

RECITAL PACKET 2010

Hello Studio Family! Can you believe it's RECITAL TIME! As this time nears, we thought it would be helpful to cover as many details as possible now before it gets too crazy! Please keep this packet in a safe spot where you can refer to it when needed. **I know this is lengthy, but it is truly filled with very important information and answers to many questions.**

Before we begin, I want to explain why there are so many "rules". When we started this eight years ago, most of these rules were non-existent. With each problem that arose, we tried to implement policies to correct these situations in the best way possible. Please know that our goal is always for our students and their families to have the best experience possible. Some rules may seem silly or pointless. Please trust our judgment as professionals that these rules do indeed have reasons. They NEED to be in place in order for us to do our jobs to the best of our abilities. They apply to EVERYONE. Please, please be respectful of this. **Children cannot learn respect for these rules without the support of parents. Thank you so much for your understanding.**

We are committed to being equally fair to ALL of our families. In order to attain this we ask that you **PLEASE REVIEW THESE POLICIES WITH YOUR DANCERS**, and please understand why we ALL must adhere to these policies. With everyone's co-operation, we will have an amazingly wonderful "smooth sailing" show!

QUESTION AND ANSWER NIGHT FOR "NEW" PARENTS

Wednesday, April 14 at 7pm at the studio, we can go over the recital information and answer any questions that you may have. This is intended for **New** families, but anyone may join us for a refresher "class".

PICTURE DAY

Picture Days are Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17 here at the Studio. Please note that no one is required to purchase photos! We do, however, ask that if at all possible students do come for their group photos so that we may have group photos of as many of our dancers as possible. **PLEASE WEAR COSTUMES, REQUIRED SHOES AND TIGHTS, and RECITAL HAIRSTYLE!** The schedule will be on our website and at the studio, as soon as we receive it.

RECITAL TICKETS will be sold during picture day hours on Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17 at a *special rate of \$13/seat*. After picture days, all tickets will be sold during office hours and at the door at **\$15/seat**. **All accounts must be in good standing before purchasing.**

As always, **NO REFUNDS OR RETURNS FOR TICKETS**. All seats are general admission and taken on a first come-first serve basis. Ticket holders may enter from the main entrance **ONLY- NO EXCEPTIONS!** If you arrive at the show without tickets, you will need to purchase tickets to enter. No refunds will be given on tickets! Please hold on to your tickets- we cannot replace lost tickets without asking that you re-purchase them. Audience members will need tickets/ticket stubs to enter and re-enter the auditorium. -we **cannot** hold tickets for anyone at the door. Please be sure to give tickets to your guests prior to recital day. **SAVING ROWS OF SEATS FOR EXPECTED FAMILY AND FRIENDS IS PROHIBITED.** If you want to sit with a group of people PLEASE unite outside, prior to admittance to the auditorium. *With the exception of a reserved section for staff members and show volunteers*, there will be **NO RESERVED SEATING**. People holding seats will be asked to remove their obstacles. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

DRESS REHEARSAL AT LANCASTER MENNONITE H. S.

Monday, May 3rd (Rehearsal for Friday Recital)

Tuesday, May 4th (Rehearsal for Saturday recital)

TIME: 5:00pm sharp

Lancaster Mennonite High School is located on the south side of Route 30, before the Tanger Outlets. The performance auditorium is the second building on the right side of the campus. Students will first meet in the auditorium at 5pm sharp where they will receive instructions. Students in the first 7 numbers of the rehearsal will then report to the dressing rooms. If your first dance is after the first 7 numbers, you may stay in the auditorium and watch until 7 numbers before your first number, when you report to your dressing room. (Children ages 9 and under MUST have parental supervision in order to do so, otherwise they must remain in dressing rooms). Students will be lined up backstage 5 numbers before they go on, and this should allow enough time to accomplish this. Please know that this is a very common practice. In the past, several students missed their dances because they were not where they were supposed to be. We want this to be such an enjoyable day, but we need to know where students are at all times, and we need to keep the rehearsal going as smoothly as possible. Without everyone's cooperation, this cannot happen. **Students will rehearse in full costume and makeup (see instructions) and should arrive at the school this way.** Simply wear street clothes or a large shirt over the costumes when coming to and from the high school. We will run the rehearsal as closely to the recital as possible, rehearsing not only the dancing, but also the entire operation. **THIS IS TO MAKE THE ACTUAL RECITAL RUN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.** This is why we run in order and have students practice the dressing room scenario. Therefore, unless otherwise notified, students will be in dressing rooms with a recital volunteer. Parents of younger dancers MUST remain with their dancer, until they are lined up. Two moms from each class would be fine, as this would free up other moms to volunteer elsewhere. When a student's **last** number is finished, he/she may return to the dressing area, collect their belongings, and sit quietly in the audience or leave. **Parents are permitted to video/photograph the Dress Rehearsal only.**

Note: ONLY Parents and guardians are allowed at Dress Rehearsal.

