

Hello IBA Families!

Welcome to the fall/spring 2023-24 season! We are so happy to have you here at Iowa Ballet Academy, thank you for being with us. Today you are receiving the very important (and somewhat lengthy) Fall Newsletter. As with previous newsletters, there is lots of information including important calendar dates, reminders of studio policies, and other general info. All dates listed below are in chronological order so it is easy for you to add these to your calendars. I've also color coded this newsletter - **blue** is for policy reminders, **red** is for time sensitive dates and holidays, **yellow** is for upcoming performances, and **green** is for student concert information. Lastly, a printable version of this newsletter is available via the blue button below. **Happy reading!**

2023 - 2024 Schedule of Studio Breaks - Mark your calendars!

Thanksgiving Break: November 22nd - 26th

Winter Break: December 21st - January 2nd

Spring Break: March 10th - March 16th

Memorial Day: Monday, May 27th

Illness Reminder

Please encourage your dancer to use good hand washing practices and to stay home if they are contagious, have been running a fever in the last 24 hours, or have not been on an antibiotic (as needed) for at least 24 hours. Everyone benefits from taking time to recuperate when you're under the weather – primarily YOU, but your fellow dancers and IBA staff will thank you for taking that rest time, too! Please contact us if you would like info about options to make up classes that you may miss due to illness (or for any other reason you may miss class).

We are a Peanut and Tree-Nut Aware Studio!

Out of concern and consideration for our dance friends with potentially health-threatening allergies, we ask that peanut and tree-nut products not be brought into the building and dancers/staff please wash their hands prior to class. Clean hands help you to stay healthy and keep our friends safe! Thank you!

Be sure to “LIKE” us on Facebook and “FOLLOW” us on Instagram!

Our immediate form of posting late-breaking news and current events is via our Iowa Ballet Academy social media– things like weather closures and reminders of studio events are posted even quicker on our FB and Instagram pages than any of our other forms of communication. Like us on Facebook and also follow us on Instagram for fun postings of IBA-related photos and videos! Also, don't forget to check out our website: www.iowaballetacademy.com.

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

As we head into the colder and snowier portions of the year, please watch your email, our Facebook page, and the local weather stations for studio closure information. Our general policy is to follow the Urbandale and West Des Moines school districts' cancellation announcements.

Discount Dance Supply Online Ordering Code!

Please consider taking advantage of our special discount rate with the online company, Discount Dance Supply, to order tights, shoes and other dance supplies you may need for the concert or general dance supply. Please use our Teacher ID #TP34356 when placing your order with Discount Dance (www.discountdance.com). You will receive 10% off your first

order with them, then 5% off any future orders you place. ALSO, each time you order it supports our studio in return!

Concert Costume Measurements

Miss Carole will begin taking all students' measurements this week for competition and concert costumes at the Urbandale studio. She will do this at the front desk before/between/after their classes. Instructors at the Valley West studio will be doing this as well. Please let your children know that we will need to wrap a measuring tape around them in order to get these measurements.

Invite a Friend to Class" Week – September 25th-September 28th

For our Open Division and Children's Division classes – we invite you to bring a friend to your dance class during the week of September 25th –September 28th. Spread the word about your love for dance and the fun of taking class at IBA by bringing a friend to your Creative Movement, Pre Ballet, Kindercombo, Combo 1, Acro A, Acro B/C, Lyrical, Ballet A or Jazz A class! Participants must fill out a registration form and sign a waiver. Please see the front desk if you have questions regarding this FUN week!

ButterBraid Fundraiser – October 9th - October 31st

To help you with dance and concert-related expenses, we offer an OPTIONAL fundraiser. We will send home a ButterBraid Pastry order form with your dancer in early October. The sale will run October 9th -30th. These delicious frozen pastry items are super popular and sell very well. If you choose to do the fundraiser, all money you raise is applied directly to your personal account at IBA as a credit to use for things like the concert fees, costume fees, monthly tuition, and apparel items. You will earn \$5 -\$6 per item you sell.

Arrival of your frozen pastry orders will be on November 6th, which makes them wonderful to have in the freezer throughout the upcoming holiday season! You, your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers will love them! If you plan to participate, please note in your calendar NOW the pick up date for your orders is November 6th from 4:00 - 7:00PM at the Urbandale IBA location. These are frozen items that MUST be picked up promptly, so please mark your calendars ahead of time if you choose to participate. We cannot keep these items overnight, so if you forget to pick up your items they will go bad!

