

Hello Kiptom Dance Center Families,

As you probably know, Erie County has cancelled school starting Monday, March 16. I spent today working with the staff to come up with a contingent plan to help give dance classes to our students. With that said we have come to a decision to have Spring Recess this week, March 16-22. To allow our students and parents to adjust to a new routine. This will be replacing our scheduled break that is listed on our website, April 13-19. During break I will be working with my staff to train for remote on line classes and activities, getting the necessary tools ready and sanitizing the studio with professional cleaning service. Starting March 23 will be changing to an online module to allow our students to continue their training and have some similar form of routine and exercise.

I will be working with instructors over this week on preparing the online modules and will get the information out to you on how it will work ASAP.

I would like to remind my Kiptom families:

- Your family has invested time and money into this training so please do not throw that away due to this event. We can continue training online and then resume back into the studio having progressed during this temporary situation.
- More than ever our kids will need to get some exercise and physical activity. This is key to staying healthy and happy!
- Having our kids stick to their routine (even if their dance classes are now at home) helps reduce anxiety for our kids and give them something to look forward to.
- There are some HUGE benefits of having class online such as you can access it any time. Not only that, they can access it multiple times a week!
- This small business needs your support during this trying time if we are going to survive and continue to be a fixture in this community. We have rent and other overhead expenses that will need be paid regardless, and our teachers sincerely need to continue working for their livelihood. I am thinking of this as we are opening new doors and new ways to educate and we are going to make it through this together

Answers to questions you may have:

How will the online dance classes work?

Do to the sudden events of this week we need a few more days to research and plan. You will receive weekly links to lessons for your specific class that will have you learning technique, learning your recital choreography, working on flexibility, conditioning and some fun extras! I will also be implementing ways for you to send in questions to the instructors, for the tweens to communicate and share their videos of them practicing choreography, conditioning and free

styling. All videos will be under a private setting so only those involved can view. For those who want to email me their videos of them dancing at home, I would love to post them to encourage everyone out there to keep at it.

What about the Recital?

We at Kiptom Dance Center are moving forward as planned toward an end of the season recital to showcase our amazing performers and all their hard work. These students deserve it! As I mentioned above, we will continue learning recital choreography with the online classes and go from there. We have options and I will continue to research what is best for our Kiptom families. We don't have to rush and decide now.

What about costumes?

All costumes have been ordered and I will continue to receive them as they come in. We can do private fittings for those costumes that arrive during our online class session or we can wait until classes resume in the studio.

What about competition teams and fees?

I will address these students in a separate email coming soon.

Please email me any questions or ideas you may have. I know if we stay positive and work together we can ride this out and get our amazing lives back to normal.

I look forward to communicating with you again soon on our new adventure of online training! This too shall pass. We thank you for your support and loyalty.

Sincerely,
Dawn Tarbox-Szerbiak
Owner/Artistic Director
Kiptom Dance Center

P.S. On a side note for those of you needing child care we do have amazing trustworthy teens and young adults that may be willing to help. I am happy to connect those who need child care with those who are available to watch children. Let me know if this is a need you have or if you are willing to babysit.