

Artistic Directors/Owners:
Adam B. Clark
Lisa Darby Clark



Studio Location:
811 W. Michigan Ave.
Saline, MI 48176
734.429.9599

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1628
Brighton, MI 48116

www.dancealliancesaline.com
studio@dancealliancesaline.com

NEWSLETTER

April 2015

Dear Dance Alliance Students and Parents,

The Winter/Spring semester is well underway. All the steps that it takes to produce a concert are in motion. The costumes will soon be handed out and the teachers have been busy choreographing. Now to let you know what comes next. ***Please read this newsletter carefully as it contains important information.***

SPRING CONCERT: Saturday, May 16th & Sunday, May 17th. We will have two matinees that will feature 3 year olds through 3rd graders. The two evening performances will include 4th graders and up. The matinees will be on Saturday, May 16th at 3:00 and Sunday, May 17th at 1:00. The evening performances will be Saturday, May 16th at 7:00 and Sunday, May 17th at 4:00. ***Please see the enclosed shoe, tight, and concert assignment sheet for specific clarification.*** This information is also included in the costume books in the lobby of each studio. All dancers will dance in two performances. If your dancer is listed under matinee, he/she dances in both matinees. If your dancer is listed under evening, he/she dances in both evening performances. Be advised that there may be a few instances where dancers will be in both the matinee and evening performances because of the level of classes that are taken. Of course, we try to avoid crossing-over whenever possible. If a dancer is in a class that is a 3rd/4th grade split, the majority determines the level.

CONCERT TICKETS: Tickets are general admission and \$13.00 each. Pre-sale of tickets will begin as soon as you receive this newsletter. Ticket order forms are available on the Dance Alliance Facebook page and will also be available on the studio website. All mail order ticket forms must be received by May 9th for the orders to be filled and returned. Pre-ordered tickets will be distributed in your dancer's class beginning April 20th, one month prior to the performance. Teachers will also have tickets available to sell in classes at that time. If buying tickets from teachers, please have a ticket order form already filled out and please have exact change for the ticket amount or a check made out to Dance Alliance for the exact ticket amount. We do not want to take time during class to try to find change. Tickets will also be available at the door before the performances. We encourage matinee performers to attend the evening performance and vice versa. The dancers have been working so very hard and we want them to be able to share their accomplishments.

CONCERT PROCEDURE: It is important that our dancers and audience members observe appropriate concert etiquette. We are pleased with the steps that have been taken in the past to promote a more pleasant and professional atmosphere and will continue those procedures once again. All dancers will be housed in designated rooms near the stage for dress rehearsal and the duration of both performances. Dancers will be monitored by parent volunteers and Dance Alliance staff. We are doing this for the safety of your dancer, not to be an inconvenience. Amongst the hustle and bustle of the weekend, their safety is of the utmost importance. Dancers can be "reclaimed" at the conclusion of the performances and will at that time be released by their parent volunteers. Please help us to make this very special weekend enjoyable for all. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

PARENTS: You are a very important part of our concert. Without your volunteering, we could not produce a quality performance with such ease. Please be thinking about how you can contribute to our concert. For the matinee performance, we need at least one parent chaperone with each class for each concert. We also need a parent chaperone with some of the evening performance classes as well. We will always allow you to be available to view your dancer's performance from backstage. ***Only official volunteers with badges will be allowed backstage access.*** It is an easy job and a lot of fun to be part of the backstage action. As Dance Alliance backstage helpers, parents will receive a \$5 credit toward their dancer's 2015-2016 dance class tuition. Parents interested in volunteering, please fill out the volunteer sheet available on Facebook and the website and return it to the studio.

PROGRAM ADS: There will once again be an opportunity to advertise in the program this year. Congratulate your dancer or wish him/her luck with a personal ad. It will make your program a keepsake to treasure. Business advertising is also a possibility. A program ad form will be available at the studio shortly. The deadline date is the first day of May. Don't miss out!

UNPAID ACCOUNTS: Winter/Spring tuition and costume balances were due February 1st 2015. Monthly billings have been sent and when necessary, late fees have been applied. Students with unpaid accounts will not be given costumes, will not be allowed to participate in the Dance Alliance Spring Concert and may be removed from class. ***At this time, all accounts should be paid in full.*** Your prompt attention is appreciated!