IBA Studio Spirit Apparel Sale! (Mid-October)

Have you and your dancers been waiting for your chance to purchase IBA T-shirts, tank tops, jackets, hoodies, pants and dance bags? Well, it's here! The Iowa Ballet Academy's Annual Apparel Sale will run in October (official dates TBD). Watch your email and the front lobby for order forms and item descriptions with pricing. We plan to have charts, photos, and size samples of many of the items in the front lobby for you to try out before you order. Orders will arrive by mid-December, so IBA items make PERFECT holiday gifts!

Concert Fee/Costume Deposit Payment Deadline – OCTOBER 15th

Dancers who want to perform in our 15th annual Spring Student Concert on May 31st and June 1st MUST have their concert fee and initial costume deposit payment made by October 15th, 2023 in order to participate. The payment of these two fees is your agreement to participate. A detailed Spring Student Concert Information email will be sent out to all families later this month.

IBA's Annual Fall Dance Celebration! – October 23rd – 26th

Monday, October 24th – Kindercombo, Pro 1 Jazz, Pro 1 Ballet

Tuesday, October 25th - Combo 1, Acro A, Acro B/C

Wednesday, October 26th - CM/PreBallet, Kindercombo, Lyrical, Pro 1

Tap Thursday, October 27th– Ballet A, Jazz A

The classes listed above may wear costumes or dress up clothes to their class for our annual Fall Dance Celebration! Pro 1 can dress up for both days of class but will only share

their performances on the days listed above. The children are also welcome to bring treats to pass out to their classmates at the end of class, but that is certainly optional! PLEASE BE AWARE WE ARE A NUT-FREE ENVIRONMENT. Please do not bring treats with nuts of any sort. Thank you!

During this special week, we will be inviting you inside our classroom to observe the last 20 minutes of regular class time as the children dance for treats and show off some of the dance skills they have learned. Your child's class will begin at its usual time, but you should plan to join us inside the studio for the last 20 minutes of class. ALL are welcome to come watch the fun – parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends! Bring your cameras, we will be sure to include class picture-taking time into the mix!

DRACULA presented by Iowa Dance Theatre - October 28th

Iowa Dance Theatre puts on several performances a year, such as their Fall performance of Dracula, the very popular Nutcracker production held in December at the Civic Center of DSM, and also a Spring/Summer production. This Fall, come see Dracula on October 28th at the Central High School Auditorium. For more information, please visit <https://www.iowadancetheatre.org/dracula-2023/>. Come watch our many IBA students as Dracula cast members!

Thanksgiving Break – November 22nd – November 26th

No classes will take place Wednesday, November 22nd through Sunday, November 26th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes will resume on Monday, November 27th.

The Nutcracker, presented by Iowa Dance Theatre – December 7th - 9th

Performed at the grandest venue downtown, the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines, this holiday classic is always full of Iowa Ballet Academy participation by students and staff alike. Please come see Clara, the Nutcracker and all of their worldly friends take the stage to tell the story of a girl, a prince and their exciting adventures! Through a battle royale, a snowy forest and on to a beautiful palace - here, dancers delight and amaze the young ballerina girl and her prince... or was everything all just a dream? Come see for yourself! Matinee and evening shows will be available, tickets go on sale to the public September 29th through the Civic Center box office. Watch our studio postings for more information.

Parent Observation Week – December 11th - 16th

December 12th - December 17th is our annual parent observation week. We invite you to attend your children's classes so you can see what they have been working on this semester and how they are improving. Watching your child take class is one of the best ways to see their progress and note any areas in which they may need extra work. Level placements are also less of a surprise to families who have a good idea of how their children are progressing. This also gives you the chance to meet all of your child's instructors. Please plan to attend the entire class if observing. Please do not bring siblings who are too young to sit quietly through class as it can be very disruptive to the students.

Winter Break Date – December 21st – January 2nd

Our Winter Break will be from Thursday, December 21st – Tuesday, January 2nd. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd.

YDC Winter Break Performance - December 27th

Please come see the Yaro Dance Company winter break performance on December 27th at the Urbandale Public Library! If you are interested in being a part of this performance and/or the February Winter Showcase, please reach out to Miss Ami at ayaro@iowaballetacademy.com.

More Concert Information will be sent to you very soon.

Please watch for much more concert-related information including the Picture Day schedule and specific concert rehearsal days/times. Additional concert details will also be released after Winter Break and throughout the Spring. Thank you for taking time to read through this important information! We're looking forward to another amazing year of dancing!

Sincerely,

Ami, Steve, Carole, Megan, Bailey, BaiYu, Brett, Danielle, Emily, Kate, Meredith and Shawna
~ IBA Staff

Iowa Ballet Academy ~ IBA ~ Inspire, Believe, Achieve!

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www.iowaballetacademy.com - Like us on Facebook and Instagram!

