

Dear Dancers and Parents,

Welcome to Weehawken Dance Fall Semester 2019! We are so excited for this semester and all we have in store for your dancer.

Every semester our teachers, staff, show volunteers, and show staff discuss ways to make our program and performances more fun and effortless for everyone. This year we have decided to focus on the individual dancers in our program, as a way to make the show experience the best possible for everyone.

As you know, we perform The Nutcracker bi-yearly. We believe this is invaluable for our ballet program and helps those dancers grow in so many ways. The choreography is technical and hard (so our students learn new movement and improve), the music is beautiful (and hard to count, so their musicality improves), the costumes and sets are gorgeous ...there's a reason why every major ballet company IN THE WORLD performs this ballet every holiday season. We have done a great job creating parts for tappers and hip hop dancers to still be showcased while honoring this iconic ballet. As much as we LOVE it and feel it is important--- we also know we can't ask our audience to sit through a 3 hour dance recital. And even if we could, Tchaikovsky isn't around to write us more Nutcracker music. We also know the show experience was long for many of our smaller dancers, and many audience members left with their young dancer after their act.

For this reason-- we have decided, for this semester, to have our PRE AND PRIMARY dancers perform only once this semester in their own show, where they can be the stars.

Bring on "Nutcracker Sweets"! An abbreviated version of the Nutcracker, showcasing Weehawken's tiniest (and sweetest) talent!

For us--- this semester will serve as a trial. We don't know if we will do this again, but for this semester, we want to try something new and see if we can do better for everyone.

Details on this special show will be out with the rest of the casting in late October, and it will be the same week as our annual Nutcracker on the same stage with the same set and lavish costumes. We have big plans to make this small show spectacular all on it's own, with it being more fun and less stressful for everyone. Think Nutcracker without the nuts.

In addition, we welcome Weehawken dancers level 2 and up (in all dance styles and boys!!!) to audition for lead roles in this show. We would LOVE for some of our students in level 2 and up (not just our upper level teens) to audition and take on roles in this performance. We have so much upcoming talent, and we want to celebrate that without the pressure of the entire Nutcracker.

Please look at your dates to remember information for details on show week and auditions.

For dancers in classes level 1 and up- we plan to have an amazing Nutcracker season. The plan (at this moment) is to do 4 shows with a split cast and 2 separate dress rehearsals. As noted above, we plan to treat students as individuals this semester, and if you have 2 children dancing in our program, it is possible that they may not be performing in the same cast. We will try our best to accommodate everyone, but the focus of Nutcracker is the music with the story,

and although we do a great job to create parts, parts are limited for this particular show and we want everyone to be showcased and look great on stage.

As always, we take great integrity in what we do and do our best to make this experience memorable, fun, and relaxed. Our goal is to create a long lasting love of dance for students, parents and patrons.

Side note-- we are always looking for older boys/teenagers to come partner our ballerinas in the performance. If you have a teenage boy at home, please encourage him to come to the partner audition time and date listed on the dates to remember page. It's a really fun way to be a part of Weehawken's performances without being a "dancer". We are even looking for some smaller partners for Nutcracker Sweets (yeah, how cute will this be!). But please plan on rehearsals if planning to partner. Rome wasn't built in a day, and a partner isn't made in 1 rehearsal.

Remember to check out our "dates to remember" page on the website and put those dates in your calendar. And reminder, most anything you need can be found on the dance resources page on our website too.

If you are really just confused or have a nagging question, please feel free to e-mail me. My teaching schedule is busy, but I usually respond within a day or two.

We can't wait to see how much your dancer learns this semester and watch them shine.

On to Weehawken dance, year 13. We've become a teenager, oh my!

Onward and upward to the best year yet.

Natasha Pyeatte

Artistic Director of Weehawken Dance

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