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MARSHALLTOWN YMCA-YWCA

Miss Kimberlee Kups-Benson

Dance Director/Owner

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YMCA-YWCA SCHOOL OF DANCE: THE DANCE KONNECTION 2024-2025 NEWSLETTER

# SEPTEMBER 2024 SOUTE NEWS

**\*Please read this entire news letter! There is a lot of information included in all the monthly news letters and if you just skim it you will miss something!\***

**Enrollment is still open!** Come help us celebrate our #35joyUSyears of dance! Spots are limited! Contact Ashley Nelson at 641-752-8658 ext 302 or email [ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org](mailto:ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org).

News Letters will be emailed at least once a month. You can also find hard copies of the newsletter in the bins outside the dance rooms and it's always posted on our website!

**Communication is Key!** Feel free to email Miss Kimi with questions or concerns. You may email her at using her work email: [thedancekonnection@gmail.com](mailto:thedancekonnection@gmail.com) or [kimi.kups-benson@ymca-ywca.org](mailto:kimi.kups-benson@ymca-ywca.org). She may use either one to send correspondence. If you need to call the office the number is 641-752-8658 ext. 304. Our main source of communication is by email. If you are not receiving emails and would like to, please contact the dance office and we will add you to our list. If you know of someone who is not receiving emails from us let them know that they may also call the office to be added to the list.

**Keep up with DK by getting the Remind App!** If you would like to receive reminder information (workshops, weather, etc,) by text message please follow these steps to enroll to be put on the text list. You will not be able to respond to the text message. Website instructions: [www.remind.com/join/](http://www.remind.com/join/) next enter @thedancek (the @ sign is already there, so just enter thedancek, with no spaces) you will then be prompted to enter your phone number that you wish to receive the text message to, including your area code. You will receive a text message from remind which will include a code that you will need to enter to validate that the number you entered is correct. If you would rather, you can download the remind app on your phone and then follow the instructions above. It is very easy to do!!!

## **Dates To Remember!**

### **September**

September 2: No Dance (Labor Day)  
September 8: NHSDA meeting @ 4:00PM  
September 28: Oktoberfest Parade

### **October**

October 10: Christmas Extravaganza  
Meeting

### **November**

November 1: Costume Payment DUE  
November 18-21: Parent Viewing Week  
November 27-30: Thanksgiving Break

### **December**

December 1: Christmas Extravaganza  
December 2-5: Bring A Grown Up To  
Dance Week  
December 16-19: Christmas Parties in  
Class  
December 22-January 3rd: No Dance -  
Merry Christmas

### **January**

January 6: Classes Resume  
January 15: Final Costume Payment DUE  
February 10: Tights/Accessories Forms  
and Money DUE

### **March**

March 14: DK Starz Showcase  
March 31-April 3: Parents Viewing Week 2

### **April**

April 11: Dance Pictures

## Dates To Remember!

### May

**May 1: Tumble Tots Demo (Tentative)**

**May 3: KaMotion Recital &  
Acro Demonstration**

**May 3-8: Recital Dress Rehearsal**

**May 9-10: Recital**

## Important Payment Information

All monthly payments for dance classes that are paid to the Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA are on a monthly auto pay system and will be drafted from the account (checking, savings or credit card) that you provided when you turned in your dance registration sheet. If you have not turned in your account information for monthly drafting please contact Ashley Nelson [immediately at 641-752-8658 ext 302 or email \[ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org\]\(mailto:ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org\)](mailto:ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org). Dance tuition payments are due on the first of each month unless paid in full at the start of classes. Accounts must be kept current in order to attend dance classes at the Y. A \$30 service charge will be applied to accounts for any returned payments due to nonsufficient funds. Participants will be notified at the time of returns. Participants have 30 days to take care of any returned payments and NSF fees. If past due balances and fees are not paid after 60 days, participants will be dropped from dance classes. It is the card/account holder's responsibility to inform the Y of any changes in billing methods. An electronic

method of billing must be completed and returned in order to attend.

**All** other payments outside of tuition (shoes, costumes, accessories, gifts, etc.) must be paid at the dance office outside the studios upstairs at the Cultural Center. Payments by check need to be made out to "The Dance Konnection". There is a payment basket located on the desk in the dance office, please put all forms & payments in this basket. Do not leave checks or cash on the computer desk.

