



Welcome Letter 2024

I am so excited to welcome you to this new event that is sure to be value-packed for your students. The Gold Star Achievement Ball was born out of a desire to help bring the dance communities together after the shutdowns from the pandemic. Our primary goal over the next few years is focused on quality and organization, therefore attending this event will be by invitation only, if I have sent you this invitation you are welcomed to attend. I am committed to growing slowly as to maintain a healthy event that feels stress-free and fun for all.

The 5th annual Gold Star Achievement Ball is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2024. Entry forms and associated fees are due no later than March 9, 2024. We are offering student evaluations through the Bronze and Silver levels, Gold will be added in the future. The syllabus used for all student evaluations is DanceVision, although this is an unsanctioned event and student evaluations will not be recognized by DanceVision. Our intention is a community-driven event, we ask that all attending teachers be apart of the evaluation team.

The Gold Star Achievement Ball has three components: Student evaluation entries also known commonly as Medal Exams are the main focus of this event, students will go through evaluation rounds, formatted in the spirit of a competition. Second, solo presentations, formation teams and Pro-Am choreographed showcase exhibition routines will be available. These entries will be evaluated and the results will be given to the student/s during the award presentation. The third component is the awards ceremony, students will receive the evaluators' sheets, showing them areas they excelled in and areas of needed improvement. The evaluators' sheets include the students score listed as lack of proficiency, proficient, or honors. Students will also receive a journey chart that they will take home, each style of dance has its own journey chart. Dances performed and evaluated as proficient or above earns a dance specific sticker which can be placed on their journey chart. Journey charts are a visual way to track their progress towards Full Bronze Certification.

As I look to the future for the Gold Star Achievement Ball, I hope to see schools from both Colorado Springs and Denver participating together, something for students to look forward to and gain confidence to explore future avenues like studio showcase events and or competitions. Because of this aspiration, we are considering moving the event to Castle Rock to give both dance communities easier access to the event.

Thank you for considering being apart of this new format. We hope to see you and your students at the next Gold Star Achievement Ball!

Brad Ackerman
Organizer