



Issue no. 16
August 2024

WELCOME LETTER



OPEN HOUSE!

Open house will be held at our Rib Mountain location on August 28th & 29th from 2-7pm. This is the perfect opportunity to get your dance shoes and apparel for the season, new Wausau Academy swag, register for classes and meet some of our amazing instructors. The Open House will take place at the studio at 226806 Harrier Ave in Rib Mountain.

WELCOME

Thank you for choosing Wausau Academy of Dance! Classes start Monday, September 9th. We are incredibly proud of our program and humbled by the support we have been shown from our community. There is a lot of information in this letter, some new, some unchanged. We recommend holding on to this letter for the duration of the season. We welcome any opportunity to speak with you regarding any questions you may have. We can not wait to begin a new year of dance with your family!

If this is your first year of dance or your sixteenth, please know that there are no silly questions. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Your experience at the dance studio should be an enjoyable one to share with your child. If you have comments, questions or concerns, we are always happy to hear them. We look forward to working with you for many years to come.

Thank you,
Bekki Bauer – Academy Director

REGISTRATION

Enroll early to ensure your spot in each class as class sizes are limited. You can confirm your class(es) by logging into your account on our website, calling 715-841-0060, or at our Open House. If you have not registered, you are able to register for classes three easy ways:

1. On our website www.wausauacademyofdance.com
2. Call 715-841-0060
3. Register in person at Open House

BALLET REGISTRATION

Students enrolled in Ballet 3-5, please note that the class meets twice per week. Ballet 6-8 meets three times per week. This means your child will attend more than one class per week. Pointe 2 will meet twice a week and 3/4 meets three times a week. If you have a scheduling conflict please speak to one of the Ballet Instructors for recommendations. Come recital time, your teacher will confirm with you which show your child will perform in.

CLASSES OFFERED & CLASS PLACEMENTS

Primary Classes: Intro to Dance, Acro, Intro to Dance 2, Tap/Jazz, Pre-Ballet & Tiny Hip Hop

Leveled Classes: Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Pointe, Acro, Modern, Lyrical, Pilates, Hip Hop and more!

Ballet 3-5 dancers must attend twice per week. Ballet 6-8 dancers must attend 3 times per week.

Pointe 3 & 4 dancers must attend twice per week.

Competition Classes: These classes require an audition and placement by teacher.

New this year:

Tiny Tots Wiggles & Giggles, our program for 2-3 year olds and their parent or grandparent. The parents will not perform but there will be opportunities for the dancers to participate in casual performances at the studio.

You & Me: This class will meet on some Sundays starting in January. Rather than call this class Daddy/Daughter dance we want to make sure we include all dancers so any dancer and their *important someone* can participate! Watch for details to come.

Fitness Classes: Returning this season is our adult fitness program. We have several class options to choose from including Cardio Dance, Pilates and more!

For returning families, you will be able to access your child's class recommendations in the portal by simply clicking on their name and scrolling to the bottom of the page. If you are a new student and do not know which level to register for, please reach out to our Studio Manager Lindsey, at info@wausauacademyofdance.com

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Please check our website or Facebook page for updates on canceled classes due to inclement weather.

OBSERVING CLASSES

All classes may be viewed from the lobby. We love having parents observe classes! We have Parents Week in the spring when parents are welcome in the classroom to observe or participate.

CLASS ATTENDANCE, TIMELINESS & MAKING UP MISSED CLASSES

We love seeing your smiling faces in class each week! Please be sure to attend classes regularly. This will instill confidence in your child and ensure consistency in training. Please have your child arrive on time. If there will be a weekly issue with this, please notify the instructor. If your child misses a class due to illness or other conflict, they may participate in another similar class at another time. If you would like to make up a class, please speak with Bekki or your teacher to discuss which class would be best for you to attend. Refunds are not given for missed classes. If your child will be out of town for a lesson it may be possible to arrange for a remote lesson via Zoom or FaceTime.

