

Welcome to the 2016-2017 Season of the *Joy of Dance!*

We are excited to begin a new year of praising the Lord through dance! We count it a privilege and a joy to be training your daughters in ballet, as well as developing a heart after God.

The Joy of Dance School of the Arts is a Christian dance studio, established in 1994, offering classical training aimed toward aspiring young dancers, ages three through adult, from beginners through pre-professional levels. Our excellent faculty is comprised of professional, experienced and certified instructors whose goal is to challenge each individual student to utilize their own unique God-given gifts to their fullest potential. Our deepest hope is to inspire each student to desire to grow in a personal relationship with Christ.

We bring a unique experience and a refreshing perspective to the community of dance offering: Classical Ballet Technique, Pointe, Pilates, Adult Ballet and Modern Dance with Contemporary styles included in our performances.

We look forward to partnering with you and your family throughout the year!

Faculty and Instructors

- **Mindy Blanton:** Owner/Director, Certified Cacchetti Ballet Instructor, Pilates Instructor
- **Danielle Loewen:** JOD Artistic Director, Touring Company Director, Ballet and Pilates Instructor
- **Tasha Irwin:** JOD and Touring Company Administrator, Artistic Director, Ballet Instructor
- **Laura Yoder:** Ballet and Conditioning Instructor
- **Cassandra Shipps:** Ballet Instructor
- **Christina Wilder:** Ballet Instructor
- **Angela Howard:** Communications Director

Contact Information

- Studio & Mailing Address: 19300 NE 112th Ave. Suite 105 Battle Ground, WA 98604
- Phone: 360-666-2443
- General Email: joyofdanceschool@outlook.com
- Billing Email: mindyblanton@live.com
- Website: www.joyofdanceschool.com

What We Believe

The *Joy of Dance School of the Arts* desires to be fully devoted followers of Christ, becoming more like Jesus every day, as He transforms us from the inside out. We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and that He: "emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:7-11 ESV)

Mission Statement

Our mission, at the *Joy of Dance School of the Arts*, is to share the hope of Jesus Christ through the medium of dance. We do this by training, developing and equipping dancers to carry out their God-given purpose of being shining lights for God's glory in all that they do and say.

Joy of Dance Touring Company

The *Joy of Dance Touring Company* exists to spread God's light and glory in pure, powerful, God-centered and truth honoring dance. We offer one-of-a-kind performances with classical and contemporary choreography. For more information on how to book our touring company for your event please contact Tasha Irwin at 360-666-2443 or email her at joyofdanceschool@outlook.com

Policies and Procedures

Registration

- A \$30 (non-refundable) registration fee per student is required for both new and returning students and is due at the time of registration in order to hold placement in class.
- You may be put on a waiting list if classes are full.

Scholarship Application

- Our heart's desire is to offer financial aid scholarships to students with special circumstances. Anyone interested is required to assist the studio throughout the year. If there is specific area of interest please include that on the form. See form here: <http://www.joyofdanceschool.com/info/scholarship-application/>

Tuition

- Tuition is established for a 10 month school year, regardless of the number of classes per month.
- Payments should be made in 10 monthly payments due on the first of each month (Sept.-June) or can be made in one lump sum at the beginning of the year.
- A \$10 late fee will be assessed if payments are not in by the 5th of the month.
- A \$30.00 fee will be charged to your account for all returned checks.

Joy of Dance

School of the Arts

If you wish to withdraw from a class, you will be liable for tuition until notice is given. You can give notice by speaking with your instructor and notifying the school via email at joyofdanceschool@outlook.com

- Please make payments by mail or by dropping them off in the drop box located at the studio. Please do not give tuition to your instructor.
- Make checks payable to: *The Joy of Dance*. Exact cash payments accepted with the students name, date, class and reason for the payment.
- Accounts MUST have a zero balance before the student may participate in the recital.
- A \$10.00 discount will be applied to tuition for each additional family member in the same household or for students taking an additional ballet classes only.

Withdrawal

- If you wish to withdraw from a class, the school and the student's instructor must be notified via email at joyofdanceschool@outlook.com
- *You will be responsible for tuition in full until the withdrawal process is finalized.* The withdrawal will be completed when all tuition and fees are paid in full. If tuition has been posted to your account for the month in which you are withdrawing, you are responsible for that month's tuition. Tuition will not be charged for the subsequent months.

