

Saturday April 11, 2020

Hello AOM,

It is with a disappointed heart that I deliver the news of a very tough decision for us. While we are still several weeks away from June 7th, and I was praying for a different turn of events, I am making the decision to cancel our June 7th Spring Recital. We would need to be in full scale preparation as of this week and we just can't do what needs to be done in these circumstances. Based on the information we have about COVID19 and the recommendations from both the government and the CDC we don't foresee how it can be safe and/or healthy to put 1000 of our family and friends in the same facility on the same day. We just can't justify that risk for our families, students or staff.

We have worked so hard to prepare for virtual classes and will continue with the exact same schedule next week, as it is inclusive of the first half of tuition. Although we have had extremely positive feedback about the zoom lessons, we feel it would be unfair to assume that everyone would like to continue learning indefinitely through this platform. For those of you that look forward to your weekly classes you will certainly have the option to continue your dancer's training at your discretion. I know there have been a lot of questions about what happens from here so I will do my best to explain our plan below.

Competitive Families:

Competition Dancers will continue the same exact schedule and training regimen for both recreational and competitive classes as we work towards Nationals in July.

Recreational Families:

For those students who are loving virtual classes and those parents that are depending on it ;) We'll continue with a Brand New Virtual Dance Session at a discounted price. \$25 for 5 weeks/ \$5 per class. More details on the new Virtual Session schedule to be released next week. It will run from May 3-June 5.

Monthly Payment Recreational Families:

For those of you who do not wish to continue with the new Virtual session there will be NO further withdrawals. We are sad this is the way our semester ended and look forward to seeing you again in the Summer or in the Fall to pick up where we left off.

Pay in Full Recreational Families:

If you paid in full we will be reaching out to you to offer some refund options next week.

March 15 Costume Payments:

If you paid for a new recital costume on March 15, you will receive a full refund.

We hope that you continue to keep our dancers moving and engaged with us for the next few weeks, but we understand that each family needs to make the best decision for them based on many factors. We appreciate all that you have done just over the past 2 weeks to keep us connected and look forward to dancing with them at the Institute as soon as possible.

If you have further questions please don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to next week's included classes and will push out information on the new session/ registration ASAP. Stay safe and healthy and keep up the great work. Balancing the "new norm" is not at all an easy task. We appreciate you!

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Holiday,
Thank You,

Jenn Caputo
Director, Academy of Movement Dance Department, Yocum Institute for Arts Education

