

Nutcracker Parent Meeting Agenda

- Contact List
 - Please double check the class roster sheet and emergency phone numbers on the paper provided. If anything is incorrect, please both write it on the paper and log into your ABA profile and update it. If you have trouble, please email ABA. Please turn in the roster to your teacher at the end of class.
- Dates
 - Performance
 - December 8th at 7^{pm} & 9th at 2:30^{pm} at the Historic Elsinore Theatre.
 - Dress Rehearsal
 - December 8th at the Elsinore Theatre, 10am. Pre-Ballet II, 9:30am for spacing.
 - Spacing
 - December 7th at the Elsinore Theatre, starting with older students first around 3:30pm. Spacing is for Ballet I, Boys II, and Modern II and up. Exact call times will be announced in the November Newsletter. Pre-Ballet II is spacing on December 7th at 9:30am.
- Mandatory All-Cast Rehearsals
 - November 17th: 12:30 Act I, 3:00 Act II; Saturday December 8th Creative Movement and Pre-Ballet I Performers attend this all cast only.
 - December 1st: 12:30 Act I, 3:00 Act II; Sunday December 9th Creative Movement and Pre-Ballet I Performers attend this all cast only.
- Casting for Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet I, and Pre-Ballet II – the day your child will perform, so you can buy tickets for the correct show. Creative Movement-Pre-Ballet I, we are also listing the All Cast you will attend. Pre-

Ballet II attends both all casts. Ballet I-Ballet V, Modern II-Modern IV, and Boys I-II perform both days:

- Saturday December 8th show (November 17th All Cast for Creative Movement and Pre-Ballet I):

Wednesday 5:00 Creative Movement

Saturday 11:00 Creative Movement

Monday 5:30 Pre-Ballet I

Saturday 10:15 Pre-Ballet I

Monday 4:45 Pre-Ballet II

Thursday 3:30 Pre-Ballet II

- Sunday December 9th show (December 1st All Cast for Creative Movement and Pre-Ballet I):

Tuesday 10:00 Creative Movement

Thursday 3:00 Creative Movement

Tuesday 10:30 Pre-Ballet I

Tuesday 3:15 Pre-Ballet I

Wednesday 4:15 Pre-Ballet I

Wednesday 5:45 Pre-Ballet II

Saturday 9:30 Pre-Ballet II

- Attendance Requirements
 - Students are allowed one “unexcused” absence per number of rehearsal days they have. For example: pre-II students rehearse once a week. They can miss one practice. Ballet V girls have 5+ classes a week, but rehearse on Fridays and Saturdays; they can miss 2 Friday or Saturday rehearsals.
 - More absences may require a private lesson to help the student catch up on choreography.

- Required school and church events, illness, and family emergencies are excused... hopefully they are minimal.
- If your child's classes all have different dances this policy applies to each class individually.
- Costumes
 - We are sizing this week!
 - Costume Costs and Requirements will be posted in the studio by the middle of November. Costumes should be paid for by December 1st.
 - Some items may be borrowed from ABA, and will require a \$5 rental fee. This info will also be posted, and the fee should be paid for by December 1st. Costumes that must be purchased cost an average of \$30 per dance.
 - Costume parts that are borrowed or ordered for you will be distributed at the theatre.
 - No panties are to be worn under costumes. Remember, this is normal class dress code, and following it will ensure your dancer is comfortable on stage.
 - It is required that dancers Pre-ballet II and up have a nude leotard to wear under their costumes, since they are often changing where they can be seen (backstage, etc.). We will have a supply at the ABA dance store.
- Make-up
 - Stage make-up should be attempted for all ages, including youngest performers.
 - Youngest ones do as much as you can!
 - Make-up should include: foundation/powder, blush, lipstick (red), eye shadow (purple and brown tones), eyeliner and mascara. Please reference the student handbook for more details.
 - Stage make-up seems overboard, but with the stage lights it is necessary, or facial features will be lost. Put on a lot!
- Hair Requirements
 - Most students will need a bun.

