

Karrie Stang's

"Gotta Dance"

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SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the **2021/2022 Gotta Dance** season. At the beginning of each month a newsletter will be emailed to each family. Please look for these newsletters as they will contain very important information every month. We ask that all parents and students read through these newsletters carefully. This is our best source of communication with parents and students on our upcoming events throughout the year. Our newsletters will also be available on our website at www.ksgottadance.com.

To all our new students, WELCOME ABOARD! You are heading into an exciting year, and we are happy to have you here at **Gotta Dance**. To all our returning students, I would like to thank you for a wonderful and successful 2020/2021 season – our 20th! Congratulations on your annual performance. You were all wonderful! We have received many positive comments.

Gotta Dance would like to welcome our 2021/2022 instructors: **Karrie Stang Mason, Katrina Rotondi, Jay Newlon, Heather Dinsmore, Cassey Floor, Jessica Dearbeck, Thea Vaporis, Brianna Hogan, Katie Alexander, Elizabeth L'Heureux, Hannah Jeffers, and Jamie Johnson**. Instructors' bios are available in our Fall Packet and on our website at www.ksgottadance.com. Our substitutes include **Alyssa Murnane** and our student assistants are **Isabella Angiuoni, Lili Ellis, Madison Finney, Sophia Floor, Madeleine Murphy, and Charlotte Whitfield**.

Please be sure that you have received the **2021/2022 Gotta Dance Studio Guidelines packet**. These have been emailed to everyone. Be sure you have put a current email address on your registration form and contact Heather or Karrie if it changes throughout the year. We also have hard copies available at the studio if anyone would like one. It is very important for you to have this information as you will need to refer to this packet throughout the season regarding our annual performance, costumes, dress codes, snow days, etc. Please take time for you and your child to read through the entire packet. Students must follow the Dress Code listed (please note that some dress codes have slightly changed this year). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the number above or via email at ksgottadance@yahoo.com.

September tuition is currently due. **Gotta Dance** accepts cash, checks or Venmo. We also accept credit cards if you would like your tuition automatically withdrawn each month. Please let us know if you are interested in this payment option. Invoices will not be given out each month. Tuition can be paid **on** or **before** the first class of each month. There will be a \$15.00 late fee if tuition is received after the 15th of the month. Tuition can be mailed to the address above or can be brought to class with your child. For your convenience, there is a tuition drop box located in the waiting area at the studio.

Parents are encouraged to drop students off. Students tend to stay more focused without an audience. However, if you decide to sit in the waiting area during classes, noise levels must be held to a minimum. Please remember if you can hear us then we can hear you. Please be courteous of the Dancers and Instructors.

For our 2021/2022 dance education season, our Covid 19 Protocols and Procedures are as follows:

- **Masks must be worn in the studio for dancers ages 4 – 18 regardless of vaccination status.**
- **If a dancer is over 18 and dancing in a class with dancers under 18, they must wear a mask as well.**
- **Staff members are required to wear masks in the studio spaces and while instructing classes with dancers under age 18.**
- **Parents entering the studio must wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. Parents are encouraged to drop off dancers for classes and wait in their vehicles, but parents of dancers in morning classes and afternoon classes under age 7 may wait in the waiting area during their dancer's class(es).**
- **Adults over age 18 taking Zumba and Line Dance classes who are vaccinated will have the option to wear a mask.**

While we are operating as a small business, we feel that we are education oriented and want to follow as closely as possible the Covid guidelines in place at our local public schools. We are not following any physical distancing requirements in our classes this year.

Hand sanitizer is available for use before and after class, staff will disinfect all equipment (props, mats, etc.), touch surfaces and entry points as needed before and/or after classes and the entire facility will continue to be deep-cleaned and sanitized once each week. The safety of our students, staff and their families are of our utmost importance.

We will be re-evaluating our Covid plan as needed and will notify families with updates.

Cell Phone Policy - Cell phone use is not permitted while in classes. In Studio B (the larger studio), we have purchased an over the door shoe organizer with a multiple power strip next to it where students should place their phones during class and can use the power strip to charge their phones during class if needed. As they come into class, they should place their phones in the organizer and not retrieve them until the end of class. In Studio A (the smaller studio), cell phones should not be brought into the studio at all. The dancers in Studio A classes can leave their phones in Studio B if they will be having a class in that studio earlier or later in the day but may not disrupt a class to retrieve it if their class is finished sooner than the Studio B class, so they will need to plan accordingly.

Dance is a discipline and a way to disconnect from social media to provide an outlet for expression and mental well-being. We need a dancer's full attention during class to teach them what needs to be taught and the less outside distraction, the better. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

COMPETITION TEAM AUDITIONS for ages 13-18 will take place ON SATURDAY, SEPTMBER 25TH from 2:00-3:00 pm at *Gotta Dance*. PLEASE LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE IF YOU PLAN TO AUDITION. Arrive 10-15 minutes early and ready to dance! This new recreational competition team will start off by participating in a few competitions in the spring performing one routine and will also perform in the recital. This team is designed to introduce students and parents to the competition world and explore what it entails at reasonable rates and on a smaller scale to start with, to see if this is something for you. Interested participants should have ballet experience and would be expected to enroll in ballet and at least one other class this year. Jazz is strongly encouraged.

***Gotta Dance* WILL CONTINUE TO ENROLL NEW STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD AS WE LOVE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUPPORT! SOME CLASSES ARE CLOSED BUT MANY CLASSES HAVE A FEW SPOTS AVAILABLE.**

Please feel free to email either Heather Dinsmore at dancingmom23@gmail.com or Karrie Mason at ksgottadance@yahoo.com with any questions or concerns at any point throughout the season.

Sincerely, Karrie and the "GD" Staff :)