DANCE SEASON & TUITION POLICY

Total Hours/Week	Tuition Fee/Month
.5	\$40
.75	\$50
1	\$60
1.25	\$70
1.5	\$80
1.75	\$90
2	\$100
2.25	\$110
2.5	\$120
2.75	\$130
3	\$140
3.25	\$150
3.5	\$160
3.75	\$170
4	\$180
4.25	\$190
4.5	\$200
4.75	\$210
5	\$220
5.25	\$230
5.5	\$240
5.75	\$250
6	\$260
6.25	\$270
6.5+	\$275

Our dance season starts September 9th and will go through our spring recital at the end of April or beginning of May. During the dance season, all primary and leveled classes will learn a set of skills, learn a dance and have the opportunity to perform! Tuition will be billed on a monthly basis with 8 equal installments, September through April. September tuition will be due upon registering for classes. Monthly payments are then due the 1st of each month through the end of the season. Accounts more than 30 days past due are subject to a finance charge of 1.5% per month (18% annually). Please pay your account in a timely manner. You can set up an automatic payment through the Parent Portal. You can do this by saving your card info then selecting the monthly e-payment schedule option. This option will pay your account balance on the first of each month.

Tuition is based on the total number of class hours per week per student. Additional siblings' tuition is discounted 40%. To the left is our tuition fee schedule. Cancellation Policy: If, for any reason, your child stops attending their lessons before the end of the month, you will not receive a refund but you are not obligated to pay for any future months.

Families not paying by September 1st will forfeit their spot in the class.

- Private Lessons:

\$65/hour- soloist, \$40/hour- duet(per dancer), \$25/hour- trio(per dancer)

COSTUME FEES

Costumes are ordered for each student performing in the *Centerstage* recital. Fees are due November 1st. A costume will not be ordered for your child without payment. Costs are \$60 for Primary Level classes, \$65 for Level 1 and \$75 for levels 2 and up. Spark and Strive costumes will be \$80. There are no refunds for costumes once they have been ordered. There may be some higher leveled classes that will rent costumes rather than purchase.

COMMUNICATION

We communicate important information with you through handouts and emails. Please make sure that we have your correct email address on file. Please make sure our emails are not going to your spam folder. If your child has missed a class, please check in the office or with your child's teacher to see if you have missed any important information. We will post all handouts on our website under the "Event Information and Handouts" tab. Like us on Facebook! We post updates there as well. If your child is a member of the competition team you must also use the app "Band."



Leap Dance Boutique is Wausau's home for dance shoes, apparel, and dance supplies. Items available include, dance shoes, tights, leotards, knee pads, ballet skirts, dance bags, WAD gear and more! We offer high quality items at better than retail prices.

DRESS CODE

All apparel and shoes are available for purchase at Open House and throughout the school year. Inclusivity: We welcome questions regarding tights and shoe color, specifically when dancers are asked to match their skin tone. We don't stock all available shades of tights and shoes but we are happy to help with getting your dancer what they need. We want dancers of all shapes, sizes, colors and genders to feel welcome and shine in the classroom and on stage.

Girls

Acro: Leotard, unitard or sports bra and shorts (no baggy clothes). Barefoot. Hair must be in a bun

Ballet 1-6: Please use a hair net to make a secure bun. Tights, Danshuz or Weissman pink ballet shoes, ballet skirt and class leotard. **Ballet 1:** black leotard **Ballet 2:** purple leotard **Ballet 3:** blue leotard **Ballet 4:** green leotard **Ballet 5:** maroon leotard **Ballet 6:** red leotard **Ballet 7 & 8:** any color leotard **Teen Ballet:** any color leotard.

Hip Hop 1-5, Tiny Hip Hop: Something comfortable to move in. No jeans please.

Intro to Dance 1 & 2: Leotard (any color) or unitard, tights, hair pulled away from the face. Weissman brand pink ballet shoes (no ties) and Weissman brand dark tan Mary Jane tap shoes.

Jazz (all levels): Any color leotard or fitted tank top and dance shorts, hair pulled away from face in a ponytail or bun. Dark tan Weissman brand jazz shoes.

