



## STUDIO NEWS...AND ALL THAT JAZZ

September-October 2019

**DANCE CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you were unable to attend Dance Dayz and need dance supplies (Please see the attire postcard in your handbook packet.) be sure to call now to set up an appointment-507.235.6114 We appreciate dancers being prepared for class.

### **WELCOME to the 2019-2020 dance season!**

We are so happy you will be joining us on the dance floor. We are looking forward to having the dance studio full of student hustle and bustle again. Dancin' Plus is so excited to celebrate 25 years of business in Fairmont. With not much more than a strong dance background and some really big dreams, Dancin' Plus opened it's doors in Fairmont in 1995. We put a lot of thought into what kind of studio we wanted to become. Dancin' Plus wasn't going to only be a place to learn fancy footwork. We wanted it to be a place to strengthen confidence, build self esteem, and develop friendships. We wanted to create a place where hard work, dedication, smiles and a lot of laughter came together to result in something you didn't just talk about but something you could feel. We wanted a place where our dancers could see the results of goal setting, working hard and team effort. We wanted a unique and fun atmosphere for our dancers to learn that they are the ones responsible for making their dreams come true on and off the dance floor. Year after year we have held true to those goals while we share our passion for dance. Because of wonderful dance families like yours, we have watched the studio grow into more than we ever imagined. Many thanks!

## **FIRST TUITION PAYMENTS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10th.**

Thank you for paying on time. It really helps us to meet the studio's expenses on time. For your convenience, all payment totals and due dates are listed in your copy of the studio handbook.

There are three easy ways to make payments:

1. Mail it to our mailing address: Dancin' Plus 403 E 1<sup>st</sup> Street Fairmont MN 56031
2. Pay online at [www.dancin-plus.com](http://www.dancin-plus.com) with debit/credit card or Paypal.
3. Once the dance season begins, you can leave your payment in our locked payment deposit box on the side of our counter in the studio lobby during any class hours: Monday 4:00-7:30pm, Tuesday 4:45-8:45pm, Wednesday 4:30-6:45pm and Thursday 4:45-8:45pm.

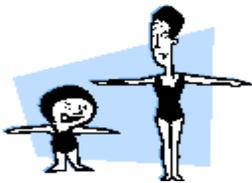
We do have a grace period for payments during the first week as many classes begin after the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please note....We DO NOT have an outdoor mailbox to drop payments in. People often ask if we do. When we did, our mail always disappeared. ☹

### **IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

We have just a few openings left for the 2019-2020 dance season.

Call for class availability~507-235-6114.



## **INTRODUCING OUR INSTRUCTORS & ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS**

I take special care and consideration in choosing our class instructors and assistants.

They care about your child and their progress. They love what they do and that shows and inspires.

You have probably noticed that our class schedule has expanded to include Wednesdays. We are excited to announce Miss Aurora and Miss Laura, two life long Dancin' Plus dancers and assistant instructors will now be leading their own classes on Wednesdays.

Please join us in welcoming back our assistant instructors:

Miss Laura (Mondays) Miss Hannah (Tuesdays) Miss Aurora (Mondays and Thursdays)

Our cheerful, hard working teachers and assistant instructors are always eager to lend a helping hand (or shall I say foot?) in dance class. Watch for more information about our instructors in upcoming newsletters.

With the addition of new instructors:

To avoid any miscommunication or over sights, please be sure to use the dance studio phone number 507.235.6114 or email Tammy@dancin-plus.com for questions or comments.

Please do not use our teacher's personal phone numbers, texting or personal social media.

We just want to be sure that we do not overlook anyone and it helps to do that by keeping information coming in to central "locations". ☺ Many thanks!

## **STAYING UP TO DATE**

We want our dancers and their families to feel welcome, comfortable and well informed. One of the ways we do that is by keeping you informed through our newsletters. Each time a new edition of our studio newsletter is available, a link to it will be emailed to you. It will cut down on your paper piles at home and will help us run things efficiently on the office duties end of our busy business. Our newsletter, STUDIO NEWS AND ALL THAT JAZZ, will help you stay up to date on what is going on at Dancin' Plus. There are four regular issues emailed each season: September/October, November/December, January/February, March, one dance production(April) issue just before show time and a season wrap up issue in June.

If you have not already, please take a moment to meet our two assistant directors "Miss Studio Handbook" and "Mr. Studio Website." They are a wealth of information that helps our dance studio run smoothly. They very rarely do not know the answers to your questions. They both know that lives are busy and you appreciate having information at your fingertips fast. The studio handbook was mailed to you in the packet you received after you registered.

Visit us at [www.dancin-plus.com](http://www.dancin-plus.com)

Did you know we have a studio FACEBOOK page? We do. Like us and stay up to date.  
Be sure to check out all the great photo galleries! You can also visit us on Instagram.

