

Dear Parents and Students:

May 2011

The following is important recital information to help you prepare for the upcoming recitals. Please keep this letter in a convenient spot as it outlines special requirements.

WHERE...The recitals will be held at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke, Virginia. Please enter at the Little Theater doors as you face the school at the far right. The auditorium will be on your left as you enter. Your child should be taken to the area marked "dancer drop off" no more than 20 minutes before the performance. All students must come to the auditorium in costume and make-up. There are limited facilities for changes, which we have to use for specialty numbers only.

PLEASE NOTE...All students must remain for the entire performance. Please do not try to pick up your child before the end of the performance. One of the purposes of these productions is to teach our children to exhibit good manners at performances and that includes *arriving on time and not leaving prior to the end of the performance*. The children will be well cared for backstage by our staff and volunteer parents. ALL STUDENTS WILL BE IN THE FINALE.

MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL...will be **Sunday, June 12th**, at **Lake Braddock Secondary School**. For location see "where" paragraph above and map at the end of the letter. Your child should arrive in costume and make-up. Please see sheet on front of letter for your child's specific time. **Parents will not be allowed in the auditorium for rehearsal, unless volunteering.** Please note there is a separate rehearsal Saturday, June 18th for Dance Co, Diamonds, Ballet IV and up, Jazz IV/V and up, Tap IV/V and up, Pointe III/IV and up, Lyrical III/IV and up, Hip Hop IV/V and up, Contemporary A & B, and Modern Advanced.

IMPORTANT NOTES...Make-up: Stage lights wash out faces so be sure all dancers have appropriate make-up applied prior to arrival at both dress rehearsal and the performance. Children under 12 - red lipstick, blusher on cheeks, brown eye shadow. Children over 12 - consult your teacher. Absolutely no jewelry or nail polish. Please, no panties under tights (they are distracting hanging down beneath costume). Secure all headpieces and any other costume parts (if loose, children will try to adjust them instead of dancing).

TICKETS...Tickets may be picked up after June 1st. All fees, including June tuition and any late fees, must be paid prior to receiving tickets. Please note: June is the final payment for students who have been making ten equal payments. Extra tickets will be available on a first-come first-served basis beginning June 6th. They will be \$20.00 each. You may sign up at the front desk if you anticipate requiring additional tickets. We will try to accommodate everyone as equally and fairly as possible.

Other seating solutions are:

1. You may ask people in your child's class if they have tickets they do not plan to use.
2. You may volunteer for backstage help (for which you do not need a ticket, but will be able to step in to the theater to watch your child perform). Further, if you volunteer for the dress rehearsal, you will be able to see other pieces in the show.

It would also be extremely helpful if you do the following at the performances:

- Do not save seats for people who will arrive late – or not at all.
- Do move into the center of the rows to fill in from the center out to the aisles.
- Reserved seats will only be allowed for the elderly and disabled. Please let the front desk know if you anticipate having these needs so we may adequately plan.

PICTURES...Individual pictures will be taken at the studio by a professional photographer **Friday, June 10th from 1:00PM-8:00PM**. If interested, please make an appointment at the front desk. The photographer will also be taking group pictures at the dress rehearsal.

VIDEO...Each performance will be professionally recorded and may be purchased. Order forms are available at the front desk. We prefer that you do not attempt to tape during the performance yourself due to the distraction it causes the dancers and the audience. If you do use your own equipment, however, please be considerate of others and avoid blocking their view. **ALL INDIVIDUAL RECORDERS MUST BE HAND HELD (NO TRIPODS) AND MUST BE USED FROM YOUR SEAT.** (Tripods are strictly forbidden due to safety regulations.) It is important that you use available light. Putting additional light on stage is extremely dangerous to the dancers. In addition, absolutely no flash photography will be allowed.

CELL PHONES AND PAGERS...Please turn these off or place them in silent mode. They are a tremendous distraction to the audience and the performers.

FINAL CLASSES...Classes will conclude on Wednesday, June 22nd.

THANK YOU...We want these recitals to be a joy to all - - both for those performing and those watching. Many hours of effort go into these shows - - on the part of the students, teachers, staff and volunteer parents. Thank you for your extraordinary effort. I would also like to thank you for sharing your children with us this year. They have been a delight and we hope to see them again this summer and next fall.

Sincerely,
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OVER FOR DIRECTIONS TO LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY SCHOOL