Class Cancellation and Inclement Weather

- We will follow the Battle Ground Sound End School District closures for inclement weather.
- When in doubt call the studio at 360-666-2443.
- When conditions are beyond our control, we reserve the right to cancel classes.
- Make-up classes can be taken. See the website class schedule to check on alternate times that your grade level is offering classes.

Missed or Canceled Classes

- Tuition is paid by the month and is not pro-rated or refunded for absences.
- Make-up classes are available.

Keeping Informed

- Updates regarding the studio will be on our website, posted on the bulletin boards in the waiting room and via email. It is vital that we have an up to date email address. Make sure to check these locations so that you don't miss out on any important information.

Arrival and Departure

- **Lower school:** Do not drop off your students in the parking lot, or leave them unattended in the waiting room. You are responsible for your child until the instructor takes them into class. Please have your child use the restroom before class. **At pick up time, please do not wait in the car for your child to come out to you.**
- **Upper and Lower School:** Arrive 10 minutes early to get ready for class. Please wear a cover up going to and from classes in the parking lot. Students will wait outside the classroom until the instructor invites them in. Arrive 10 minutes early to pick up your students. Please do not stop/park in front of the door of the studio, as this causes a back-up of traffic.

Late Arrivals

- We expect all students to be prompt and on-time for class.
- Students who are more than 10 minutes late, should wait quietly at the door and wait for the instructor to invite them in.
- Students who are more than 20 minutes late, may be asked to watch the class if the instructor feels they have missed too many warm-up exercises.
- Please do not interrupt class to give an explanation or reason for tardiness. If the instructor needs to know, she will contact you or the student at the appropriate time.

Dress/Hair Guidelines

General

- To promote modesty, a cover-up that covers both top and bottom must be worn over leotards when entering and exiting the studio premises.
- Please wear shoes when entering and exiting the studio.
- Please wear clean dancewear and deodorant.
- No jewelry, except small earrings, is allowed in class.
- Please label all dancewear.
- **Upper school:** No skirts, shorts, or leggings may be worn in upper school without the instructor's permission.
- **Lower school:** Dance sweaters are allowed but no heavy coats.

Hair

- Neat classical bun secured with plenty of hairpins or clips.
- Hairnets are recommended.
- All bangs and fly away hairs pinned or sprayed back.
- Hair that is too short for a bun must be clipped back or put into a ponytail.

Leotards

- Students must wear the appropriate color leotard assigned for their class level.
- Please choose a modest style leotard. If the school directors feels that the student's modesty is being compromised, they will contact the student's parent.
- Larger busted students may wear a tights top under their leotards. No bras may be showing. If you have any questions please ask your instructor.

Tights

- No shimmery colored tights.
- No footless tights.
- No non-dancewear tights.
- No tights with holes or runs.
- Please replace tights that are too small as soon as possible.

Shoes

- Ballet shoes may not be worn outside the building. It reduces the life of the shoes and it can bring hazardous material into the dance studio that can damage the floor or cause injuries to the students and instructors.
- Soft ballet slippers must have elastic sewn in place.
- Please tuck bows in.

Where Can I find my dance attire?

- Discount Dance www.discountdance.com
- The Competitive Edge: 10411 NE Fourth Plain Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98662
- The Leotard: 2432 NE Martin Luther King Blvd. Portland, OR 97212

Please follow the dress/hair guidelines.

Students who do not follow the guidelines may be asked to sit out of class.

Class Etiquette

- Do not enter the classroom without the instructor's permission.
- No hanging on ballet barre.
- No talking or horseplay during class.
- No arguing with the instructor or complaining about class work. A negative attitude affects the whole class.
- No chewing gum.
- Follow dress/hair guidelines.

Studio Etiquette

- Do not interrupt class, as interruptions interfere with the training of the students.
- Only staff and students are allowed in the class during class time (unless it is observation week, or it has been previously arranged with the instructor).
- No running or horseplay in the waiting room.
- No excessive noise in the waiting room.
- Please clean-up any toys or books used during your visit.
- Children may not be left unattended or play in the parking lot.
- Please dispose of your trash.
- Keep food to a minimum.
- No street shoes in the classroom (parents, students, and non-students)
- Noisy children will be given an espresso and a puppy – we're serious!
- Please do not post anything on the bulletin boards.

Parent/Instructor/Director Conferences

- If you have questions or concerns about your child's class or progress, please feel free to call the school owner/director to arrange a meeting by appointment.
- For the privacy of your student and the instructor and to better facilitate communication, please do not discuss matters with the instructor before, during, or after a class.