This decision was made after trying it other ways for the first six years. It is just too loud and chaotic, and does not allow the rehearsal to be as functional as it should. ***PLEASE no friends, extended family, etc. This is a CLOSED REHEARSAL...Open ONLY to Dancers and their parents and or guardians.*** Many studios have completely closed rehearsals, but we really want to try this route first, in lieu of making such a drastic change. *Thank You for your much needed cooperation. If we find this policy is not adhered to next year's rehearsal will be closed to everyone.*

We will be having "FINALES" again this year. All of our children's combo classes will be in the 1st half this year, as these young classes are the ONLY ones of which students may leave during intermission. Supervised dressing rooms will be provided for these classes during the 1st half only. At intermission, parents may either pick these children up and leave, or may take them out into the auditorium to watch the 2nd half of the show (no ticket is needed). At the end of the 1st half, these classes will re-enter the stage to take a final bow. This will be rehearsed immediately following announcements at the dress rehearsals.

All other students will partake in a similar "finale" at the end of the 2nd half. This too will be rehearsed following announcements at the rehearsal.

RECITAL

Lancaster Mennonite High School

Friday, May 7th at 7:00pm

Saturday, May 8th at 12:00pm

ENTER/EXIT Dancers must arrive in dressing room **NO LATER THAN 6:15pm on FRIDAY and 11:15am on SATURDAY.** Please fill out an index card with dancers name and tape it to a wall or desk to "claim" an area where his or her items will be kept. Students must be dropped off at the 2 middle doors, just past the catwalk on the right. Signs will be posted. **DO NOT GO TO THE FAR ROW OF DOORS IN THE REAR OF THE SCHOOL! The front doors will be locked. THOSE DROPPING DANCERS OFF MUST EXIT THE BUILDING**

THROUGH THE DROP OFF DOORS AND RE-ENTER THE BUILDING AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE NO SOONER THAN 45 MINUTES BEFORE SHOWTIME.

INTERMISSION We will have a 15-minute intermission midway through each show. During this time we ask that unless you are helping a small dancer change, please refrain from visiting dancers backstage and in their dressing rooms. This causes a HUGE commotion, and poses safety and security issues. If your child may need you for **any** reason, we will locate you via the public addresses system. **Sorry- NO Dads OR video taping are permitted backstage at any time due to girls changing.**

VERY IMPORTANT: Children are not permitted to leave the backstage/dressing room areas *during* the show. If you must leave the recital or need to get your child, we need to ask that this be at intermission *only*. This is a HUGE safety and security issue, and cannot be allowed. Thank you for your understanding.

ALL DANCER'S IN COMBO CLASSES MUST BE PICKED UP AT INTERMISSION. THERE WILL NOT BE SUPERVISION PROVIDED for the 2nd half! PLEASE MAKE THE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS.

VOLUNTEERS Babysitter and volunteer room helpers will be assisting younger dancers backstage. Volunteers are needed, please see attached form. Dancers will have the opportunity to view the recital from their dressing rooms via television monitors. *PLEASE DO NOT touch any media equipment in the dressing rooms. Recital room volunteers will be given a PASS to watch the other 1/2 of the show. They do not need to purchase a ticket to the recital.*

WHAT TO BRING

Each dancer must have all costumes and shoes (LABEL, LABEL, LABEL!) A supply of bobby pins, hairspray, combs, brushes and make-up. Clear nail polish is great in case of a run in tights! Any students with multiple dances can bring a clothing rack to hang costumes. Quiet games, cards, books, are also wonderful. Crayons and colored pencils with coloring books are fine, but we ask that students do NOT bring markers or pens. ****With the exception of water bottles and a finger friendly costume friendly light snack.*, PLEASE- no candy or drinks in the dressing rooms or stage areas. **THESE ITEMS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY.** This has been a huge problem in the past, resulting in the high school being very upset. Please have all dancers eat a wonderful dinner/lunch before coming to the school. We will NOT be providing a snack during intermission this year. There will be a designated space in each room for eating your snacks. If the snack is not appropriate (see list of ideas on the bulletin board), they will be asked to toss it out.

Video Taping of Recital

Mr. Jamie Weachter is professionally videotaping the recital again. Out of respect, there is absolutely NO VIDEO TAPING at the recital. See attached form to purchase a video. Also, Please NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY during the recital for the safety of all dancers on stage! Parents MAY video and use flash photography at the dress rehearsal.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES AT THE SHOW!

No food or drinks permitted in the Auditorium at any time

HAIR, MAKE-UP & COSTUMES

Hair:

Unless otherwise specified, our standard hairstyle is a low bun with the hair parted to the dancers left side. Bangs MUST be off the face. Hairnets are definitely preferred for your bun, and can be found in drug stores. They keep your bun nice and neat. Please be sure your hair and headpieces are tightly secured. Hair should be done before arriving to the school. Please part short hair the same way and secure with a barrette.

