

Hello Superstars!

As always, we hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. We want to take this opportunity to update everyone on our plans for the remainder of this season. Since the early onset of CoVid-19 we have continued to monitor the ever-changing guidance and recommendations of the state, CDC and public health officials.

In order to ensure the safety and health of our students, their families, and our staff, as well as adhere to the Governor's proclamations we have made the extremely difficult decision to cancel the virtual recital, effectively ending the 2019-2020 dance season.

We understand that this decision will be disappointing, but the safety of our students their families, and our staff, is of utmost importance to us, and given the current restrictions and guidance, we feel it is in everyone's best interest to do so. The last couple of months have been challenging to say the least. Please understand and be assured that we have done our absolute best in our attempts to make some sort of recital happen.

The decision to ultimately cancel the virtual recital and end our season was not made lightly. We hope you will take the time to read further to fully understand this decision, as it was not easy and one that was made in careful consideration of all factors. In addition, the development of the Covid-related PMIS, which is affecting children specifically, has also played a role in our decision. Ultimately, we care too much about our students, their families, and our staff, to risk it. Given the current guidelines we are required to follow, we just do not feel we would be able to produce a show that is valuable and a positive experience for our students and families.

ADDITIONAL INSIGHT THAT DROVE THE CANCELATION DECISION

The Governor's Office direction advises that dance studios fall under the category of a recreational business, meaning Superstars must strictly adhere to the requirements and recommendations released by the Governor and the Iowa Department of Health. The restrictions for recreational businesses are not based on occupancy but rather the limitation of all activities to ten people or less and participants must always be six feet apart.

Given that the majority of our classes exceed that 10-person limit, major shifts to the class enrollment and schedule would be required, in order to move forward with the virtual recital. Limiting the virtual recital to 10 people in one room is simply not feasible, as the 10-person limit includes not only students, but parents/guardians, teaching staff, technical staff, and the videographer staff.

While we evaluated all our virtual recital options, we recently evaluated the newer CDC recommendations related to the utilization of masks. Once again this presents challenges for our students and staff given that dance, baton, tumbling & cheer is a physical activity, the use of masks limits our participants' ability to fully perform their routines, on the other hand a lack of masks impacts our ability to reduce the risk of any spread across the participants.

REFUNDS FOR RECITAL FEES

The 2020 recital fee will be credited to the studio accounts. Students returning for the 2020-2021 season, the 2020 recital fee will be applied as a credit to your 2021 fees. Students not returning for the 2020-2021 season - refund checks will be issued in September after the 2020-2021 registration period has closed.

SUMMER CLASSES & FALL REGISTRATION

With all of this said, we are also looking forward to kicking off summer classes and fall registration activities. For summer, we can proactively set limits to the numbers of students in each class, and apply social distancing practices and other safety measures in our classrooms.

This summer, we will hold a 4-week session on Tuesday nights from July 21 through August 11. There will not be a State Fair performance this year.

Registration for fall will open on Monday, July 6, and our fall schedules will be available on the website by the end of June. We appreciate your patience and understanding on this matter.

COMPETITION TEAMS

Please be on the lookout for a message from your team's director this week regarding the studio's plans for this year's competitions.

SENIOR SHOWCASE

Graduating seniors – we understand the decision to cancel our virtual recital impacts you in a different way than any other student. While we still believe cancelling the virtual recital is the best decision, we are heartbroken for you. So, in an attempt to celebrate you and your dedication to the studio over the years, we are planning to offer a “Superstars Senior Showcase”, which would somewhat follow our virtual recital format. The studio directors will be contacting you soon with more information regarding this special event!

COSTUME PARADE

Our staff misses all of you very much! Since we realize the disappointment cancelling the virtual recital will cause, we would like to give all our Superstars the opportunity to put on their costumes, and drive through the studio parking lot for a costume parade and to say “hi” to our staff from a distance. The Costume Parade will take place on Saturday, June 27 from 9:00am – 11:00am in the studio parking lot. Feel free to get in costume (and even hair and make-up if you would like) and drive through to say hi and show off! We ask that everyone follow the regular traffic pattern and flow around the studio. Our staff is very excited about this event and we hope to see everyone there!

Again, we honestly cannot begin to express how grateful we are for everyone's patience, understanding, and support during this time. We sincerely hope you understand and respect our decision for cancelling the virtual recital. We feel that given our current situation, cancelling this season is in everyone's best interest. We are already planning and looking forward to next season and we can't wait for a fresh, new start! Most importantly, we hope this message finds you all safe and healthy.

From the bottom of our hearts...thank you so much!
Superstars Performing Arts Staff