Student Evaluations/Exams

- All Upper School Classes and Grade I-B of the Lower School will be evaluated by the Joy of Dance Instructors every year.
- Evaluations will notify the students of their placement in the subsequent year. Ballet is a dance form that is built upon basic foundational skills. Mastering ballet means building upon these skills year after year. It is not unusual for a student to benefit from staying in one level for more than a year. Unlike many academic classes, the goal is not to move up a level each year.
- Concerns regarding placement should be brought to the school owner/director.
- Evaluation results are a private and sometimes sensitive matter. Discretion should be exercised when discussing results with other parents or students.
- Evaluation results are usually mailed or given out at the end of the term.

Parent Observation Weeks

- Parents will have an opportunity to sit and observe their child's class once every other month November-May.
- Siblings are welcome to come and watch as long as they are not a distraction to the class.
- Children who are unable to remain seated and quiet may wait with their parents in the waiting room.
- Parents: Please take this time to enjoy your student's class and don't visit with other parents.

Lower School

Our Lower School provides instructions specifically tailored to the special needs of young developing dancers, ages 3-11 yrs. Classes introduce students to skills necessary for classical ballet training. Gentle discipline and encouragement are combined to nurture each child's natural creativity. Terminology and basic technique are gradually introduced. Students are made aware that movement is a gift from the Lord and can be used to bring Him glory. Positive group relationships are encouraged through a brief prayer before each class. Class placement for the lower school is generally according to age based on the birthdate cut-off of September 1st.

Class Descriptions

Creative Dance

- Students must be 3 years old by September 1st. Unless approved by Tasha, the Lower School director.
- 30 minute class once a week.
- A parent or guardian must remain in the building during the entire class.
- A class specifically tailored for 3 year olds that introduces the alphabet of movement through creative expression. Skills are learned in their most basic form to initiate the process of building a solid foundation helpful in future dance study.

Movement

- Students must be 4 years old by September 1st.
- 45 minute class once a week.
- A class specifically tailored for 4 year olds that introduces the alphabet of movement through creative expression. Skills are learned in their most basic form to initiate the process of building a solid foundation helpful in future dance study.

Pre-Ballet

- Students must be 5 years old by September 1st.
- 45 minute class once a week.
- Uniquely designed for a 5 year old student, the class provides an excellent foundation for students wanting to pursue the study of classical ballet, taking the special characteristics of this age level into consideration. These classes are designed to help each child develop physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Exercises enhance: flexibility, coordination, strength, and muscle tone. Introduction and experimentation with movement in various styles of music helps develop musicality, rhythm and creativity.

Ballet I-A

- Students must be 6 years old by September 1st.
- 1 hour class once a week.
- This is for the beginner 6-9 year old. Correct placement and body alignment are now of utmost importance. Class structure is important as we introduce barre work. All exercises are similar to Pre-Ballet and are centered on the beginning student. Flexibility becomes priority and students should stretch at home.

Ballet I-B

- Students must be 7 years old by September 1st, and no more than 11 years old.
- 1 hour class once a week.
- This is a follow-up class to Ballet I-A. The fundamentals of correct body placement and alignment are still reinforced as well as musicality. Students are challenged with different combinations at barre and in center.

Upper School

Upper School consists of students ages 8-adult, unless approved by the directors. In order to help each student develop to their fullest potential as a dancer, students are placed according to their physical ability, level of commitment, attitude, and technical achievement. Based on these factors, a student may be moved up or down a level during the year, at the discretion of the school owner/director.

Advancement in the Upper School is based solely on technical ability and not on age or number of years in a specific level. Parents should instruct students to commit themselves to the discipline involved in the art of ballet. They should also be encouraged to pay close attention to their teachers, applying all correction given in class, and focus on what is expected of them. All classes will begin with prayer.

Class Description

Grade I

- For new students ages 8 and up. This is the next step for students moving up from the Lower School.
- 2.5 hours per week.
- 2 days a week required to maintain level.

Grade II

- Student must pass the Grade I exam in order to be in Grade II
- 3 hours per week.
- 2 days a week required to maintain level.

Grade III

- Student must pass the Grade II exam in order to be in Grade III.
- 7 hours per week

Grade IV

- Student must pass the Grade III exam in order to be in Grade IV.
- 10 hours per week.

Grade V

- Student must pass the Grade IV exam in order to be in Grade V.