Lyrical (all levels): Any color leotard or fitted tank top and dance shorts, hair pulled away from face in a ponytail or bun. Danshuz or Weissman half sole shoes.

Modern (All levels): Any color leotard or fitted tank top and dance shorts, hair pulled away from face in a ponytail or bun. Barefoot

Pre-Ballet: Light pink leotard, ballet skirt, pink tights. Hair pulled back into a tight bun. Weissman brand pink ballet shoes (no ties)

Tap/Jazz: Any color leotard or fitted tank top and dance shorts, hair pulled away from face in a ponytail or bun. Dark tan Weissman Jazz shoes and dark tan Weissman Mary Jane style tap shoes.

Tap 1-2: Any color leotard or fitted tank top and dance shorts, hair pulled away from face in a ponytail or bun. Dark tan Weissman brand Mary Jane tap shoes.

Teen Tap & Levels 3-6: Any color leotard or fitted tank top and dance shorts, hair pulled away from face in a ponytail or bun. Black tie tap shoes.

Tiny Tots- Leotard (any color) or unitard, tights, hair pulled away from the face, any color ballet & tap shoes

STRIVE & SPARK Rehearsals: Dancers must wear black to Friday rehearsals. Dancers may wear their ballet leotard to class if they have ballet preceding their Strive/Spark class or black dancewear. Shoes TBD.

Stretch: Bring your own yoga blocks

Boys

Shoes (All classes): Black shoes, same style as listed above

Ballet: black fitted ballet pants or compression shorts, fitted t-shirt or tank top

Jazz, Lyrical, Modern, Tap/Jazz, Intro to Dance, Intro to Dance 2: Fitted T-shirt or tank top, shorts or pants that allow the knees to be seen. Nothing too baggy.

Hip Hop: Comfortable clothing, please no jeans. Hats can be worn.

Acro: Compression shorts, tank top

STREET SHOES

There are no street shoes allowed in the studios, including parents' street shoes. Please do not stand in the doorway of a studio if you have street shoes on. Dirt will be tracked throughout the studio. Street shoes can have dirt, oil, salt and other nasty things on them that can damage the specialized dance floors. It will also make the floor unpleasant for the dancers.

CHANGING AREAS

We have several changing areas available for the students. If a child needs assistance changing we recommend using the unisex bathrooms in the north wing. We have ample room in the restrooms for changing and a female only changing room in the south wing of the studio.

RECITAL & DRESS REHEARSAL

Our *Centerstage* 2025 performance information will be released at a later date when we are able to confirm theater availability. Our tentative recital dates are April 26 & 27. Please note: if your child has multiple classes, they may be performing in more than one show. Our Spark and Strive dancers are in all shows.

RECITAL MUSIC

Cut recital music for your child's dance will be made available through a Dropbox link and accessed in the Parent Portal. Signs will be posted when these items are available. They are usually available after the first of the year. We encourage the dancers to use their music to practice their choreography at home.

STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS

Dancers who are in the 6th grade and up and are interested in being a student demonstrator should contact Ms. Bekki. Being a demonstrator consists of volunteering for one class per week and properly demonstrating the dance exercises and combinations for younger students. Student demonstrators should have several years of experience in the discipline in which they will be helping. Demonstrators need to love working with kids, have a positive outlook and be outgoing. This is an excellent opportunity for any dancer who is thinking about becoming a school teacher, dancer or dance teacher. Please ask in the office for a Student Demonstrator form if your child is interested in this volunteer position.

LOBBY TALK

Parents and dancers should use kind, supportive language in the lobby in order to help create a friendly learning environment.

SAFETY

Young dancers should not be in the studio classrooms without a teacher present. This is for the safety of the dancers. We cannot be responsible for watching your child if you are not here and your child is not in class. Parents, please do not let your children run through the lobby, stand on furniture, sit in window sills, or go into empty dance studios. Children under ten years old should not be left alone at the studio, unless they are in class. We are not responsible for children who are left unattended. Students should wait inside the building until their ride arrives. Unsupervised children will be given an espresso and a puppy. :-) We kindly ask that you leave the handicap parking spots available for those with handicap stickers, even if our lot is full. We also want to give a reminder to obey the speed limits in the neighborhood and the stop signs outside of the parking lot.

