



Dear Parents & Guardians,

*Performance time is almost upon us and the excitement is positively buzzing around here! If you are new to our studio or to ballet in general there are a few things that you need to know that will help you to enjoy this exciting experience. It may seem overwhelming at first but there is method to the madness. And a huge 'thank-you' to all of our seasoned parents – you are an invaluable resource!*

### The Performance:

- ❑ Have your child at the theater on time. THIS IS IMPORTANT – Everyone gets frazzled when they are rushed. Being there early allows the dancers (and us volunteers) time to be relaxed & focused.
- ❑ Come with their makeup on, hair in a bun and wearing their tights and leotard. A zip-up jacket works best so they won't end up redoing the bun. **Please remove all jewelry & nail polish before you come.** Jewelry is too easy to lose and is not worn during the performance.
- ❑ **Pink tights, Pink shoes & a Nude leotard are the standard performance wear.** Black is acceptable for petites but we may need to remove it for certain costumes – so nude really is best. **Please write your child's name on their clothing – it is easy to get them mixed up.**
- ❑ Underwear is not worn under tights. It tends to bunch up and look bulky which can be seen from the audience and can be distracting.
- ❑ Certain costumes may need a variation of the standard clothing so be sure to check emails and the bulletin board when you know your child's roles.
- ❑ **Parents are NOT allowed backstage where the children are waiting.** This is for the protection of our kids and to help them remain calm and focused. All of our volunteers have name badges and are instructed to ask parents to leave. If you want to be part of the backstage world, volunteer as a Wrangler (we need you!)

### WHEN You Arrive:

- ❑ Check your child in at the loading dock - off the parking lot at North Main & Iris Dr.
- ❑ A volunteer will take down your name & cell phone# and give you a card with your child's wrangler's name & phone#. They will call you if there are any concerns or questions.
  - At this point you are free to leave and come back at show time.
- ❑ A runner will escort your child back to the staging area with their age group. Dancers will stay with their group until needed on stage. There are at least two adults (Wranglers) with each group to keep the kids occupied and calm and to help them be ready for their scenes.
- ❑ **NO MALE Persons are allowed in the dressing areas** – this includes brothers, fathers, etc. NO EXCEPTIONS. Male dancers & actors have their own assigned dressing areas.
- ❑ **Your child will need to remain back stage with their group throughout the entire show – even if their scenes are only at the beginning of the show.** This is to keep our dancers calm and to



make sure all dancers are ready and available for any last minute changes. The staging & dressing areas are VERY busy places – let's help each other stay at our best.

### What to Send:



- ❑ Only **water** and **dry food** is allowed backstage. Our costumes were made with love and care by our parents (maybe even you!). We treasure them. They are not easily replaceable and may not be washable. **Any foods that are cheesy, sticky, gooey, chocolaty or staining will be taken away.** There are fast food restaurants across the street from the Sherwood Hall for meals between shows.
  - Dry cereal makes a **great** snack; along with crackers, pretzels, yogurt covered raisins, dried fruit, granola, etc. Please, no peanuts or peanut butter.
- ❑ Extra makeup & hair supplies, labeled, for touch-ups. The wrangler will help with this.
- ❑ Other moms have suggested bringing things like a book to read, a favorite coloring book or small games to pass the time and a small blanket to sit on (for petites to ballet 3).
- ❑ Small laundry baskets make perfect bags to keep your child's things together with easy access (the Dollar Tree has some perfect ones). It's well worth the \$1!
- ❑ **Label Everything. EVERYTHING.** We find things left behind at every show – if we know who it belongs to, you will get it back. Also, please double check your labels before you leave to make sure you have **your** child's things – they really do all look alike.

### And Checking out:

- ❑ When a show is completed, the wranglers will take kids back to dress and collect their things then bring them back out to the auditorium for you to pick up. So just wait there – it may take a few minutes.
- ❑ In between shows, your child is yours to keep. 😊
- ❑ Be sure to find out the check in time for your child's next performance and we'll see you again at the loading dock to start the fun all over again!

*And Finally, RELAX 😊 and have fun – we have lots of wonderful parents and volunteers who have done this many times. If you have any questions and don't see me, ask another parent or volunteer. We are working together to create a positive, memorable experience our kids will cherish.*



*Thank you for being a part of this exciting performance!*

**Kim**