

# November 23' Newsletter

We cannot believe how quickly the weeks are flying by! It is already November and before we know it, we will be starting our recital choreography. We had so much fun seeing our students come to class in costume last month and celebrate with fun Halloween inspired choreography!

As we move into the holiday season, we wanted to say how **THANKFUL** we are for our AOD family. We are **GRATEFUL** for you all at **THANKGIVING** and all year long. We hope you enjoy this time with your families. **STUDENTS:** Take time over the break to rest, unwind and have some fun! It is important for your mind and body. When classes resume in January, it will be full steam ahead as we prepare for the end of year show and our competition teams prepare for a full competition season!

Please be sure to read through the newsletter. We provide very important information, updates and reminders to you.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- November 6th - Access Broadway registration forms due.
  - November 20th - 25th, 2023 - Thanksgiving Break. Studio CLOSED
  - December 20th - January 2nd - WINTER BREAK - STUDIO CLOSED
- \*\* please note that there is a Hurricane make up day on 1/2/24\*\*

**Hurricane Idalia Make Up Days -**  
Please see page 3 of this newsletter for how classes cancelled due to the storm are being made up.

**HAPPY**  
*Thanksgiving*



## Illness Policy

It's that time of year again. Illness is spreading like wildfire in schools and in the community. We ask that you adhere to our studio illness policy outlined below. Having a teacher out sick is a hardship on our classes, fellow teachers and our staff. If there is every any question about whether your student should stay home, err on the side of caution or call us to discuss. Our teachers can get students caught up if they need to miss a class.

As a reminder, students should not be in class if they are exhibiting ANY TYPE OF SYMPTOM at all. We want to keep our teachers and students healthy, so class absences are kept to a minimum. 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.

## 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**

## Tuition Policy

**-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://academyofdancejax.com/TuitionInfo/Pay)

-AOD sends out monthly "tuition due reminder emails"

-Tuition due information is located on our website, at our lobby desk, in 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

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## STUDIO ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY REMINDERS

Now that we are settling into the new season, parents have had time to discuss studio rules and etiquette expectations when in the studio and lobby. We are still having issues with dress code, 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!

## RECITAL COSTUME DEPOSITS

**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 November 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.

This deposit is 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, no late fees, payments made timely for other items ordered for your student by the studio, other deposits, etc. Any outstanding balances 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 TEAM & THESPIAN TEAM NEWS

Dance and Thespian Teams - IMPORTANT!!

**Access Broadway registration forms are due NOVEMBER 6th!**

**Late fee of \$50 will be added after this date.**

Forms have been emailed out and posted in the private FB groups for each team. The form can also be obtained at the front desk if you cannot print it out at home.

Choreographers have either emailed, texted or posted in the respective private Facebook groups for Dance and Thespians, the titles for each piece going to competition. It is IMPERATIVE that you list the correct names for your student's pieces so that Ms. Kathie can ensure correct registration.

### MANDATORY REHEARSAL FOR ALL DANCE AND THESPIAN TEAMS!

**Saturday, November 18th** we are having a mandatory rehearsal at the Mandarin Presbyterian Church (11844 Mandarin Road Jacksonville, FL 32223) **from 9:00am-12:00pm**. There is a **\$20 fee per dancer - cash or Venmo (@Kathie-Smith-46) to Kathie Smith only.**

Thespian, Dance Team & Mamma Mia Productions, groups and specialties + solos (time permitting) will be run. This allows our students to dance full out with the props in a larger setting.

Advanced Team dancers will be given priority in order to rehearse their pieces and have an adjusted Saturday class schedule with Haley at the studio. (There will be an altered schedule for them so that they will have a break in between rehearsal and class). There will carpool back to the studio available.

### REMINDERS ABOUT PRIVATE LESSON FEES

If your dancer or thespian is in a specialty piece (solo/duo/trio/small group), your students choreographer detailed how payment was to be made for private lessons each month.

- Each choreographer sends out an invoice each month., **Pay the private lesson fee DIRECTLY to the CHOREOGRAPHER, NOT AOD!**
- **Pay the STUDIO FEES DIRECTLY to AOD (cash/check or credit card).**
- **DO NOT GIVE OR INCLUDE THE STUDIO FEE DUE IN YOUR CHOREOGRAPHER'S PAYMENT.** They cannot separate it out. It is your responsibility to separate studio fees out from private lesson fees.
- **PAY YOUR INVOICES ON TIME!**
- Please pay attention to instructions posted on the invoice. Not every choreographer accepts the same form of payment.
- PLEASE be sure to monitor your emails and the private FB groups you are in for your student's respective team (DANCE or THESPIANS). We are approaching the first competition and very important reminders and information has already been emailed out and posted.
- It is your responsibility to stay up to date and informed.

## 2023-2024 COMPETITION DATES

We are excited to announce our 2023-2024 Competition Dates for our Dance and Thespian Teams:

**February 2-4th, 2024**

Access Broadway in Orlando, FL  
Dance & Thespian Teams

**April 12-14th, 2024**

Inspire National Dance - Jacksonville, FL  
FREE TO THE PUBLIC  
Dance and Thespian Teams

**April 26-28th, 2024**

Revolution Talent - Jacksonville, FL  
FREE TO THE PUBLIC  
Dance and Thespian Teams

### DANCE TEAM COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

We are excited to announce our Dance Team Community performances. Come out and see cheer our dancers on!

**Deck the Chairs Holiday Show**

1st Ave North and, 1st St N, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
December 16th 2023 @ 5:00pm

**Riverside Arts Market**

715 Riverside Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32204  
March 9th 2024 @ 10:30am

## HURRICANE IDALIA MAKE UP DAYS

**Classes cancelled on 8/29/23 will be made up on 1/2/24. Class times will be shifted to start at 3 PM**

Teen Ballet - 3:00 - 3:45  
Teen PrePointe/Pointe - 3:45 - 4:15  
Teen Jazz - 4:15 - 5:00  
Advanced Tap - 5:00 - 5:30  
Advanced Character Jazz - 5:30 - 6:15  
Advanced Lyrical - 6:15 - 7:00

**Wednesday Rhythm & Movement** - the Fall session will be extended one week and **the last class will now be Wednesday, December 6th.**

**Wednesday 5/6 Ballet & Tap** - students may attend one Saturday 5/6 Ballet & Tap class on a date of their choosing until we close for winter break. on 12/20/23.

**The below Wednesday evening classes cancelled 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