**The Dance Konnection does send out statements on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. If the balance of your account is not paid in full, a late fee of 3% will be charged on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. We accept cash or checks only in the dance office. NO CREDIT CARDS! However, you can pay by credit card through the parent portal. NOTE: there is a convenience fee for all credit card payments through the portal.**

### A NOTE ABOUT SHOES:

If you have questions about shoes, dancewear, payments, statements, etc. you will HAVE to wait until someone is in the dance office to help you. Please don't interrupt the dance classes. Once the attention is lured away from the teacher it is very hard to get the students to focus again. Thank you for your cooperation!

Shoes are coming in daily. Please check with the dance office and we will get them for you. There are no refunds only exchanges. \*\*Some shoes may be on backorder, but as soon as I get them I will hand them out and an email will also be sent to you.

I don't take used shoes. If you want to sell them you may post a note on the bulletin board outside the dance studio. Please do not leave notes or used dance shoes in my office.

## Do you know about our Attendance/Tardiness Policies??

Students are required to maintain regular attendance to classes and rehearsals in order to be eligible for performances. All students are expected to take a seat in the lobby to wait for class to start (no more than 10 minutes early). Parents/guardians with children under the age of 7 should walk dancers to and from classes, dancers will not be released to walk out of the dance room/building alone. If you are late in picking up your child, the child will be expected to wait in the dance room until you arrive. Please visit with your child about this to eliminate running around the building. Please notify the teacher if a student will be late or is unable to attend class: 752-8658 ext. 304 or by email at [thedancekonnection@gmail.com](mailto:thedancekonnection@gmail.com).

### OUR SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Spencer Peck	Sophia Stone
Peyton Verdulla	Octavia Brown
Calliope Engle	Nova Hendershott
Bia Benson	Makenzie Carrillo
Kinnley Smith	Amelia Deeter
Clarissa Sanchez	Baylee Gummert
Quinn Flack	Randolph Bear
Carter Miller	Quinlan Hendershott
Georgia Eicher	

### Dance Quote of the Month:

*The best preparation for tomorrow, is doing your best today!*



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## **LET'S CELEBRATE 35 YEARS!**

We are planning as a studio to participate in the Oktoberfest Parade this year as part of our 35th year anniversary celebration! We would LOVE to have a HUGE showing in the parade! It would be amazing to have the whole studio participate! The parade is September 28th, (more details to come when we get it) so mark your calendars! All dancers will be learning the parade routine in class this month.

There will be a float for our 3 & 4 year old dancers and a parent to ride on.

We are asking that all dancers and parents who will be riding, walking, or dancing in the parade to purchase an item of parade wear to celebrate our 35th year! Please follow the link below to order. All orders have to be purchased by **September 6th!** This will be the **ONLY** order.

<https://thedancekonnection35years.itemorder.com>

Join us in the parade to celebrate #35joyUSyears!



**The following is a friendly reminder of the guidelines and procedures for this year at DK. If you have any questions please feel free to email the dance office at [thedancekonnection@gmail.com](mailto:thedancekonnection@gmail.com)**

1. There is Hand Sanitizer All over the building! We have wall mounted dispensers outside of Studio 1/2 and Studio 4. All the studios will have bottles available for the dancers to use. But it's also a good idea the dancers have some of their own in their dance bags. We will remind them to use it but please reinforce this with your dancers also. And **HAND WASHING** with soap and water is always the best!
2. No street shoes allowed (this is not a new rule this is a reminder) in the actual studios. Only dance shoes!!! Also reminder to wipe them down and sanitize them after each use. So it's a good idea for your dancers to have some wipes in their bag to do that. Hey the best case scenerio is that their dance bag may not smell AWFUL this year!!!
3. Dancewear and shoe pick up. Most of the items have arrived if you ordered them (except Kamotion uniforms) at the Registration nights. If you ordered online through our parent portal after registration, those items are in route. We have a few items backordered. We will try on the shoes etc on your dancer when they arrive at the studio. If you ordered in our Nimbley Store I believe they give you a notice when it should arrive at your home.
4. Picking up and dropping off dancers: Dancers should not be dropped off for classes more than 10 minutes early. Also, please be here promptly when their class is over so they are not waiting here at the Y.
5. If you are in KaMotion: Until we get your cheer shoes in please bring a different pair of tennis shoes to wear inside the studio.
6. PBT: make sure you bring your own equipment and cleaning products.

