your class before then).

WEDNESDAY 12/13



AOD Spirit Day!

THURSDAY 12/14

HOLIDAY  
PAJAMA  
PARTY  
DAY

FRIDAY 12/15

FAVORITE  
CHARACTER  
DAY

SATURDAY 12/16



Twin Day

MONDAY 12/18



Silly Sock Day!

TUESDAY 12/19



80's Day!

WEDNESDAY 12/20



Tie Dye Day

# AOD Spirit Week!

We had so much fun last year, that we are doing it again! 12/13-12/20/23