Pointe

- What can't be done in soft shoes is impossible to do well en pointe. Students are always eager to get their first pair of pointe shoes. Dancing en pointe is hard work and can be attempted after having three to five years of consecutive training past the age of eight. Even then, not all students will be permitted to go en pointe. Eligibility is determined by the following:
 1. Amount of natural stretch and bend of ankle.
 2. When the foot is pointed, it needs to create a straight line from the knee to the tarsal arch.
 3. Back and thigh muscles are strong enough to lift the body out of the hips and off the feet.
 4. Knees completely straight (if not, determination if it is due to muscle weakness or bone structure.)
 5. General body structure aligned correctly to ensure proper body placement over the pointes.
 6. Students overall technical ability is advanced enough to begin pointe work.
- Each student is considered individually, according to these criteria. We are concerned with providing the best training for all our students, and must be conscientious when it comes to placing a student en pointe. Damage caused by attempting pointe work too early, can result in life-long discomfort and deformity.

Pilates/Conditioning

Pilates is a non-strenuous form of exercise with an emphasis on strengthening your core muscles. It is a great way to have fun while you get fit, toned muscles, as well as become more flexible and reduce stress. It is also a wonderful way to relax after a busy day. We offer these classes for Grade II and above, as well as adults. Dress Code: Wear anything modest you are able to move freely in.

Performances

Our school holds one performance at the end of the school year, usually in June. This is the perfect opportunity to share the message of the hope we have in Christ with friends, family and our community. The Upper School students will be performing a story line piece every other year.

Special Details

- Students must be registered for class by the first week in January in order to participate in the recital (unless arranged by the school's owner/director).
- All students are assumed to be participating in the recital unless a parent notifies the school's owner/director that they do not wish to participate. This must be done by the first week in January.
- If you choose to withdraw from the recital after February 1st, you will be charged a \$50 fee for the re-setting of the choreography.
- All students must have a zero balance in order to participate in the recital.
- You cannot change classes after December 1st unless arranged by the school's owner/director.
- All students must purchase the recital packet. This includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Costume
 2. Hair piece
 3. Floor maintenance
 4. Props

Recital Packet Costs

We strive to keep costs affordable for everyone while at the same time deliver excellence. Costumes are one area that we do not have control over the price. We recommend that you begin making payments as soon as possible. (\$10-\$20 per month until December will help pay down your total cost.)

- **Everyone:** \$55 family participation fee (no ticket charges) due by March 1st.
- **Lower School:** \$75.00 costume fee due by December 1st.
- **Upper School:** \$150.00 costume fee due by December 1st (if possible they will receive 2 costumes).

Recital Information

- All parents are required to help with some aspect of the recital. Parent sign-up sheets will be posted in May. Please email us if you have specific areas of interest.
- All students are required to attend the rehearsals set for their level, typically during the 2-3 weeks before the recital.
- No video or still photography may be taken during the performances.
- We hire a professional photographer that comes to our studio to take class and individual pictures. These are optional to purchase, but we ask that you plan on attending the class picture. In the past we have used these class pictures in the recital program.
- We also hire a professional videographer to record the recital and these are also optional to purchase.
- During the recital program we sell flowers, cookies, Italian sodas and water. These are available for purchase and all proceeds go to the scholarship program.
- Please pay close attention to the website, bulletin boards, and emails for information about the recital as it becomes available.

Praise His Name with Dancing...

Psalm 149:3

School Calendar for 2016-2017

First Day of Classes: September 6th

Veterans Day (No Classes): November 11th

Thanksgiving Break (No Classes): November 21st - November 25th

Christmas Break (No Classes): December 12th-30th (Classes Resume: January 2th)

Martin Luther King (No Classes): January 16th

Last Day to Enroll for Spring Recital: January 31st

President's Day (No Classes): February 20th

Spring Break (No Classes): April 3rd-7th

Memorial Day (No Classes): May 29th

Last Day of Classes: June 2nd

Recital Rehearsal Weeks: June 5th-9th

Dress Rehearsal: June 14th

Recital: June 15th and 17th

* **Observation Weeks:** (1st week of the month) Parents will have an opportunity to sit and observe their child's class once every other month **November-May**.

***Other Events:** Bring a Friend weeks, Parent Observation days, Fundraisers, and additional special events dates will be communicated via email and studio bulletin boards.

***Dates subject to change:** Please check your email regularly for updates and detailed information.

Joy of Dance

School of the Arts