## **Christmas Show Information!**

**For our NEW families:** Every year The Dance Konnection puts on a Christmas Show. This year our theme is **Santa's HO HO HOEDOWN!** It will be on December 1st from 1:00-4:00 in the afternoon at the MHS Auditorium. This is a very informal show and we use it as a way of teaching our students to give to the community at the holidays. We don't get any elaborate costumes, usually just t-shirts and pants or whatever is around. We sell t-shirts and a dollar from each t-shirt goes to a good cause/charity--we try to do a different one every year. We usually collect items at the door for different organizations and cash donations for another organization. One of the youth groups in the community sells concessions to earn money for their group. It is just a fun way to celebrate the holidays and focus on giving to others. We need lots of help from parents in order to pull our Christmas show together. **We will have our first meeting on Thursday October 10th at 7:30p.m. We will meet upstairs at the Cultural Center in Conference Room #205.** Many hands make light work so come join us to help with the planning!!



**Christmas Show t-shirt:** We will soon have order forms for t-shirts available in the waiting area of the studio and on the website with our Christmas show logo on them. Just a WARNING!!!! They will be due when they are due and **not a day later**. I will not be ordering extras. So get them in early. I will be ordering them the day after they are due. These places are very busy around Christmas so we are on a limited time table. \$1.00 from each t-shirt sold will be given to a charity that the Christmas Show Committee will choose. We will let you know which charity has been selected after the decision is made. So what a great way to give plus you get a cute shirt too!!! You will be able to purchase your Christmas t-shirts using either your parent portal or in the dance office.

### **Nutcracker Auditions!!!**

Galagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center Nutcracker Auditions: September 13-14.  
More information: <https://www.gbpac.com>

### **Are you dressed correctly for Ballet 1,2,3,4,5 & Pointe 1,2,3??**

**Ballet 1-5: Black leotard (any style), pink tights, ballet skirt, pink split sole ballet shoes.**

**Pointe 1-4: Black leotard (any style), pink tights, ballet skirt, pointe shoes (MUST HAVE BALLET SHOES TOO)**

**Dance Journals:** We are asking that all Jazz 1-8, Ballet 1-5, Pointe 1-4, and Tap 1-7 dancers have a "Dance" journal in their dance bags along with a pen. We will use them to write choreography, words of encouragement, thoughts, goals, etc. It helps the dancers remember steps and be uplifted when they may have had a rough rehearsal. You can use an old notebook, diary or journal. Feel free to decorate them! They can glue pictures of dancers or anything pertaining to dance on them. It is also a great remembrance to look back on!

### **Be Prepared for Class!**

All Dancers must have their hair in a bun or pony tail. All shoes must have their names in them. No gum or candy in the dance room. You must follow the dress code for your classes. Please take your little dancers to the restroom before they come to dance class

**A Friendly Reminder:** we do **not** allow dancers to have cell phones, Apple watches, iPads or any other communication devices in the dance rooms while their classes are being held. These items are a huge interruption/distraction to the entire class as well as the instructors. We ask that all devices are kept out of the dance rooms and in dance bags. If instructors see that these devices are in the dance rooms they will be collected and kept until class is over.

### **Dance Objective of the Month:**

**Make New Friends!**



### **Did you know we offer private lessons?**

If your dancer is interested in doing private lessons please contact Miss Kimi at [kimi.kups-benson@ymca-ywca.org](mailto:kimi.kups-benson@ymca-ywca.org). Or book and pay for lessons on your parent portal!

#### **Parent/Tot Class:**

This class is geared towards toddlers, 18 months to 3 year olds, and the special adult in his or her life. It is designed to help students feel comfortable learning in a group setting. Activities will include dance games, playing instruments, and singing songs while having fun together. Learn new and creative ways to enjoy music and dance. This class will be in three 6 week sessions.

Classes are offered on Thursdays from 6:30-7:00PM.

Session 1: October 10-November 14

Session 2: January 9-February 13

Session 3: March 6-April 10

### **Costume Deposit Policy Reminder:**

Per your signed registration paperwork, below are the following costume deposit fees:

**Primary classes: preschool & elementary Ballet & Tap combination classes:** one time \$85 fee (plus tax), total due will be \$90.95 on **November 1st.**

**Dancers in leveled classes (1-8):** dancers taking more than one leveled class have a \$115 deposit due **November 1st** with remaining balance due on **January 15th.**

**Dancers taking only one leveled class:** have a \$95 deposit due **November 1st** with the remaining balance due **January 15th.**

