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MARIA'S SCHOOL OF DANCE

Dedicated to Dance Education since 1995

“Dancing Through The 80’s!” - Recital 2026 Handbook

Dear Parents and Students,

Since 1995, Maria’s School of Dance has provided students with an exciting performance experience through its June recital. The annual staple of the dance school, the recital, conjures images of childhood and Americana for many. It’s a rite of passage for thousands of youngsters, a chance to shine in front of family and friends, which they anticipate with nervous excitement.

The recital offers our students a professionally directed performance which allows them to present to their families and friends the results of a year’s hard work, dedication, and progress.

A big part of the dance training process includes learning through performance. The experience helps build self-esteem, self-assurance, and contributes to a sense of confidence. Although performance opportunities can help prepare some students for a possible career in dance, they also contribute to children’s success in non-dance activities. The onstage experience can result in better in-school presentations, improved social skills, and strong interview skills for future college or job opportunities. The rehearsal process is a tremendous learning experience as well. It helps the children develop retention skills, and by working with their classmates on a group performance, they learn the positive aspects of working as a team to create the best end result.

Dedication to recital commitments is the responsibility of both students and their parents. We’ve created this handbook in an effort to clarify what we expect from you regarding your commitments and responsibilities to the annual recital, the school, and the other students and parents.

We hope you find this handbook helpful in making your recital experience a positive one.

The Staff at Maria’s School of Dance

Pre-Planning

The rehearsal/recital is not a one-day activity. Gather all costumes, accessories, shoes, and makeup several days in advance so you will know if something is missing or is not right. Make a checklist of your child’s routines, listing their costume, tights, shoes, and any accessories, and refer to it to make sure you have all your supplies before going to the theater. LABEL EVERYTHING WITH DANCER’S NAME!

Important Dates

By allowing your child to participate in the Maria’s School of Dance recital, you commit yourself and/or your child to the following dates and events:

Date	Activity	Where
Sunday, May 3 rd : 10am – 1pm	Recital Tickets on sale	At the studio
Tuesday, May 26 th : 4pm – 9:30pm Wednesday, May 27 th : 4pm – 9:30pm Thursday, May 28 th : 4pm – 9:30pm Saturday, May 30 th : 9am – 2pm	Dress rehearsal & Photos	Alverson Center for Performing Arts Fowlerville High School 700 N. Grand Ave.
Monday, June 1 st : 7pm Wednesday, June 3 rd : 7pm Thursday, June 4 th : 7pm	Recital	Alverson Center for Performing Arts Fowlerville High School

Bake Sale / Smoothie Bar

Dance Express, MSD's Competition Dance Troupe, will host a cash-only bake sale, providing attendees with homemade treats and water at recitals. A smoothie bar will be open exclusively during dress rehearsal.

Food Consumption Policy

If you bring your own food, please be aware that there is a designated small area for eating. All food must be consumed either in this designated area or inside your vehicle. This policy is designed to maintain cleanliness and ensure a pleasant environment for everyone.

Clean-Up Expectations

It is essential to clean up after yourself and your dancer. This guideline applies to all students and volunteers participating in or attending the events. Please help keep our facilities tidy by disposing of all trash and leaving the area as you found it.

According to Michigan state law smoking is not allowed anywhere on the school grounds.

Costume Care

We require that each student's name be placed in his or her costumes, shoes, accessories, and tights. Place the costumes in a garment bag with your child's name on the outside. Pack accessories in a clear plastic bag with your child's name on the bag and on each item. Accessories and shoes should be in the costume's garment bag attached to the hanger. Hats should be stored in a hatbox or similar container to prevent damage. Press/steam all costumes prior to the dress rehearsal and the performance. Dancers are encouraged to wear button down long sleeve shirts backstage. These can be removed easily before going onstage and will keep a dancer's costume clean. Please do not wash costumes in your washing machine; dry clean them only (after the recital).

Tights and Shoes

To ensure that there are no discrepancies in color and style, students are required to have the correct shoes and tights for each dance. With the exception of Ms. Jenn's Pointe Classes, all tights are to be purchased at the studio only. Be sure to purchase the correct style and color. Shoes and tights have been selected by each instructor and the information can be found in the costume book at the front desk. Bring at least one extra pair of tights of each color. Tights will **not** be available for purchase at rehearsal or recital.

Makeup

Makeup - All older female students are required to wear makeup for the recital: red lipstick, blush, eye shadow (not blue), and mascara.

For the boys, a little blush works well. For female dancers ages 7 and under, blush and light lipstick should be applied. You may want to consider eyeliner so the dancer doesn't look washed out on stage.