## **READY...SET...DANCE!**

The first few weeks of dance are busy ones for our dancers. Many are taking their first classes and can be a bit overwhelmed by it. For returning students, classes can be a challenge as we pass into the next level of learning. No matter the age of the dancer or the amount of experience, I remind them that I do not expect them to remember EVERYTHING that is taught each week. Just remind them to always do their best, be patient and have fun. Dancers learn through repetition. The results will begin to show in time. Because everyone likes immediate results I also like to spend some time in each of the first few classes working on what I call attainable dance skills. These are combinations that anyone can do without much practice but we ask each dancer to put their own "flare" into it. Attainable dance builds confidence and allows each dancers to find their own style. This teaching style gets students comfortable and ready to get to work on the material that demands a bit more effort.

Especially for our ages eight and up dancers: Another really good point to remember is that dancers are in class for themselves. Don't compare yourself to others in class. Everyone works on their weaknesses and shines with their strengths and those things are different for each dancer. Just because someone in class has a little more dance experience doesn't mean you're a terrible dancer. It just means you have work to do to reach a higher level of training. That's the time to be determined and work hard. Wonderful things happen when you stop focusing on others and start focusing on yourself. You can do it!

## **JUST BE SUPPORTIVE**

The first few weeks can be especially tough for our youngest dancers. For many, it can be difficult to separate from mom or dad. They may cling to you or be a little apprehensive about joining in class activities. There may be tears during your goodbye/see you in a bit hugs. It is all very natural behavior. Crying children usually do best if you make a quick exit. Linger makes it even harder for them to separate and join class. I am use to working with young children and I can tell you that by the time you have reached the car (feeling badly for leaving your crying child) the tears are already dry and we are giggling and learning. After a class or two they understand the "routine" of coming to class, they know what to expect and the tears and apprehension disappear. They even feel proud of themselves for working through some tricky feelings.

Here are a few suggestions to on how to make an apprehensive young dancer's new adventure a bit smoother:

Don't arrive at the studio too early. For a student that is learning to be comfortable with separating with mom/dad, anticipating that separation makes waiting 20 minutes for class to begin start to feel like an hour. Arrive with just enough time to slip into ballet slippers and hug goodbye.

Be on time for class. Late arrivals sometimes feel uncomfortable joining in a group activity that is already underway.

Distraction works beautifully. Make a big deal out of their cool, fancy dance shoes. Ask them what they want for supper or a snack after dance class. Explain they get to come to class to learn fun new things and their new friends are waiting for them.

After class ask them to be the teacher and teach you what they learned that day. Don't be alarmed if they refuse to show and tell what they have learned. Sometimes it is just too soon for an "audience." Once they are comfortable with their new skills they will teach you and you will wish they would sit down for a while. 😊

**A REMINDER....**As classes change over, traffic congestion can get a little thick. We also share the area with other businesses and that creates even more traffic. I ask that you please do not double park and make a dash into the studio to pick up dancers and please no dropping off or picking up students at the stop sign intersection outside our building. For safety sake we ask that you please park your car legally for pick ups and drop offs. There is plenty of parking. ~Thank you

## **HELPING YOU SAVE \$\$\$\$\$\$**

We know that dance classes are not the only thing you have to pay for and we know that families appreciate that we work hard to keep dance studio costs down. It is one of our biggest challenges. Obviously we have expenses we can not overlook like rent/utilities, insurance, music copyright fees, cleaning and office supplies and more. Then there are the hundreds and hundreds of work hours spent organizing and planning classes and taking care of the recital details and then we throw in the hours spent on office and cleaning duties. It is endless. A dance studio owner keeps costs down by being everyone within the dance studio business. We are the director, the teacher, class planner, dance production organizer, the choreographer, the office manager, the accountant and the janitor. You name it, we do it! If we hire staff to fill those jobs that means an increase in your rates in order to pay those positions. One of our goals is to always give our customers the best possible dance season. So that we can bring our families the best dance season possible, dance studio owners are usually putting in much more than an eight hour work day. In fact, fourteen to sixteen hour work days during weekdays/weekends, days/nights are the average in this business. To make the long hours manageable, outside of class time hours, we do much of our work from home. Because of this, you will usually not find me at the studio unless I am teaching classes or I am cleaning the studio. Our dancers/families come into the studio once a week so if there is something you need to drop off, pick up or if you have a quick question to ask, that is the best time to do that. Outside of class times, if you have a question, our website, newsletters and studio handbook are a great wealth of knowledge and wonderful for answering questions. You can also contact me at ~ 507-235-6114(home/business number) or email me at Tammy@dancin-plus.com

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Week Of September 9 - Classes Begin  
First Tuition Payment Is Due No Later Than September 10th  
October Tuition Is Due No Later Than October 10<sup>th</sup>  
No Class - Thursday, October 31 - Happy Halloween!

The next FOOTNOTES skips your way the last week of October.

Thank you much! We are looking forward to another fantastic dance season!

**WHAT I  
LOVE MOST  
ABOUT MY  
DANCE  
STUDIO  
IS WHO I  
SHARE IT  
♥ WITH ♥**