Make-up:

The purpose of stage make-up is to be sure that the dancer's face is not "washed out" in the stage lights. Please apply your average amount of make-up (blush, non-frost lipstick, brown eye shadow) older girls may add a little mascara, eyeliner, foundation, powder, etc- or slightly more-

just enough so not to appear washed out. Please no “clown makeup.” Make-up should be applied before coming to the school. Please no body or face glitter! No nail polish, except for clear. Please try not to develop noticeable tan lines! This can be distracting!

No jewelry, except for small studs. The dancer will be asked to remove it; in this case, LAD is not responsible for keeping it safe. They will also not be allowed to leave backstage to give it to their parent.

Costumes:

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING! Shoes, headpieces, tights, you name it. This is very exciting time for students, and things have a way of getting misplaced! Before you leave your house, please triple check that you have everything you need- all garments and accessories. One suggestion would be to put all accessory items in a large zip-loc bag labeled with the dancers name and song. Please no underwear! The main reason for this is the noticeable panty lines. Also, in many costumes, the underwear sticks out. This is why tights are required even with costumes consisting of pants, to offer the appropriate coverage. Again, we ask this to never call attention to the dancer’s, well, “underwear area”!

Dancer’s with more than one number: After each dance, you must change immediately into your next performance costume! NO EXCEPTIONS! This is the only way a parent volunteer can easily locate you by sight.

STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO FOLLOW THESE VERY IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:

1. All Dancers must respect and listen to their room chaperones.
2. Students MUST remain with their chaperones backstage! Students must stay in their designated rooms until called to leave.
3. No chewing gum.
4. No loud talking in the hallways and wings.
5. Please leave valuables at home. If you choose to bring handheld games, DVD players, iPods, etc, neither the Litz Academy of Dance, nor the Lancaster Mennonite High School are responsible for the lost items.
6. Quiet games, cards, books, are wonderful to bring. Crayons and colored pencils with coloring books are fine, but we ask that students do NOT bring markers or pens.
7. ***With the exception of water bottles and a finger friendly costume friendly light snack., PLEASE- no candy or drinks in the dressing rooms or stage areas. THESE ITEMS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY. This has been a huge problem in the past, resulting in the high school being very upset. Please have all dancers eat a wonderful dinner/lunch before coming to the school. We will NOT be providing a snack during intermission this year.
8. All dancers MUST keep their space picked up at ALL times. Please keep all personal items in a labeled bag.
9. Most importantly- Respectful, courteous behavior is expected at all times. We are very grateful to have such a lovely facility. Let’s please show our appreciation by cleaning up after ourselves and conducting ourselves as wonderful young ladies and gentlemen. Please cheer each other on and build each other up.
10. The only time dancers are allowed backstage is when you are waiting to go on stage.

Dancer’s with more than one number: After each dance, you must change immediately into your next performance costume! NO EXCEPTIONS! This is the only way a parent volunteer can easily locate you by sight.

OLDER STUDENT:

Please remember the example you present to our younger dancers. Give them love, encouragement and be wonderful role models for them to look up to. We love you SO MUCH!

Dearest parents,

I cannot thank you enough for taking such an interest in your children's dance. Your help with the recital benefits ALL these precious kids, and we are very thankful for your generosity. Quite honestly, we could not run a show so safely and smoothly without help of parents. This is such an exciting time of year. I remember my childhood recitals like yesterday - they are some of my most cherished memories. Thank you for adding to the excitement and helping to make wonderful memories for all our dancers. A ton of love and thanks to you!

2010 Recital Volunteer Form

Your help is needed for the Spring Recital. If you are willing to *volunteer* your time (or know someone), please fill out this sheet and return to the front desk no later than Saturday, April 17th. Please check one or more of the following volunteer positions. Please keep in mind that certain volunteer positions require being back stage during the show. We would not be able to have such a safe, organized, entertaining show, if it was not for our wonderful parents and volunteers! Please note that special seating for 6 family members is available for volunteers marked with an *! We will contact you to let you know all necessary information or if all slots have been filled.

Name of volunteer _____

Phone # _____ **Email** _____

***I will be using _____ of my 6 seats**

Dressing Room Chaperone *: (14 needed) to oversee the children in their dressing rooms. We will need 2+ per dressing room during each ½ of the show. Volunteers are needed for one half of the show. You will be able to see your child dance!

- 1st half on Friday 1st half on Saturday
 2nd half on Friday 2nd half on Saturday

Runner REHEARSAL: (5 needed per time slot) Help getting dancers from dressing room to stage, line up dancers backstage and escorting them back. During rehearsal only.

- Monday Night Rehearsal
 Tuesday Night Rehearsal

Back Stage Runner RECITAL *: (MUST be available all night/day!)

- Friday night Saturday Afternoon

Clean-up: After the show! Would be need 10 helpers for about 10 min.

- After the show Friday (approx. 10 minutes)
 After the show Saturday (approx. 10 minutes)

Dressers *: 2 or 3 Moms or ladies for each show to help with any necessary last minute costume, hair and make-up "fixes".

- *Before the show on Friday *Before the show on Saturday
 Intermission on Friday Intermission on Saturday

