



VDS FIRST DAY NEWS 2023-2024

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back! We are all very excited to start the 2023-2024 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 on Saturday, December 2, 2023 featuring all of our classical ballet dancers. In February, we present our Annual Student Showcase featuring our Performing Company dancers and then we will present all of our VDS dancers in our Annual Spring Performance which will be held at the Carpenter Theater the weekend of April 27, 2024.

I am grateful to have my amazing team of VDS Instructors all back with me this year, Gracie Bouchard, Lexi Firestone, Paige Smith, Elizabeth McClung, Suzanne McClung, Taylor Ritchey, Marisa Wilson and Rob Petres. We are excited to have Guest Instructors, Kate Christner, Deandra Clarke and Bryn Hiel 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 on Instagram & Facebook! A full performance packet for our Annual Spring Performance will be sent out in December 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.

OPEN HOUSE & TOURS

We would love to invite you to come and tour the studio prior to our first week of classes. We will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 10am-12pm. You can come to tour the studio and grab some VDS gear!

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. If you need to use our restroom or dressing room, please feel free.

~ Dancers will wait to enter the studio at the marked entrance outside. Instructors will open the door and welcome the dancers into the studio when it is time for classes to begin.

~ Dancers will be dismissed from studio C and parents should stand in line by the purple door to check out your dancer.

~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.

~Dancers ages 8 and up can enter on their own and wait in the waiting room for their class to open. They can also be picked up from our waiting room.

POLICY ON REGULAR STUDIO CLOSINGS

All scheduled holiday closings have been listed on the enclosed schedule and are on our calendar on our website. 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 safely.

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 new billing email, registervdsrva@gmail.com and you will receive a link to pay online or you may send in a check. We accept credit card payments through Pay Pal and Cheddar Up.

We do accept credit cards in our office if you wish to come in and pay your invoice. Please call ahead to make sure a staff member is available to take payment.

~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 & PHOTOS

We will be offering an informal 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. There is a limit of 2 people per student to observe. Classes in level II or higher will not have an observation. These older dancers will be sharing a short video with parents in December.

We will also take a few class photos that we will share with our parents throughout the season. Please make sure that you sign our photo release form so that we can share our class action shots on Instagram and Facebook.

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 26, 2023 from 10-11:30am.

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 participating will attend two full rehearsals before the show. We will present our Nutcracker on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at Benedictine High School Theater. This event is a fundraiser and a portion of our ticket sales will go to a non-profit organization that our advanced students vote on. We have recently been able to donate for Miracles in Motion and ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation. Everyone is welcome to attend this fun event to support our dancers. Tickets will go onsale in November. DVD's from Memories Video will also be available for purchase.

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 lose 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 February 28, 2024** 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 of JSHFOTO for dancers to come and take solo and group photos. We will schedule these photos in April & May.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteer parents to help with class communication and events such as performances and parent observation. Please check yes on your Student Info. form sent in August if you are interested.