**Kentucky Dance Academy presents “The Nutcracker”**

Dear Dance Families,

It’s shockingly already that time of year- Nutcracker time! The following letter is a rundown of all the important dates, fees, policies, etc. that are involved with KDA’s production of “The Nutcracker”. The first annual KDA “Nutcracker” will be rehearsed and choreographed by Miss Amanda, and we are excited that Miss Crystal Allen (a KDA mom of Level IV dancer Alexis) will be providing Front of House Management for “The Nutcracker”. Miss Crystal is smart and organized, and is a huge asset to our performance team here at KDA.

Please be advised that this is an OPTIONAL performance. We encourage all families to carefully read over the rehearsal dates, performance dates, expectations, and policies while making their decision about participating in this year’s inaugural performance. “The Nutcracker” is a wonderful holiday tradition for dancers and dance families the world over, and we highly recommend that all our dancers participate if possible.

**Mandatory Performances**

Tuesday, December 11th 12:00 pm School Performance at The Grand Theatre (Frankfort)

Wednesday, December 12th 7:00 pm Public Performance at The Grand Theatre (Frankfort)

Saturday, December 15th 2:00 pm Public Performance at Shelbyville Community Theatre

Saturday, December 15th 7:00 pm Public Performance at Shelbyville Community Theatre

PLEASE NOTE there are two locations for KDA’s “The Nutcracker”. Participating dancers MUST attend all performances.

**Mandatory Rehearsals**

Monday, December 10th Times TBA Dress Rehearsal at The Grand Theatre (Frankfort)

Friday, December 14th Times TBA Dress Rehearsal at Shelbyville Community Theatre

There are two separate Dress Rehearsals since we are performing in two separate locations. Dancers MUST attend both Dress Rehearsals in order to perform. Times will be announced with the weekly rehearsal schedules and cast list by Monday, October 22. Dress Rehearsals will take place exclusively during the after-school hours, and are divided up as specifically as possible to ensure dancers are in the theatre for the shortest amount of time possible. We strive to run a tight ship and stick to our announced schedules! Youth dancers and younger Pre-Professional dancers will be dismissed as early as possible to preserve bedtimes and family routines.

**Weekly Saturday Rehearsals**

Saturday, October 27

Saturday, November 3

Saturday, November 10

Saturday, November 17

Saturday, December 1

Saturday, December 8

Times for Saturday rehearsals are all announced with the Dress Rehearsal schedules and cast list by Monday, October 22. All rehearsals will take place between 12:30 pm (following the Expanding Dance class) and 8:00 pm. Youth dancers can expect rehearsals lasting between 20-45 minutes dependent upon role. Pre-Professional students can expect rehearsals between 30 minutes and several hours dependent upon role. Leading roles, roles involving other age groups, or multiple roles will mean more time spent in rehearsals. Some Pre-Professional Division rehearsals MAY take place in class contingent upon full-class participation so as not to exclude any dancers unable to participate. Generally, we try to keep Youth rehearsals earlier in the day and Pre-Professionals close to their class times (if they have Saturday classes). All rehearsal schedules will be announced by Monday, October 22- any potential conflicts for rehearsal times must be communicated to Miss Amanda before October 20. We cannot guarantee that rehearsals will not conflict with other activities or obligations but do take requests into account when creating rehearsal schedules. Dancers are expected to maintain at least a 60% attendance rate to all rehearsals. Private or semi-private makeup rehearsals may be scheduled at the instructor’s convenience for dancers with subpar attendance or dancers who feel they need extra practice. All private or semi-private rehearsals are conducted at the instructor’s discretion, but no families will be forced to pay for private or semi-private rehearsals if that is a financial burden.

**Participation Fees**

Me and My Grownup Class: $50 (rehearsals conducted in-class, not on Saturdays)

Youth Division (Tiny Twirlers, Special Needs Dance, and Beginning Classes): $70

Pre-Professional Division (Levels I-VI): $80

Participation Fees are due on Saturday, October 13. There will be a list of participating dancers emailed out to all families on Saturday, October 13. If your dancer’s name is missing, though you are planning on participating, you MUST tell Miss Amanda by Monday, October 15 in order to ensure your dancer has a costume. No dancers may be added to the cast list once it is announced Monday, October 22...

Registration may be completed in any one of these ways:

-A check for the participation fee may be given to Miss Amanda with the dancer’s name listed on the “memo” line.

-Dancers or families may pay Miss Amanda, Miss Crystal, or Mr. Zac with a debit card via the Square account at the desk. The staff member taking the payment add the name to the participation list.

- Dancers or families may register online via Classbug following our usual registration link.

Any families requiring payment plans or alternate payment dates MUST communicate with Miss Amanda by October 13. Families are always welcome to have flexibility in their payments and pay schedules as long as the needs are communicated to us at KDA.

We are so thrilled to begin this journey with our wonderful community here at KDA. As always, all dancers and families are welcome to voice any questions or concerns directly to Miss Amanda any time.

Sincerely,

Amanda Whites, Academy Director