For younger students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4d4De1KRll>

For older/competition students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxI0On8ayAM>

Hair

Uniform hairstyles are required. All female students must wear their hair in a bun. No bangs or beads are allowed. Dancers with short hair must pull their hair away from the face and slick it down. Dancers age 6 and under may have bangs, but must not cover their eyes, the rest of their hair must be in a bun. **NO JEWELRY EXCEPT FOR WEDDING RINGS.** If you wear jewelry, you will be required to remove it. Studio volunteers and staff will not be responsible for any lost jewelry. Also bring extra hair gel, hair nets, bobby pins, and hairspray. If you need help learning how to properly make a bun, here is a video link to help you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3dPpY9Qknc>

Tips: Other Handy Extras

- ❖ Baby wipes/Shout wipes (to fix makeup mistakes, wash hands)
- ❖ Baby powder—for itchy costumes
- ❖ Safety pins—for emergency costume repairs
- ❖ Clear nail polish—repair minor holes/runs in tights
- ❖ Nail polish remover (colored nail polish is not allowed)
- ❖ Nude colored leotard to wear under costumes (optional!)
- ❖ Extra hair pins, bobby pins, and hairspray

Recital Volunteer Information

Anyone interested in volunteering to work backstage is encouraged to do so; however, there are only a certain number of positions available, so volunteer early. The recital week is a hectic experience; all volunteers must work in a cooperative manner at all times. Our backstage managers work very hard to put an efficient system in place, and we ask that all volunteers rely on their experience and follow their instructions. Each volunteer will be given a job description, please read this carefully. All volunteers are required to sign in and out, and will receive an identification badge, which must be worn in the theater at all times. Please do not bring guests, including children, with you while you are volunteering. **All recital volunteers will be required to show up one hour prior to the show, and may not leave until all children have been released, and all areas have been cleaned up and prepared for the next performance.** All volunteers that work the entire show will be compensated for the price of two recital tickets (\$44.00) on their account for the following fall unless a check is requested. Volunteer workers must sign out at the end of their completed shift to receive this credit. Each parent that wishes to watch recital must purchase a ticket. Dancers will not be compensated for volunteering. **Only parents with assigned positions will be allowed backstage. ALL parents backstage MUST be volunteers assigned to a specific position.**

Ticket Policies

Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 3rd at the studio from 10:00am-1:00pm. Tickets cost \$22 in advance and \$25 at the door. After Saturday, May 23rd, ticket prices will be \$25.00, no exceptions. **All studio accounts (tuition, costumes, etc.) must be paid in full before any family member may purchase recital tickets. Tickets will not be sold at dress rehearsals.** If your dancer is in only one show, buy your tickets early. Tickets are non refundable, they may be exchanged for alternate shows only. Ticket exchanges will only be honored prior to the requested performance.

50/50 Raffle

50/50 raffle tickets will be sold at the ticket booth. The winning ticket will be announced before the last performance of each show. An adult must be present to win.

AUDITORIUM INFORMATION

Auditorium Rules

With the exception of closed water bottles - no eating or drinking is allowed anywhere in the Auditorium or surrounding Performing Arts Center area.

Backstage

Family members and friends are not allowed backstage or in the dressing rooms during the recital. The same applies during intermission and after the show. There is a lot of backstage activity in a limited space, and dressing rooms are a private area. Please remind your family and guests to be respectful of these areas. Parents are allowed backstage and in the dressing room during the rehearsal only.

Backstage Etiquette

Students must respect other students' space and property in the dressing and holding rooms. The students will spend more time in the holding room (during recital) than onstage or in the dressing room, so please do your best to keep them organized and clean. Again, no food or drink is allowed in the Performing Arts Center. Please do not send any valuables backstage. MSD and their volunteers will not be responsible for any lost or missing items.

DRESS REHEARSAL

Participation in the dress rehearsal is mandatory; any student who misses dress rehearsal will not be allowed to participate in recital. There will be no exceptions made. The dress rehearsal allows the students to become familiar with the auditorium surroundings and being onstage, and to feel comfortable with their performance. Lighting, music cues, set changes, and all other logistics for an organized and professional performance are rehearsed so that the students make the best impression possible. Each dance will be assigned a 20 minute rehearsal slot. *We run an organized and timely dress rehearsal; your help with the process will guarantee a professional production.* **Students must be ready, in costume, with hair and makeup done at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled rehearsal time.** Students are to arrive in their first costume.

Dress Rehearsal Drop-Off and Pickup

A parent or guardian should bring the students to the auditorium. Preferably only one parent from the (younger dancers) group should escort the entire group backstage. Though if more parents need to escort their own children back, it is fine. All dancers must access the stage via the hallway only. **DO NOT COME ON STAGE ANY OTHER WAY.** The parent or guardian should meet the group at the backstage hallway to collect their dancer.

Dress-Rehearsal Guests

We will run a closed dress rehearsal. One parent or guardian may accompany each student to the dress rehearsal. Parents are responsible for changing their child for rehearsal. Please, no siblings who do not dance! Additional attendees at the dress rehearsal will be subject to the full cost of a recital ticket.

Video Recording at Dress Rehearsal

Parents or guardians may video record their children at the dress rehearsal **ONLY**. REMINDER – everyone will be receiving a digital download link for each performance! So watch the show and enjoy!!!

