



Dear Parents:

We'd like to welcome all of our new and returning dancers to New Hope Parks & Recreation Dance! We are excited for great year! The following is information that will help to make this year successful for everyone.

We will start this fall by learning or reviewing basic steps, which we will build on throughout the year. Recital dances will be taught starting in January.

Introducing our Staff:

Melissa Guse is starting her 20th year teaching/coordinating the New Hope Parks & Recreation dance program. She had 17 years of dance training at Kay Marie and Carol's School of Dance in Robbinsdale and is a graduate of the Child Development program at Hennepin Technical College.

Laurie Dube' will be teaching classes on Wednesdays and assisting with classes on the other days. This is Laurie's 11th year assisting/teaching and she danced for 17 years. She is a graduate of Northwestern College and is currently a teacher with Robbinsdale Creative Play.

Sarah Hlavacek will be assisting with some classes on Monday and the Wednesday classes. She has been dancing for 15 years and is currently a freshman at Crown College. This is Sarah's third year assisting.

Erin MacLaughlin will be assisting with Saturday classes. She has been dancing for 12 years and is a junior at Cooper High School. This is Erin's second year assisting.

Sydney Erickson will be assisting with Thursday classes. She has been dancing for 13 years and is a sophomore at Cooper High School. This will be Sydney's first year assisting.

Clothing: To help your child receive the most out of dance class, we ask that they come to class **dressed in proper dance attire**. **This includes leotards and tights for the girls (please, no t-shirts over leotards) and shorts and t-shirts for the boys.** If you have not purchased dance shoes, we will be placing an order within the first few weeks of class. When purchasing shoes, the following are needed:

Black tap and white leather ballet shoes -	Age 3-Grade 3
Tan buckle tap and white leather ballet shoes-	Grades 4-12
Tan jazz shoes -	Grades 2-12

Costumes: Recital costumes will be ordered in November. The payment will be due by November 1st. Costume prices will be posted as soon as they are available.

Attendance: Regular attendance is essential for progress. It also affects the other dancers in the class, so please make every effort to attend. We encourage all dancers to practice at home. Sorry, but you are not able to make up a class session by attending a different class.

Pick-Up: If someone else will be picking up your dancer after class, please let one of the instructors know. **Please make every effort to pick up your dancer on time.** After a ten minute grace period, a late fee of \$5.00 will be assessed for every 10 minutes (or a portion thereof) a child is late being picked up.

(Over for additional information)

Recital: The recitals are a very important part of the dance program since this gives students an opportunity to show family and friends what they have learned during the year. **All dancers need to be in attendance.** If a dancer misses an excessive number of classes, they may not be able to participate in the recitals. Please mark your calendars: Rehearsal – May 12; Recitals – May 19 & 20.

Visitors: Even though there are benefits for both child and observing parent, we have found the learning experience is less stressful and concentration is noticeably better without parents present. To help with home practice, you may purchase a music CD. The CD's will be available at class during the last week of October. The cost is \$5.00 and will include music for the entire year.

We have set aside the following dates for families to stay and observe the class. Please mark the following dates on your calendars: **October 24, 25, 26, 27, 29** **November 28, 29, 30, December 1, 3**

Please be courteous! When staying to watch your dancer, please refrain from talking with other parents or to your child during the class. If a sibling is being disruptive, please be considerate and remove them from the room. Turn off all cell phones!

Registration: You are currently registered for the fall session, which will run for 8 weeks. The end of October, registration flyers for the winter session will be available at class. Registrations are taken at the Parks & Recreation office, either in person or by phone (with a credit card) M-F, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. On-line registration is not available for winter and spring dance sessions. **If a dancer has not officially registered for the winter session with the Parks & Recreation office, they will not be allowed to participate in the first class.** The winter session will start on November 19th. Spring session flyers will be available the end of January.

Pictures: Recital costume pictures (individual and group) will be taken by a professional photographer on April 10th & 11th. Additional information will be distributed at the parent day in March.

Weather Cancellations: It seldom happens, but if you have a question whether or not class is cancelled due to weather, check the weather cancellation line at 763-531-5158. The line will be updated accordingly.

Communication: If you have any questions or problems, please see Melissa or Laurie after class. **If it is urgent and cannot wait until your next class,** you can leave a voice mail message at 763-531-5165 (messages will be checked once a day). Or you can email:

Melissa at melissaguse@izoom.net

Laurie at Laurie.Dube@rdale.org

If you would like to receive email updates, please email Melissa. Please include your name, child's name, class day and time.

Welcome to New Hope Parks & Recreation Dance and Happy Dancing!