

WELCOME TO MERRILEE STUDIOS!

This is our 33rd year of teaching excellence in dance and tumbling. We're happy to have you as a part of our studio. Please remember that if you have a question, there is only one way to get an answer - ASK. If your child's teacher or the receptionist doesn't know, then a note will be written to Mary, and you will be called with an answer. Communication is very important - let's keep the lines open so we can give your child the best possible training in dance and tumbling. Mary is in the studio on Tuesdays and Thursdays (she teaches dance at ICC on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays), so if you are there on Tuesday or Thursday, please ask her in person. You can also email Mary with your questions at mld@mtco.com

CLASSES THAT WE OFFER – The Core Subjects

PRESCHOOLERS AND KINDERGARTENERS - Tap, ballet, and tumbling

We limit these classes to 12 children taught by the teacher, one assistant, and possibly one helper. If children are making up from another class, the number may go over 12 for that particular lesson. Preschool classes are on Monday mornings and evenings, Tuesday mornings, and Wednesday evenings. Kindergarten age classes are on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

BALLET AND POINTE - Ballet for the early beginner student in half hour classes, late beginner and intermediate students in forty-five minute classes, for the advanced students (three levels) in hour classes. Pointe classes are only for advanced ballet dancers.

This will be the fourteenth year that Merrilee Studios is teaching exclusively Vaganova (Russian) ballet technique. This technique has a goal of teaching your child complete body control in the same way the schools teach your child to read - one step at a time. The results are phenomenal. **If your child is in first grade or older and is enrolled in a ballet class, I would highly suggest a second class each week.** The children who take two classes per week, advance much more quickly than those who take class only once a week. If your child is serious about ballet, you should consider this second class.

BOYS ONLY DANCE – This is a FREE class open to all boys 8 years of age and older who are currently registered in at least one other class. It includes some ballet and jazz technique and other skills to get your boys in good physical shape. It was first offered in the summer of 2008 and during the past school year. This class is only on Tuesdays at 4:45-5:15 and it taught by Mary.

BOYS ONLY TUMBLING – This class is taught by Dan and open to all boys first grade and older. It is only on Tuesdays from 4:15-4:45 and is taught by Dan.

JAZZ – Jazz for the beginner in two levels in 30 minute classes and for the intermediate and advanced students in forty-five minute classes.

TAP – Tap for the beginner student in two levels in 30 minute classes and for intermediate and advanced students in forty-five minute classes.

TUMBLING - This is the eleventh year that all of the tumbling classes are taught according to the guidelines set up by the American Athletic Union and the United States Tumbling Association. This will encourage your child to tumble with more precision. All first grade and older classes are forty-five minutes. This year we also have a High Level Tumbling class for those who are working on back handsprings and harder tricks. This class is offered on Tuesdays from 8:00-8:45 and Thursdays from 6:30-7:15. **As in ballet, a second class each week will help your child progress at a much more rapid pace.**

OTHER CLASSES THAT WE OFFER

DANCE TEAMS – These half hour classes are taught by Courtney on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:00. It is fun and great training for the grade school pom squads. This class is open to those kindergarten through fifth grade.

HIP HOP OR STREET JAZZ – These half hour classes are open to those who are at least eight years old and is taught by Dan. We highly recommend all hip hop students to take a jazz class and/or a tumbling class.

MODERN DANCE – This 45 minute class is open to those ten and older who are currently registered in a ballet class and is taught by Laura. Modern dance is an offshoot of ballet and therefore, requires a ballet background.

THEATRE DANCE – This half hour class learns dances to Broadway show music. It is taught by Dan on Tuesdays at 4:45 and is open to children eight years and older who are also enrolled in a ballet and/or jazz class.

PRIVATE LESSONS – This year Dan, Lida, Laura, and Courtney will have time in their schedules for private lessons in jazz, tap, or tumbling. If you are interested, please leave your name at the desk. Those who take a

private or semiprivate lesson each week from Period 1 through Period 9, will be eligible for a solo or duo in the dance recital upon payment of a \$50 recital fee (due February 1) and if the children taking the private or semi private lesson accumulated three points over the past summer. They must also be enrolled in a ballet class during the 2009-10 school year.

Attendance at private or semiprivate lessons must be regular and absences must be called in by noon of the lesson day or the parent will be charged for the class.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT – All boys ten years of age and older will receive a 50 % discount on classes.

WEB SITE – Please visit it at <http://www.merrileestudios.com/>

Also, if you are buying anything from amazon.com, please go through the Merrilee Studios web site. It will not cost you anything, but will bring in a small amount of revenue that can be used to support the website.

EMAIL ADDRESSES – The monthly newsletter will be emailed to you if you gave me your email address at registration. If you do not have email or do not want the newsletter emailed, please tell us and your child will be given a newsletter once a month.

SCENT FREE DANCE STUDIO – All students and parents are asked not to wear perfume, cologne, or scented lotions in the studio. Mary has asthma that is set off by these scents. In talking to people about this problem, it seems that there are many others who have a similar problem, so we ask your cooperation to have a totally scent free studio. (I know that everyone thinks that their perfume isn't strong, but if someone has a sensitivity to it, believe me, even the smallest amount is too much.)

DANCE SUPPLIES – Dance supplies are sold in the studio. We have all of the shoes that your child will need in stock. We also have leotards, tights, legwarmers, warmup sweaters, tutus, dance bags, Ts and much more. All merchandise is 10% off during one week in October (Midnight Madness – October 26-29), during the month of December, and during the summer classes.

BRING A FRIEND TO CLASS – During the week of September 21-24 we are having a “bring a friend to class” week. This means that when your child comes to class, he/she may bring a friend who will take the class with your child. This is only for this week.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES – Merrilee Studios does birthday parties. Please see the attached sheet. Pick a package, pick a theme, and we do the work for you to create a very special party for your favorite little dancer. Talk to Lida about these fun parties.

**DANCE CLASSES NOT ONLY TEACH YOUR CHILD TO DANCE, BUT ALSO GIVE YOUR CHILD
DISCIPLINE, BETTER CONCENTRATION,
FLEXIBILITY AND MUSCLE STRENGTH FOR A HEALTHY BODY,
SELF ESTEEM, AND AN APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS.**

**SPORTS WILL GIVE YOUR CHILD SOME OF THESE BENEFITS,
BUT THE ART OF DANCE WILL BE WITH YOUR CHILD FOREVER.**

**MERRILEE STUDIOS - THE PLACE FOR HAPPY DANCERS!
MOTIVATING YOUNG MINDS TO BE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE!**