Pictures

Recital group pictures will be taken at dress rehearsal immediately after dances are completed on stage. Group pictures are mandatory, individual pictures are optional. If you want individual photos PLEASE DO SO AFTER YOUR GROUP PHOTO, WE WILL NOT HOLD UP REHEARSAL FOR PHOTOS. Order forms for pictures will be available at the studio and at dress rehearsal. Complete orders will be available at the studio later this summer. The photographer does not allow parents to take pictures while she is. You must take your own photos in another location. A photo op backdrop will be available in the lobby before and after the recital.

Parent Contract

Every dancer is required to read and understand the rehearsal/recital rules and their parent must sign and return the contract prior to rehearsal. Please indicate when you will collect your dancer, either during intermission or after bows. If you do not indicate when you will be collecting your dancer, they will stay in the holding room until the end of the performance. There will be no exceptions. **IF YOU COLLECT YOUR DANCER AT INTERMISSION, THE DANCER IS NOT ALLOWED TO COME INTO THE AUDIENCE.**

RECITAL

Check in Procedures

Check-in begins 45 minutes prior to show time. **Dancers should arrive in full makeup, hair done, and in their first costume. DO NOT SEND MAKEUP WITH YOUR YOUNGER DANCERS! Please feel free to use a pink lip stain if you feel the lipstick will wear off but do not send makeup with any dancer that does not apply their own makeup. Be sure it is done with they arrive.** (Put a big button down shirt over their costume—no pull over shirts please.) Costumes for additional dances are to be handed to the check-in person. One parent or guardian should bring the student to the designated check in station where they will be checked in and given their name tag to wear for the entire time they are in the backstage area. This will have a list of all their dances on it. Take a moment and make sure the information is accurate. They are to keep this clip on at all times except when they go on stage. Please do not lose the clip; there will be a \$2.00 fee for any clips not returned at the end of each show. Each student will be issued a ticket which will be placed in their clip. A corresponding ticket with that same number will be given to the parent. Please do not lose this. This ticket is needed in order to pick your child up at the end of the show. Students will remain backstage for the entire performance. ONLY working volunteers are allowed backstage.

HOLDING ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

NON-ASSISTANCE ROOM (aka “band room”): Dancers must be 10 or older to be in this room AND MUST be able to do their hair, makeup and dress themselves on their own.

ADULT SUPERVISED ROOM is for dancers 9 or younger as well as the SN dancers.

Dancers 9 or younger that have older siblings are not allowed to go in the non-assistance room. Older siblings/friends may go in the adult supervised room instead.

During the Performance

Dancers will be lined up prior to going on stage and escorted on and off stage. As they are guided off stage, nametags will be returned; those with costume changes will be ushered into the dressing room for their next costume change then returned to the holding room, ready in their next costume. Volunteer workers will assist in costume changes. Those dancers who do not have a costume change will return directly to the assigned holding room to await bows. **Students will only be released during intermission and after bows.** We encourage all dancers to remain for the entire performance and take part in bows. **Dancers who are released during intermission are not allowed in the audience nor are they allowed to participate in bows.** Dancers who perform in the second half appreciate having an audience to perform for as well. All students will be under the supervision of responsible adults and will be safe for the length of the performance. The holding room will be stocked with various activities as well as a video input of the performance.

Coloring books and crayons will be available backstage. You may feel free to send other things for your children to do. **NO PENS OR MARKERS ARE ALLOWED.** MSD will NOT be held responsible for any lost items. Electronics are discouraged.

Intermission

Intermission will be 15 minutes. Please be aware of the time and return to your seat as quickly as possible. Do NOT visit your dancer backstage.

Dismissal

After bows, dancers will be escorted back into the holding area, and await pick up. **PLEASE** only send one parent/guardian with the ticket stub to pick up the child. Parent/guardian will be allowed to enter the holding area to pick up their children, and will be required to show the matching tickets in order to be excused. Please do not leave without verifying tickets with volunteers, and returning name clips. Check the costume rack and bin for all costumes and any personal items. Pick up may take a while, please be patient. It is for the safety of the child. Flowers may only be given to dancers after they have joined their family in the lobby/atrium after the dancers have been released

Videos

Artistic Video Productions will professionally record each performance. Everyone will receive digital downloads. **PLEASE NOTE: NO CAMERAS OF ANY KIND WILL BE ALLOWED DURING RECITAL.** Ushers will collect all cameras and hold them in the box office until the end of the last performance.

Studio Props and Costumes

All costumes and props that are the property of Maria's School of Dance are to be returned to the backstage prop master after the final performance. Costumes and props that are not returned will automatically be billed to that dancer.

Bows

All students are encouraged to participate in the bows. Bows will be at the end of the show and will be **included on the video**. Students may remain in their last performance costume for bows if they would like to.

Rules for Parents and Guests

Please do not be rude to the ushers, staff, and volunteers, they are following directions from Maria, and trying to make your dancer's recital as professional as possible.

Please do not yell out dancers names during the show. No food or drink in the auditorium. No smoking anywhere on school grounds.

PLEASE NOTE: NO RECORDING OF ANY KIND WILL BE ALLOWED DURING RECITAL INCLUDING CELL PHONES.

Ushers will collect all cameras and hold them in the box office until the end of the last performance.

We hope you have a safe and positive dress rehearsal and recital experience!

~ MSD Staff