- Plan to use a strong hair elastic, bobby pins (usually the longer ones work better), and hair net. Please reference the student handbook for more details. Reminder - this is how hair should be done for every class, Ballet I and up!
- Secure with hairspray and gel as necessary.
- If other hair arrangements are required they will be listed in future newsletters.
- Acceptable Foods to be brought to the theatre for show days
 - Here is a list of foods that are acceptable to bring with your dancer to the theatre: Mozzarella sticks, dye less crackers, apple slices, carrots, pretzels, granola bars (without chocolate or anything that will melt), fruit snacks, almonds, water (The best of all to bring). Snacks NOT to bring: Chocolate, greasy or saucy foods (pizza, fried chicken, potato chips, peanut butter, jelly), juicy fruits or vegetables like oranges or tomatoes, anything with food coloring, soda juice or other colored drinks. *Please do not bring any peanut products, as we have a dancer who is very allergic to them.* Be sure to bring plenty of snacks and water, as your dancer will probably be at the theatre for several hours before they are released.
 - Theatre policy is that covered drinks (including Starbucks and Thermoses) will be allowed in the theatre up until 2 hours prior to the show. This applies to everyone – dancers, volunteers, and parents. After the dinner break, only dancers and volunteers can bring drinks, and only water.
 - Can anyone bring “extra” snacks for the class?
 - There is a dinner break after dress rehearsal. We are reminding everyone, including volunteers and dancers, to eat dinner before returning to the theatre. Please do not bring your dinner back to the theatre to be eaten. Only the foods listed above should be brought into the theatre. Thank you!
 - Water is encouraged at all rehearsals and performances. No colored drinks.
 - Food is not allowed in the studio; please send children well fed to all-cast rehearsals.
- Activities

- Please send your child with activities for all-cast rehearsal, dress rehearsal, and performances.
- If class can coordinate activities that would be wonderful!
- Remember that space is cramped; try to think of activities that won't take up much room.
- Don't send anything valuable.
- Tickets/Roses
 - Tickets will go on sale Monday, October 22nd, at 10:00am.
 - \$16 in Advance, \$19 at the Door, Mezzanine seating will \$24 in advance, \$27 at the door.
 - Tickets will be reserved seating only. Please order your tickets early.
 - Tickets can be bought at the Elsinore Theatre Box Office, or at www.elsinorthatre.com. No tickets will be available at ABA.
 - The Elsinore Box Office charges \$5 per transaction.
 - If you own a business, or know a small business owner who wants to support the show, ABA, and Marion-Polk Food Share, we will be selling advertising space in the program! Check the October newsletter for more details.
 - All profits will be donated to Marion-Polk Food Share.
 - Roses will also available for sale at the performance
 - We need a new rose sale coordinator. If you are interested, please email americanballetacademy@gmail.com
 - Rose Sales go to scholarships at ABA
 - This is also a wonderful volunteer position!
- Rehearsals
 - All-Cast Rehearsals

- November 17th and December 1st. 12:30 Act I, 3:00 Act II.
 - Student's acts will be posted on the bulletin board downstairs in 2 weeks.
 - Only Class Coordinators are allowed to stay – it is too crowded for everyone!
 - Dancers and Class Coordinators will have to wait downstairs until they are allowed in the studio. Only specific volunteers are allowed in the upstairs hallway. This is a safety issue.
 - All children will need to be checked-in and checked-out with class coordinators.
 - Pick-up your child on time, by their designated check-out time, unless you are told otherwise.
 - This year, we are going to post on the American Ballet Academy Facebook page, if we are running late, so that families have a better idea of when to come pick up/drop-off their dancers. More information will be included in the May newsletter.
 - Dancers will be required to have a ticket to exit the building, which will be distributed by class coordinators.
- Spacing Rehearsal
 - Friday, December 7th, after school, starting with older dancers first.
 - For students Ballet I and up. Pre-Ballet II dancers will do spacing before the Dress Rehearsal, December 8th, at 9:30am.
 - Is mandatory!!!
 - Will last anywhere from 1-2 hours – Please be on time, ready to dance, to help us run on time.
 - Dress Rehearsal
 - Is the day of the Saturday show – EVERYONE must attend, even if you are performing only on Sunday.

