



VDS FIRST DAY NEWS

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back! We are all very excited to start the 2022-2023 dance season. We have a great year planned and cannot wait to get our dancers back into the studio! We have a lot of new and exciting plans for our dancers this year including three amazing Performances to highlight our dancers. We will be presenting our Nutcracker Performance in December featuring all of our classical ballet dancers and then in February we present our Annual Student Showcase featuring our Performing Company at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center. Then on May 6, 2023 to finish off the season we will present all of our dancers at our amazing Annual Spring Performance at the Carpenter Theater.

I am grateful to have my amazing team of VDS Instructors all back with me this year, Gracie Carter, Lexi Firestone, Bryn Girard, Paige Honbarrier, Suzanne McClung, Taylor Ritchey and Rob Petres. We are welcoming new Instructor, Marisa Post and Kayla Lindvall to our team for the 2022-2023 season and we are grateful to have Guest Instructors, Kate Christner, Deandra Clarke and Elizabeth McClung working with our dancers this year as well.

We have so much talent and energy to share with our students, and I am excited to get everyone back into the groove! Please check out our web site and like us on Facebook and Instagram so you can keep up to date with the new classes and workshops at VDS!

Melissa

CONTACT US

VDS Office Hours (by appointment)

Monday—Wednesday 10-3pm

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BE INFORMED

Please keep this handout for future reference. Other important notes will also be sent throughout the year so check your email and our web site. We will post our calendar of events and all handouts on our studio website. Any new updates or changes will be emailed and also posted on social media. So follow us!

A full performance packet for our Annual Spring Performance will be sent out in February with all the details that you will need for the event. Please feel free to e-mail us with any of your questions at vdsrva@gmail.com.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Due to Covid-19, we closed our waiting rooms and office areas and during this time we found that our younger students did so much better without the chaos of parents and siblings coming and going that we decided to keep it closed for drop off and pick up. This also allows us to keep the studio clean and safe for all of our dancers. We ask that if you need to come into the office, to please do so after classes have started or call and make an appointment.

~ Dancers will wait to enter the studio at the marked entrance. Instructors will open the door for dancers to enter and will sanitize hands upon entry. Dancers will go into the studio and find the marked space for class.

~ Dancers will be dismissed from studio C and parents should stand on the sidewalk in line to pick up.

~ We are **only** responsible for your child while they are in the studio during class time. Please be prompt in picking up and dropping off. If you have an emergency, please call the studio and email us.

COVID 19- POLICY

~ VDS is following all of the CDC Guidelines and will update our policies as needed. Dancers are not required to wear a mask but we ask that all parents follow the guidelines and IF your dancer is required to wear a mask to please let us know.

~ Parents are required to sign the Covid waiver to attend in person classes at VDS and must complete health screenings of dancer's before attending class.

COVID –19 ABSENCES & OPTIONS

~Dancers in our VDS full program that need to miss a class due to illness or quarantine will have access to our online video series. Please email the office for access to the videos for your specific class. These are simple videos to allow your dancer to move at home.

~ Dancers are also able to schedule private or semi private lessons with instructors at a discounted rate if needed upon retuning to class.

CANCELED CLASSES DUE TO SHUT DOWN

VDS is committed to offering the full program of classes for 2022-2023. Any classes that are canceled due to government shut downs will be offered as either make up classes, workshops, video classes or private lessons for all dancers. We made these available to all of our dancers in 2020 and will continue to provide instruction and resources to all of our families. In 2021 we did not close for any COVID related issues and we are hopeful with the help of our families to keep our doors open in 2022.

POLICY ON REGULAR STUDIO CLOSINGS

All scheduled holiday closings have been listed on the enclosed schedule. The studio will not observe bank holidays. In cases of severe weather the studio will NOT FOLLOW HENRICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. We will be sending mass emails and will post on all social media accounts to notify all of our VDS students if we decide to close due to inclement weather. Please note we will try to open IF teachers are able to attend.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

~All dancers are expected to follow the class rules. Students that disrupt the class will be given three opportunities to correct their behavior before they are sent out of the class and to the office.

~Students that continue to disrupt the class will not be allowed to continue in our program and tuition will not be refunded.

TUITION BILLS

~VDS invoices will be emailed from our vdsrvabilling email and you will receive a link to pay online or you may send in a check. We are not currently accepting credit cards in the studio. We accept credit card payments through Pay Pal and Cheddar Up.

~Payments *not received within 15 days of the due date* will receive a \$25 late fee. Late fees will continue to accrue every 15 days payment is not made.

~As noted in your registration policies, the payment plan is available for your convenience. If you select the payment plan, you will be charged a one time service fee of \$30 and will receive an emailed invoice with the tuition breakdown and details of your plan.

~All tuition is due in full and is **non-refundable**.

PARENT OBSERVATION

We will be offering a Parent Observation for our younger dancer's families the first 2 weeks of November. A specific schedule for each class will be sent out in September. Parents are only allowed to watch for half of the class so that we can rotate dancers into the larger studio.

We will also continue to take photos during class and share with our parents and we will send out a link for each class in late October with photos and will continue to add to their album throughout the year. Our older dancers will make a short video to share their class progress in November.

NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE

All of our ballet classes will have the opportunity to perform in our VPCO Nutcracker Performance! Auditions for Special Parts will be held August 30, 2022 from 5-6pm. All of our ballet classes will learn a dance during their regular class time to perform in the show. We have special dates for cast rehearsals and everyone will attend 2 Saturday full rehearsals before the show. We will present our Nutcracker on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at Freeman High School Theater. Everyone is welcome to attend this fun event to support our dancers. Tickets will go onsale in November.

ATTIRE

~Please make sure your child has the appropriate attire for class. See our website for details.

~If your dancer is unable to come dressed for class, they can use our changing room. Please do not leave items in the changing room.

~Dance bags are highly recommended for all dancers. Please send in the appropriate shoes, hand sanitizer and a water bottle. Bags will be placed on the shelves in each studio upon arrival.

~Please mark your dancer's shoes with their names in permanent marker. We will hold lost and found in the studio it was left in so check there if you loose something.

SPRING PERFORMANCE COSTUMES

~ As stated in our policies and rates, Spring Performance Costumes are not included in our tuition rate. Costume fees are \$75 per costume and includes the sizing, selection, shipping and retail value. **Costume invoices must be paid in full by March 30, 2023** for dancers to participate in the Annual Spring Performance.

Additional student discounts will be applied to costume invoices.

PICTURE DAY

We are working to set up a Picture Day with our professional photographer Jessica Hendricks for dancers to come and take solo and group photos. This will be scheduled in April.