DANCER'S WORLD

There are things that dancers do that might not make sense at first, but there are good reasons for the strange things we do.

1. Why don't dancers wear underwear with their costume or leotard? If you are wearing underwear with your costume or leotard, it will show. Our leotards and costumes are modestly cut, however, all of the moving your dancer will do causes them to shift. Underwear poking out, draws much more unwanted attention than not wearing underwear at all. This is why there is a gusset in the dancers' tights.

2. Why do we have to do our hair & make-up for dress rehearsal? This is your teacher's chance to get one last look at everyone and make sure that the class looks polished and that there are no surprises on the performance day.

3. Why do dancers wear leotards and tight clothing? A dancer's wardrobe is so because it allows the teacher (and dancer) to view the placement and alignment of the body. If the dancer's body is covered in T-shirts and anything covering the knees, it makes it much more challenging to make corrections. The body is a dancer's instrument and teachers are looking at the alignment of the body from head to toe and everything in between.

4. Why do dancers wear buns? With the hair pulled away from the face and off of the neck, the teacher and student have a better view of the alignment of the neck. Keeping the hair in a bun also keeps long hair out of the eyes when turning.

MORE THAN DANCE

Dancing at the studio is not only about learning steps and staying active, it can be so much more! We strive to encourage the following actions.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Being involved in your community is a great way to appreciate it and make it better. We offer several opportunities including: Community fundraising and donations for Wausau's Holiday Parade, *Woodchuck performances*, nursing home performances, and more. We also have a 'bring a friend to class week' where your child's friend can accompany them to class for a day!

ACCOUNTABILITY

Every year, once all of the choreography has been learned and rehearsed, the teacher of your child's class will pick one day of class when everyone will be asked to perform their dance by themselves. This is a way to encourage the students to be responsible for what they are learning. This should not be a scary thing and they will have plenty of rehearsal time prior to their performance. This is for classes level 1 and up. From our experience, the students love this opportunity to shine individually.



WAUSAU ACADEMY OF DANCE CALENDAR 2024-25

All School Calendar

Open House	August 28th & 29th, 2-7pm
1st Day of Class	September 9th
Studio Workshop w/ Pato Cierna	September 14th
Fall Break	October 25th-October 31st
Costume Deposits Due	November 1st
Thanksgiving Break	November 25th-Nov. 30th
Christmas Break	December 23rd-January 4th
Student Appreciation Week	February 17th-23rd
Winter Break	February 24th-March 2nd
Spring Break	March 24th-29th
Centerstage (Spring Recital)	April 26th & 27th(Tentative)

WAUSAU ACADEMY OF DANCE

2024-2025 Performance Season



Dancers on our competition team take part in this fundraising show with proceeds dedicated to Children's Wisconsin. Over the last 15 years we are proud to have raised over \$60,000 for Central Wisconsin charities that focus on the health and well being of children. Held at the James F Veninga Theater at UW Stevens Point in Wausau on December 7th & 8th

In the Spotlight is our annual reveal of our competition team dances as well as a showcase for our many talented soloists, duet and trio performers. There are three unique performances highlighting our talented dancers. Help us kick off our competition season with a bang!



WAUSAU ACADEMY OF DANCE
COMPETITORS

Our Strive & Spark Competition Team will showcase their talents and compete against kids from across the Midwest this spring. The teams will attend 2-4 competitions in Madison, Oshkosh, Appleton and more. Livestreams are often available for our hometown fans to enjoy. Stay tuned for viewing info.

Centerstage is the capstone of the entire season. All dancers enrolled in performing classes for the eight month season will perform in this celebratory show. Audience members will enjoy seeing a range of ages from 3-18 take the stage and showcase the skills and smiles they have acquired through the season.