### **GET ON YOUR PARENT PORTAL—IT'S SO EASY!!**

You have each been emailed individually a parent portal. If you have not received this via email please email the office and we can resend it to you. On the parent portal you can see what you owe on your Dance Konnection account (NOT the Y for regular classes), order shoes/dance wear on line, your dancers attendance in class, see your DK statements, add another parent or contact to your account/update your information (such as address or phone number), add a photo of your dancer to their profile so the teacher knows exactly what they look like, teachers may share class notes or homework for your dancer. You can still order shoes and dance wear from the office which really is a safer bet! If you order through our on line store you will have to pay via pay pal. Which you can pay with your credit card or pay pal account but it will be via pay pal. There is a convenience fee added to on line orders. Plus if you order the incorrect item and/or size you will be charged a \$10.00 restocking fee. If you go to the office and order there is no convince fee and if the wrong item or size is ordered it will just be our regular exchange policy. If you are unsure, order in the office!!! We will not be taking credit card payments or pay pal payments in the office right now, so all office orders will be by check or cash. You can also order dancewear through Nimbley, which you can get to through our website.



### **Volunteers Needed!**

It takes a lot of parent volunteers to help put on these fantastic recitals, parades, Christmas shows, etc. This year we are going to start getting our volunteer lists started early! It is going to be a FUN year celebrating 35 years at The Dance Konnection! There is a lot in store so be ready!! Here is a list of volunteers that we will be needing throughout the year, we may need additional volunteers at some point, but this is a good start. If you are interested in volunteering for any job/jobs please send us an email stating what you would like to be signed up for so we can put your name on the list.

#### **Oktemberfest Parade:**

Driver & truck/SUV

Parents to walk in the parade

**Volunteers for Christmas Extravaganza:** planning, set up, costume removal, front table, prop building, etc. If interested in helping please attend the October 10th meeting at 7:30PM.

#### **KaMotion Recital:**

Provide Lunch

Hand out Programs

Help dancers get ready

#### **Recital:**

Prop Building– this will start in January

Backstage Helpers with Little Girls & Boys Classes

Backstage Dads

Take Tickets– Friday & Saturday

Programs– Friday & Saturday

Flowers– Friday & Saturday

**\*Please do not volunteer for picture night at this time!**



At The Dance Konnection, we are proud to introduce our DK Leadership Class, designed for dedicated dancers aged 11 and older who embody the spirit of positivity and role modeling. This program is perfect for students who are enrolled in three or more classes at our studio and are eager to take on the responsibility of leadership both within the dance community and beyond. Participants must be willing to commit to homework assignments, attend a monthly leadership class, and engage in service projects that give back to our community.

Our DK Leadership Class is more than just a dance program; it is a journey towards becoming a well-rounded individual with strong values and a positive attitude. We believe in leading from the bottom to the top, and our leaders are trained to be supportive, kind, and motivational influences on their peers. This class is ideal for students who aim to foster personal growth and make lasting connections, serving as role models at the studio and in every aspect of their lives.

By joining the DK Leadership Class, our young leaders will develop essential life skills that go far beyond the dance floor. They will learn the importance of dedication, teamwork, and service, all while enjoying the vibrant and inclusive environment that The Dance Konnection has cultivated. We are excited to see our students grow into confident and compassionate leaders, ready to make a positive impact wherever they go.

We will be using the Star Leadership curriculum for these classes. The cost is \$20.00 per month (no discount applied).

In order to participate in these classes, you dancer must:

- ◇ At least 11 years old
- ◇ A positive role model
- ◇ Enrolled in 3 or more classes at the studio
- ◇ Willing to do homework
- ◇ Attend classes
- ◇ Have a great attitude
- ◇ Willing to participate in community service opportunities

**Please use the link below to sign up!**

<https://forms.gle/6YYELhVsxTaXju246>

**NOTE: This class does not guarantee a Demonstrator or Student Teacher position, but it IS required to be taken if a dancer is interested in either position.**





At The Dance Konnection, we are thrilled to introduce the DKsparkle Performance Team, a vibrant community performance group designed for dancers eager to showcase their passion and talent. This team offers a fantastic opportunity for dancers of all ages to engage more deeply with their love for dance while making meaningful connections within the community. DKsparkle is perfect for those who want to perform more frequently without the high demands of a competitive team, allowing dancers to shine in a supportive and fun environment. DKsparkle Performance Team emphasizes confidence-building and personal growth. Our professional instructors are dedicated to fostering a nurturing atmosphere where dancers can thrive both on and off the stage. With a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year, DKsparkle members can look forward to sharing their creativity and skills at local events, festivals, and community gatherings.

