

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Dear Dance Families,

The Show is Just Around the Corner!

We are already planning Ballet Wolcott's Annual Spring Performance of Coppelia and Dance Concert, which will be held on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, June 10, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Dibden Center for the Performing Arts, Johnson State College.

We are currently working with Robert Royce and Jesse Tidquist to plan what roles each class will play. Youth Company, Contemporary, Broadway Jazz & Tap, Kid's Tap & Jazz, and upper level ballet classes also have the opportunity to perform a class dance during the Dance Concert portion of the show.

Dance is a performing art; and, we encourage performance. However, if your child does not want to dance or has a bit of stage fright, we will be understanding. No child will be forced to perform if he or she does not want to.

Please, take the time to carefully read and fill out the Performance Fee form, below. It will help us to know who wants to perform in the show. If you are not sure if you have paid your performance fee, contact Brandy. The performance fee covers the cost of renting the theater for rehearsals and the show. Students will pay \$45.00 for performing in only one dance; and, \$55.00 for those performing in more than one dance. Students pay only one rehearsal fee per show. Please, talk with Brandy if you are not sure which fee your child should pay.

Currently, we do not sell our costumes. We keep them from year to year and reuse them (or components of them) to create new costumes in future shows. Your child will be measured for a costume that will be designed specifically for her/him for that show. They may not be taken home.

Rehearsals

We all know that practice makes perfect.. In order to bring Coppelia to life, students will be asked to spend time in rehearsals outside of class. After we are finished planning with Rob, a full rehearsal schedule will be made available at www.balletwolcott.com on our News page. Please, contact Brandy if you would like a paper copy of the schedule. More general information about rehearsals is listed in our rehearsal guidelines, below.

We welcome your questions and feedback. Please, contact us at:

Helene Nilsen 888-5891, x2 HSNilsen@comcast.net

Brandy Ofciarcik-Perez 249-9278 BrandyBalletWolcott@gmail.com

Thank you for your support of the arts and for the love of your children.

Sincerely,

Brandy and Helene

Performance Fee

Every year we include a performance fee, which helps us to cover the cost of holding some of our rehearsals outside of class time at the Wolcott Town Hall, Highland Center for the Arts, and at Dibden Center for the Arts. If your child wishes to perform in the show, please, return this form along with your payment to us by Saturday, April 14, 2018.

Name of Student/Performer _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

I/my child will perform in one dance only. Fee \$45.00

I/my child wishes to audition and perform in Coppelia in addition to performing in the Dance Concert. \$55.00

I/my child does not wish to perform in the Spring Performance.

We are unsure and need to talk with Brandy or Helene for more information.

Payments may be made to Ballet Wolcott. Payments may be brought to class or mailed:

Ballet Wolcott

PO Box 151

Wolcott, VT 05680

Attendance, Absences, and Volunteers

Attendance Expectations:

Attendance is required at all scheduled rehearsals and classes. There will be no refunds for missed classes. Students may make up missed classes within 30 days. Please, discuss with Brandy what classes your child may attend in order to make up a missed class. Make-up classes may not be carried over to the next semester.

Absences: Ballet Wolcott staff will contact the parents of students who miss 3 or more classes in a row. If students miss 5 or more classes in one semester, the student may be asked to step down from roles in performances, pointe work, and Youth Company. Alert Brandy of any planned absences (such as vacations, school concerts, etc.) from class or rehearsal as soon as possible. For rehearsals, this alert should come in the form of an email (BrandyBalletWolcott@gmail.com) or hand written letter (not via text message). If there is an emergency, please, contact Brandy as soon as possible: 802-249-9278.

Rehearsals and Performances:

Each spring Ballet Wolcott Youth Company and the students of Ballet Wolcott produce a story ballet complete with lighting, scenery, costumes, and props. This requires commitment from Ballet Wolcott families and students.

Rehearsals are times scheduled for practice and preparation for performance. Class is time to practice technique and develop strength to execute movement vocabulary properly. Some of class time will be used to learn choreography for a performance; but, extra rehearsals will always be necessary. Dancers begin rehearsing many weeks in advance of the show. When we perform ballets, several classes may work as a team to present a high quality performance to our community.

Bright lights, a new sound system, and the stage itself can be overwhelming to a young student. Allowing them to work in the space beforehand will help them to become comfortable in the space and allow them to do their best when show time comes.

Please make an extra effort to save rehearsal times as soon as you are notified of them. Ballet Wolcott chooses to work this way so that our students have the opportunity to fully enjoy the process of creating and preparing a performance they can be proud of.

All rehearsal schedules will be e-mailed to parents, posted on the website and bulletin board, and available in print by request.

Students in Ballet 4 and 5 must attend all rehearsals. If a student is unable to be present when scheduled, he or she may lose their role or the opportunity to perform. Please, discuss any potential absences with Brandy.

Assignment of Roles in Performances:

Some roles in Ballet Wolcott productions may be auditioned. Others may be assigned by the director/choreographer. Please, understand that there are many components which are carefully considered when assigning roles: technical ability, a student's natural movement inclinations, stage presence, class attendance, negative/positive attitude, willingness to work hard, ability to attend rehearsals, classroom behavior, injuries, and more. Parents and students are expected to respect the judgment of the Director/Choreographer and do their best in the role they are given as well as be supportive of their fellow dancers. We cannot guarantee any specific part to any specific person. Characters will be separated into Primary and Secondary Roles. Students who are playing Primary Roles will be required to perform in both shows of the Spring Performance. Primary Roles will not be double cast. If you are cast in a Primary Role and know that you will be unable to perform at both shows, please, contact Brandy immediately.

Your child has the freedom to decline a role; however, we may not have another alternate role to offer. Students in Ballet 4 and 5 have the opportunity to audition for roles. They will audition on a specific day outside of class time.

No child will be forced into performing. Please, make it clear to your instructor or the Artistic Director that your child will not be performing in the show as early as possible.

Parent Volunteers:

In order for the studio and performances to run smoothly, parent/guardian volunteers are absolutely necessary. So that numerous tasks are not placed on the shoulders of only a few, parents/guardians from all class levels will be asked to assist with specific tasks throughout the year. With two shows, parents will have the opportunity to volunteer during one performance and watch the other one. Volunteers will receive one free ticket to the show per volunteer. Individual talents and capabilities will be kept in mind. A sign up sheet will be posted in the end of April, before tickets go on sale in May.