

Dear Dance Dimensions families,

Thank you so very much for your patience with us here at the studio while we try to decipher what this pandemic means for all of us for this dance season. We truly hope you are all safe & healthy. (I apologize in advance as this is a LONG read).

With the announcement of re-opening our province in 5 stages we are now able to let you know what that means for the studio and the future. Dance classes fall into stage 4 of the re-open plan. This means that we are not able to resume a dance season at all this year. I have been involved in many zoom meetings with dance educators & competition directors from across our Province over the last 5 weeks to gather information to see how we proceed.

First of all, I want to explain why we did not see fit for our studio to run “zoom virtual classes” as some studios in our Province did. With all the uncertainty of what this Pandemic would mean for us all, our initial decision was that we would not proceed with classes; even virtually. That decision was made for many reasons; one of the main reasons was that we did not feel that we could offer quality classes via zoom for the size of our classes in such a short preparation time. Another main reason was because many of us staff, like many of you, were hit financially. We did not feel “good” asking our parents to continue to pay for classes that would be shorter and virtual. Therefore, we came to the decision to wait and see, and hope that we could resume with a later dance season. Unfortunately, this virus has put a complete stop to the world as we know it, and ended our dance season abruptly.

With that said, it is clear now that we cannot continue this dance season and hold competitions or our recital. So then began the many discussions of what do we do now? The DD faculty and I, along with many other dance studios in our Province have come to the conclusion that we will look at next season as a continuation of THIS season. I will now do my best to inform you of what exactly that means.

First of all, we will proceed with a Pre-Registration for fall classes once we see how phase 1 & 2 are received by the Province and then we will send out that information. Secondly, we will be keeping our classes the same as this year. This means re-using costuming and choreography next dance season. We have discussed ALL the things and what that means for us as a studio. We are aware that some dancers will not fit costuming next year, so we have reached out to our costume companies and asked them to NOT change the catalogues next year. Please **KEEP ALL YOUR DANCERS COSTUMES**. The plan is to see what still fits next year and swap costuming when needed. So that maybe we only have to order a few “new” costumes next year. This will mean that you may have a small charge for costuming divided amongst the group or none at all if they all fit. As for progression into more difficulty in choreography we will adjust the routines as needed. This will also happen if some dancers are not back for the next season. No matter what “title” your dancers’ class is called we will work to increase their dance terminology and therefore continue to progress to more difficult steps. The staff and I truly believe that with all the time we will have working on new steps and technique next season, and less time on choreography, our dancers will be so much stronger technically and be more than ready for competitions & recitals next spring. We are looking at this in a very positive way and ALL our students will grow & benefit next season.

As for competitions & competition fees; the fees paid to the two competitions our studio attends as a whole will be held as a partial deferral to next season. What this means for you is that a large portion (TBA - Like 80%) will be applied to your accounts to use next season. There is NO refunds for these competition fees and this is why...competitions spend much of the money that

comes in for these fees BEFORE the actual events. All trophies, lapel pins and medals are already ordered and paid for. Theatre deposits are paid and therefore “held” for next year. Staff hours are paid for preparing the competitions. Flights for adjudicators are booked and only credits are held for next year. What this means is NO money is being exchanged. Please understand that thousands of dollars in fees are already spent and the truth is the money is simply not there to refund. This ensures that the competitions themselves can run next year and gives the organizations a chance to continue next season. The studio itself suffered major financial loss with no tuition for two months, no income from either the competition or the recital. The studio still has to remain open and pay our rent & bills for the months of April through August so we can be there for our students in the fall. For those dancers that paid tuition at the start of the year for April & May; I hope that you will consider allowing us to hold into those fees and apply them to your account for next season.

We sincerely hope that ALL of our dancers continue next season so that we can have a RE-DO of this year. With credit for competition fees and little or no costuming fees next year we believe that will help all our families out. If a dancer is not continuing with next season, that unfortunately means that there is no refund for these fees. Since no money is exchanging hands, and many studios (including us) are struggling financially, that is simply not an option. For that I apologize. It is very unfortunate for our graduating dancers as they lost their final season of dance and our hearts break for them as they lost not only that but also their graduations.

As for the Showstoppers. We have not heard any confirmation from our away trip as to what they plan to do with our entry fees. Once we do, I will email you. As for next seasons troupe, we have decided that with everything going on we will NOT hold auditions or create a new troupe. All existing members that wish to continue dance next year will need to email the studio their intentions. We will have our Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate & Senior troupe only. Therefore, dancers aged 10-12 will have to wait one more season before auditioning to be a member. If there are some dancers over 13 that want to be considered for our Pre-Intermediate class, please email the studio and the DD Staff will make a decision based on last dance season.

I apologize that this email is so long, however I felt that it was important to give you as much information as I could and answer as many questions as I could.

Take care of yourselves and your families and I will be in touch! We miss you all incredibly!

Sincerely,
Kara & DD Staff