

Ballet at the MSBMD

It is important when shopping for a dance studio to educate yourself with the approach, mission and objectives of the program. Please take a moment to read about our program, and the philosophy we follow when training an individual from age 3 to 18.

When a dancer begins at age 3 or 4:

When a dancer joins our studio between the ages of 3 and 4 he/she will be placed in a creative movement class. It is through the creative movement class that the dancer will experience classroom structure and learn appropriate dance class manners and discipline. The dancer will also learn body awareness, basic movement sequences and improve coordination. This is a wonderful opportunity for any child to experience his/her first “classroom experience”, and sets the groundwork for taking the Ballet I classes at age 5. The primary goal for this class is to define structure for the student, while introducing basic movement patterns and exploring creativity through movement in a fun, non competitive atmosphere.

Creative movement classes are divided between new and returning students; permitting the optimum learning experience for all. Therefore, when you sign up for a creative movement class for the first time, you will be in with dancers who are taking the class for the first time (First Steps). Upon successful completion, you will advance to the next level of creative movement (Second Steps).

When a dancer begins between the ages 5-10:

Depending on whether the dancer has had previous experience with us through our creative dance classes, or starting brand new, **this is the optimum age to start dance technique**. When between the ages of 5-7 and starting with us, the dancer can expect to start learning basic ballet vocabulary and body positions in an age appropriate progressive fashion. This age group is divided into two levels. Dancers joining us for the first time between the ages of 5-7 will start in our Ballet IA class. Dancers age 4 who have successfully completed Creative Mvmt second steps will advance to Ballet IA. Advancement from Ballet IA to Ballet IB is at the sole discretion of the instructor. Dancers ages 8-10 joining us for the first time with NO prior dance experience will start in Ballet IB. Advancement from Ballet IB to Ballet level II is at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Ballet Levels II-V:

Our studio is geared toward training the pre-professional dancer. Therefore, we believe in offering a full spectrum of technique through our diverse, professional faculty. Ballet is the foundation of our school. A dancer who is trained through our program will not be pigeonholed into one school of ballet, (Vaganova, RAD, Cecchetti etc) rather, he/she will have sound, technical ballet training from individuals who have experienced ballet through professional performing and/or prestigious college/conservatory programs (see instructors bios) who each offer his/her own approach to training ballet dancers **based on the school of ballet he/she was trained**. We hire teachers who have trained in all schools of ballet- they are professionals, not students. Our dancers benefit because they get to study with various instructors from various backgrounds. We know how to mold a ballet dancer in order to be successful in today’s college/professional programs. **The dancers we produce are intelligent, strong, anatomically correct movers who have the ability to pursue any college/dance conservatory program he/she may choose.** The proof is in the dancers we produce.

Dancers in Levels II through V range in age between 6 and 18. Class placement in the upper levels is based on ability not age. Pointe work begins in Ballet level IV and dancers must be a minimum age of 11 prior to starting Pointe work. Class advancement is at the sole discretion of the instructor.

WHAT IS JAZZ AND MODERN?

The MSBMD offers professional instruction in Jazz and Modern Technique. Our Jazz and Modern classes are leveled from Beginner- Advanced. Beginner classes are for any dancer age 6-15. Our Intermediate classes consist of our Ballet III and IV dancers. Our advanced classes are for the Ballet V students. If you have taken Jazz or Modern elsewhere, you can be evaluated for which class is most appropriate for you.

Our jazz instruction consists of lyrical, hip hop, contemporary and classical jazz styles. When you sign up for Jazz, you will experience ALL styles of Jazz within the 10 weeks. Classes are high energy and children enjoy dancing to music that they recognize from their favorite artists on the radio.

Our Modern dance program offers **pure modern dance technique** that focuses on the use of space, energy and time. Modern classes are structured and taught by instructors with extensive modern dance backgrounds. Classes have LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT. If you are interested in pursuing dance in college, you will need modern technique. Our school can train you to be ready for such a program. Students at MSBMD feel lucky to have such a program under their belts when they attend college dance programs.

DO YOU HAVE PERFORMANCES?

Unique to our school, we do NOT offer recitals. Class time is focused on dance technique and training dancers HOW to dance, not one dance for a recital. However, we certainly see the value in performance and therefore offer two pre-professional performances a year (December and May). Dancer's ages 5 – 18 may audition for our December program (The Nutcracker Ballet) and dancers ages 6-18 may audition for our spring performance (The Maryland Dance Project). See our "Performing Opportunities" page on our website for more details about our shows. In the spring of 08 we successfully presented our first production of *The Wizard of OZ*.

Why Perform with us?

**WE BUY ALL THE COSTUMES!*

**PERFORM IN A PROFESSIONAL THEATER (MILBURN STONE, CECIL COLLEGE)*

**LEARN CHOREOGRAPHY FROM OUR ESTEEMED FACULTY AND HIRED GUEST ARTISTS*

**ADVANCE YOUR TECHNIQUE YOU HAVE LEARNED IN CLASS THROUGH PERFORMANCE ON STAGE*

**THERE IS NO OTHER OPPORTUNITY LIKE IT IN THE COUNTY!*

FINAL KEY POINTS TO COMPARE

**PROFESSIONALS TEACH ALL CLASSES- NOT OLDER STUDENTS*

**NO "RECITAL" COSTUME FEES*

**A PROGRAM THAT IS AGE APPROPRIATE, DISCIPLINED AND STRUCTURED*

**CLEAN FACILITY*

**PROFESSIONAL GERSTUNG AIR BASE SPRUNG DANCE FLOOR*

**ATTACHED AUTHENTIC PILATES STUDIO*

**ANATOMICALLY CORRECT INSTRUCTION*

**BALLET FOUNDATION= A WELL TRAINED DANCER IN ALL OTHER TECHNIQUES*

**MASTER CLASS OPPORTUNITIES*

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES*

**ASSISTANCE WITH COLLEGE DANCE PROGRAM AUDITIONS AND APPLICATIONS*