This exposure not only enhances their performance abilities but also helps them develop a strong sense of self-assurance and teamwork. Joining DKsparkle is a low-commitment way for dancers to immerse themselves in the joy of performing without the pressure of intense rehearsal schedules. It's an ideal fit for those who want to balance dance with other commitments while still enjoying the thrill of the stage. At The Dance Konnection, we believe in the power of dance to bring people together, and DKsparkle embodies this spirit by creating lasting memories and friendships that extend beyond the dance floor. Come join us and let your dance journey sparkle with DKsparkle!

**What:** The Dance Konnection Community Performance Team: DKsparkle!

**Who:** Any dancers ages 8-high school

**Requirements:**

- Current DK student enrolled in ballet and at least one other class
- Wants to perform more and love to dance!
- Must attend the once a month rehearsal (2 hours), purchase the performance team uniform and practice routines on their own.

We are planning on 4 or more community events throughout the year to perform at from festivals to nursing home performances.

**Cost:** \$35.00 per month (no discount)

First rehearsals is September 21st, 1:00pm—3:00pm

More detailed rehearsal schedule and performance will be given out at the first practice.

If you are interested in this group please sign up on this google doc. By **September 6th:**

<https://forms.gle/2Q7gGxofvcBeHGCM6>



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## **Do you know about our adaptive dance classes??**

### **A Chance To Dance**

A Chance to Dance is a rhythm and dance program designed for those with individual learning differences and other special needs. This clinically based hip hop dance program utilizes sensory processing, kinesiology, and behavioral analysis as a foundation to build customizable classes. A Chance to Dance focuses on skill development, self empowerment and celebrating our differences.

### **Curriculum**

Miss Kimi Kups-Benson, a certified RHYTHM WORKS Integrative Dance instructor will lead all classes, following a curriculum that is completely customizable to fit the needs of each student and is appropriate for adults ages 18 and up of all ability levels. The program requires a parent, therapist, sibling or friend to accompany for FREE as the student's buddy. This person should be able to assist the student to ensure that classes run smoothly.

### **Schedule & Fees**

A Chance to Dance is offered in two sessions that offers individual and group classes. If needed, individual classes will be scheduled with the instructor to comfortably introduce dancers to the program and allow a smooth transition to group classes. Students should wear clothes/shoes that are comfortable for movement.

Session One:

Tuesdays 2-3 p.m. \*Tuesday, September 10th-Tuesday, November 26th

Optional end of session performance: Sunday, December 1st Christmas Show

Fees: \$150 + Christmas Show T-shirt (TBA)

Session Two:

Tuesdays 2-3 p.m. \*Tuesday, January 7th- Tuesday, May 6th

Optional end of session performance: Saturday, May 10th Recital Show

Fees: \$150 + Recital Costume Fee (TBA)

### **Registration**

To request a registration packet, contact Ashley Nelson at [ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org](mailto:ashley.nelson@ymca-ywca.org). For questions regarding students or to set up individual classes, contact Kimi Kups-Benson at [thedanceconnection@gmail.com](mailto:thedanceconnection@gmail.com) Session fees are due upon registration.



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# STAFF SPOTLIGHT!



Meet Miss Jonna!

Miss Jonna teaches our Boys class,  
Jazz, Ballet, PBT, Dancer's  
Conditioning and our new  
Leadership Class here at the studio!!

When you see Miss Jonna say hello!



## What is the National Honor Society for Dance Arts?

The National Honor Society for Dance Arts, or NHSDA, is a program of the National Dance Education. It is ran on an institutional basis. Chapters are set up at individual schools, and only students who are enrolled at that school may apply for induction. Individual students, not enrolled at a school that hosts a current NHSDA Chapter, are not eligible for induction.

### Student Benefits:

- ◇ Recognition of their artistic merit, academic achievement, and leadership throughout their education.
- ◇ Certificates at each level of induction, opportunity to receive the gold Honor Pin and wear the blue and white Honor Cord and/or Medallion at graduation.
- ◇ Mentorship from Chapter Sponsor and networking with peers.
- ◇ Leadership and development opportunities within their NHSDA Chapter, as they can assist the Chapter Sponsor with Chapter administration, record keeping, fundraising, and event planning.

**Dues are DUE at the first meeting September 8th: \$30 to Miss Kristin. Keep a look out for DK NHSDA Merchandise Fundraiser. Help support our Chapter!**