COSTUMES: We plan on starting the costume distribution Saturday, April 18th. **Reminder: Account balances must be paid in full before your dancer will receive any costumes.** When your dancer brings home his/her costume, please have him/her try on the costume immediately. Parents are responsible for making the necessary alterations. When selecting the appropriate size for each dancer, we ordered according to the recommended size chart for each manufacturer. If a dancer was on the borderline, we bumped him/her up to the next size to allow adequate room for growth. Please remember that these are not custom-made costumes and that alterations on many of them will be necessary. Please make the necessary alterations in a timely manner: sew shoulder straps, attach tutus to the costume at the hip (not around the waist), hem pants, etc. We understand how busy everyone is; however, do not leave these things until the last minute since it always takes longer than one would think. Too many kids have come to dress rehearsal unprepared and an unaltered costume becomes a safety issue! Be sure to store costumes in a protective covering and put them in a safe place. Please, no home recitals until after the concert. Pictures of costumes are displayed at the studio in the costume books. Prior to the recital, please check the costume books again for any additional or updated information regarding tights and accessories.

TIGHTS: Most ballet students will be wearing theatrical pink matte tights (no shiny) and pink leather ballet shoes (no extra lace or frills). Jazz and tap tights will vary with each class; a list is enclosed. Please purchase your tights early and be sure that they are the required style and color! The Dancer's Boutique has a list of required tights for all of our classes. Recital time is a busy time of year for the dancewear manufacturers and at times, demand exceeds the supply. Don't get caught at the last minute. We highly recommend that you purchase new tights for the performances. After several washings, the tights lose their original color and are more likely to run after repeated wear. An extra pair of tights is also advisable; it is always best to be prepared. After all of the dancers' hard work, we want everyone onstage to have a neat, uniform, and non-distracting appearance. Be sure that your dancer is well prepared and has everything that he/she needs. A dancer cannot dance onstage without a complete costume!

DRESS REHEARSALS: Saturday morning, May 16th. All dancers will have their dress rehearsal on Saturday morning before the performances with the matinee dress rehearsal beginning at 8:00am and the evening dress rehearsal beginning at 10:30am. Although this makes Saturday a little more demanding on the dancers, it does keep Friday free for everyone.

CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS: Jack Durham of *a la carte Images* will once again be at the auditorium during dress rehearsal to take portraits of the dancers in costume. We are also having both performances on Saturday professionally video taped by Pask Video Productions. DVDs will be available for purchase; like our other forms, these forms will be posted. If you want to personally photograph and/or video your dancer's performance, please do so during the dress rehearsal. This way, you will not infringe upon someone else during the actual performance. More info will be included in the May newsletter.

DANCE APPAREL FOR SALE: A variety of Dance Alliance apparel items will be available to celebrate another wonderful year of dance and our studio's upcoming spring recital. Order forms will be available shortly.

SUMMER DANCE WORKSHOPS and CAMPS: The schedule will soon be posted at the studio; more information to follow.

DARC NEWS: Thus far, our Dance Alliance Repertory Company dancers have had a very busy and productive season. DARC recently presented their benefit concert and it was a tremendous performance and a true success. Congratulations to all involved. The DARC Auditions for the 2015-2016 season will be held on May 26th. We will also have an informational meeting for new dancers interested in joining DARC. Watch for information at the studio and in the May newsletter.

CALENDAR REMINDERS:

04/18/15	Costume distribution begins. <i>All accounts must be paid for any costumes to be distributed.</i>
04/20/15	Mail ordered tickets available at class. Tickets available for purchase at class from 4/20 - 5/15.
04/25/15	Parent Volunteer Forms due.
05/01/15	Spring Dance Concert Program Advertising due. Forms available at the studio after break.
05/01/15	Senior Program Information due.
05/09/15	Ticket Mail Order cutoff date.
05/16/15	Spring Dance Concert Dress Rehearsals and Performances.
05/17/15	Spring Dance Concert Performances and Winter/Spring Semester ends.
05/26/15	DARC auditions.

It seems that spring is finally here. Teachers have been diligently choreographing and dances are nearing completion. Now the "clean up" process begins. **Please help us by encouraging consistent attendance.** We understand that for families this is a very busy time of year; we appreciate the dedication of our students and their parents. The training that happens weekly in classes and some of the more tedious work is what allows students to perform with confidence, quality, and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to a fabulous performance!

Thanks,
Adam and Lisa