- You will be required to check in 2x – both at the front door, and with your class coordinators. Dads dropping off dancers in Harcourt Hall (Pre-Ballet II-Ballet III, Jazz I-Modern II): There will be a volunteer mom to escort your dancers into the dressing room area, to their class coordinator. They will be at the bottom of the stairs, by the bathrooms.
 - Is a very hectic day, but we do our best to keep things running smoothly! The best thing you can do to help the day run on time is make sure your child is ready to go at their designated call-time (in costume, hair and make-up, with class, ready to dance).
 - For the dress rehearsal, and all other rehearsals: Please plan to be back at the auditorium by your child’s designated “pick-up” time. But, *please* understand things may run late and you may need to wait. It is not fair to make volunteers wait longer than necessary if your class is dismissed on time. Your flexibility is appreciated. Pick-up times will be available closer to the date of the show.
- Performance
 - The Theater has reported that it is too hard to track tickets when people drop off students, and then do not go through the ticket line. Also, Volunteers have reported that it is too confusing and crowded when there are so many people in the dressing rooms before the show/during intermission. So:
 - ~ Call times are at 5:45 for Saturday’s performance, and 1:15pm for Sunday’s performance. Parents will return to the ticket line, after their child is dropped off.
 - ~ Student’s make-up and hair must be fully done before being dropped off, and non-volunteers must leave after dancers are dropped off.
 - ~ Class Volunteers will put on costumes when it is the appropriate time. Creative Movement-Ballet I: We understand that it can be necessary to help put your child’s costume on. However, it does get VERY crowded in the dressing rooms. We ask that you please get your child in costume as quickly as possible, and then exit the dressing room right away. Thank you!

~ Parents cannot stay in dressing rooms before the show/during intermission

~ If you want to be with your child in the dressing room, please sign up to be a Class Coordinator. Thank you! ☺

- Seating is reserved - buy tickets in advance - they go on sale October 22nd, at 10:00am.
- All students will participate in the final curtain call at the end of the show.
- No dancers will be allowed to leave before the end of the show. This is for the safety of the dancers.
- Classes that are downstairs below the stage (Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet I, and Boys I): Please discuss the option of meeting parents up on the stage. It is very crowded downstairs with very narrow hallways. This would help with congestion.
- Volunteers
 - The volunteer sign-up is available; these performances are a group effort. There are a lot of jobs – please try to find something you can help with!
 - The most important volunteers are Class Coordinators. Most classes require two parents to be in charge. It is important that the class coordinators are familiar with the show. At least one of the class coordinators, from each performance, needs to be at one all-cast rehearsal, spacing, (Pre-Ballet II, Boys I, and Modern II and up) and the dress rehearsal. If the other class coordinator cannot attend the rehearsals but can help with the show or vice versa, we have provided spots for this as well. Do feel free to sign up for more than one spot, if you can! There should be 2 parents with classes Ballet I and under at all rehearsals. If Class Coordinators cannot cover both rehearsals please find someone else to help cover the afternoon. Thank you for coordinating these volunteer positions amongst yourselves in addition to covering the other volunteer opportunities.
 - We also need people to be party parents in the party scene! It is a lot of fun, and is a minimal commitment. There are just a few dance steps, but mostly is acting. We will be having three rehearsals at ABA, October 28, and November 4 and 11, beginning at 4:45pm. Of course we will need you

present at the all casts, spacing, and dress rehearsals as well. If you are interested, please email the office to get on the list.

One last thing! We love that our performances are family friendly, and that we have audience members of all ages. If you have a small one with you in the audience during the performance and they become disruptive, we do appreciate you taking them out of the audience. This past performance, The Elsinore volunteers told us that it is actually best for parents to take their young ones down to the sitting area by the downstairs bathrooms, in Harcourt Hall. Unfortunately, the theatre was built in such a way that any noise in the lobby echoes right into the auditorium, and is actually almost made louder. Thank you very much for your cooperation!