

Dear Metro Parks Families,

We are very much looking forward to seeing your children next week for fall classes and we are very excited to gear up for Mini-Nutcracker 2018. I am writing with details on participation in this year's performance beginning with auditions on **Saturday, August 18**. Please know that all who are eligible, wish to perform, and can commit to the rehearsal schedule will be given a part in the production. We will not be making cuts at this audition. Auditioning is a helpful skill for young dancers to develop and it allows the faculty to see all of the students before casting the roles. The audition will only be open to those who are eligible and we welcome our new Ballet: Beginning III and transfer students who will be auditioning for the first time. Please make sure to read the following information thoroughly and don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.

There are a few of you who have not registered for classes yet. If you are intending to return, please register ASAP and you can do so [HERE](#). If you are not returning, please let me know that as well.

THE MINI-NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE DATES

Friday, November 30, 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 1, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 2, 1:00 pm

AUDITION DETAILS

(all who wish to perform are **REQUIRED** to attend. **PLEASE RSVP to this e-mail with a "YES" or "NO"** for your child's attendance at the audition so we have an accurate headcount).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Centennial Performing Arts Studios

- Sign-in, CPAS Lobby
- Audition, Studio A
- Measurements, Studio B

(We take measurements on the audition day so that we can go into costume fittings better prepared. Measurements may not take the full time allotted. Once your child is dismissed from Studio B, you may leave)

BRING

- Signed Permission Slip (attached)
- Filled Out Rehearsal Conflict Sheet (attached)
- *Optional*: \$50 Performance Fee (due September 21)
- Students do not need to prepare any material beforehand. Everything will be taught at the audition.

WEAR

- Class dress code (Advanced I & II, please bring pointe shoes)
- Hair pulled back neatly in a bun. Short hair should be secured away from the face.

SCHEDULE

10:30 am: Sign-in for **Advanced I + II**

11 am-12 pm: Regular warm-up class for **Advanced I + II**

12-12:30 pm: **Advanced I + II** Audition

12:30-1:30 pm: **Advanced I + II** Measurements (Janis Turner, Katrina Norris)

12:30 pm: Sign-in for **Intermediate IV**

1-1:45 pm: **Intermediate IV** Audition

1:45-2:30 pm: Intermediate IV Measurements (Patricia Majett)

1:30 pm: Sign-in for **Intermediate II & III**

2-2:45 pm: Intermediate II & III Audition

2:45-3:30 pm: Intermediate II & III Measurements (Annette Ashley)

2:30 pm: Sign-in for **Intermediate I + Beginning III**

3-3:45 pm: Intermediate I + Beginning III Audition

3:45-4:30 pm: Intermediate I + Beginning III Measurements (Lisa Kath & Erin Dorn)

ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be 9 years old and in Ballet: Beginning III or higher on the opening day of the fall semester to be eligible to participate.
- Students must have completed the Spring 2018 session of ballet with Metro Parks Dance Division.
- Students must attend all required days of their class schedule in order to perform.
- Classes taken at studios outside of the Metro Parks Dance Division do not count toward performance eligibility.

CASTING

- The production will be cast by a panel of faculty members sitting in each audition. Requests for specific roles will not be honored. The dance staff tries to cast each child in the role that best suits the individual child within the context of the overall production and their individual dance education. Consideration is given to consistency of class attendance, diligence in class, technical proficiency, and acting ability.
- Students who are in Beginning Ballet III and Intermediate Ballet I are eligible to perform in the Battle and Angel Scenes. If there are not enough entry level students to fill all roles, Beginning Ballet II students who are at least eight years old may be asked to fill those roles. These are the entry-level parts for all students except for transfer students who dance at the upper level intermediate and advanced levels.
- Because The Mini-Nutcracker is a classical Ballet, other scenes are open only to Intermediate Ballet II, III, IV students and members of the Centennial Youth Ballet due to the technical requirements of the choreography.
- Once casting is done, roles will not be changed unless a child is unable to execute the steps of his/her assigned dance or a performer withdraws.
- Please encourage your child to be happy with the role in which he/she is cast and to perform as well as possible, because every role is essential to the production. **Parental response to casting decisions often affects the maturity and attitude with which the child accepts his/her part in the show.**
- Because of the large number of eligible participants in some years, it may be necessary to double cast roles. Keep in mind that some children will be cast in the same roles in which they were cast last year, because each scene runs a bit more smoothly when students who performed a role the previous year can be leaders for the younger students.

- We will post the cast list once we have received everyone's rehearsal conflict sheets as casting may be affected by a dancer's availability during the rehearsal process.
- If you have questions your child's role, the appropriate staff members will be happy to discuss the placement decision with you.

REHEARSALS

- Rehearsal attendance is mandatory every week. We have a limited amount of time to stage the production. Our faculty work very hard to plan the rehearsal schedule and surprise absences can set back an entire group of dancers. Each dancer has a responsibility to him/herself and also to the rest of the dancers in their section to come in prepared and focused each week. Every single performer is important and we need dedicated attendance to ensure all dancers feel prepared and confident to perform to the best of their ability.
- One excused absence will be tolerated. Any absences beyond that may result in a reconsideration of your child's role in the production and may be taken into consideration for casting in future productions. If your child has more than one conflict this fall, please discuss with Kathryn Wilkening before auditioning to determine whether his/her participation is feasible.
- A detailed schedule will be e-mailed out each week and posted on the bulletin board outside Studio A. We will try to maintain consistency with your child's group where possible and schedule as much in advance as we can. We do need to retain some flexibility in scheduling to ensure each section has enough time for preparation.

PERFORMANCE FEE

- There is a \$50 per family performance fee to participate in Centennial Youth Ballet performances to help offset the cost of costumes, artist fees, etc. **due by September 21.**
- We accept cash, checks made out to Friends of Metro Dance or credit/debit cards on the audition day.
- If the fee is a financial hardship, please speak with Kathryn Wilkening.

We intend this to be a friendly audition but please encourage your child to take it seriously. We very much look forward to working with the performers this year.

Warmly,
Kathryn Wilkening