



# Becky's School of Dance

**Dear First Year Students and Parents:**

**We, again, welcome you to our dance studio. We are excited that you have decided to give your child a top quality dance education with our dance studio. We just wanted to give you some information as to how our dance education program is set up.**

**If your dancer begins as a 3 year old:**

We begin them in a Tap, Pre-Ballet and Pre-Tumbling program that runs 45 minutes- one time per week. When a child begins dance at this age, it is imperative to begin with this combination class so that they get the basics of Ballet (the basis of all forms of dance), the rhythm from Tap (being able to hear your feet dance to the rhythm) and the strength and coordination from the Tumbling. Your dancer will stay in this combination class for 2 years and will progress in technique and difficulty each month. After his/her 2<sup>nd</sup> year with this program, he/she will be able to choose whether they want to advance into a 1 hour Classical Ballet class or a one-hour Tap and Jazz class. When they are 7 years old, they may choose from any of the forms of dance that we offer at our studio which include: Tap and Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre or Jazz Technique.

**\*\*remember...our graded technique system runs like the graded system in school. If you miss a year of technique in a certain dance form(subject) you miss a year of technique. For ex. If you change from tap/jazz one year - to ballet the next...you will miss out on a year of the tap/jazz technique and will then be placed in a with a class based on your abilities - not necessarily back with the class you were with previously.**

**If your dancer begins as a 4 year old:**

They can take the Tap, Pre-Ballet and Pre-Tumbling class that is mentioned above. They also have the choice of taking Classical Ballet. The Classical Ballet is taught by Judy Shoaff-Reading, a former ballerina, who has also travelled the United States and Europe performing in various ballets. When they are 7 years old, they may choose from any of the forms of dance that we offer at our studio which include: Tap and Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre or Jazz Technique.

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**If your dancer begins as a 5 or 6 year old:**

We prefer them to begin in the Tap, Pre-Ballet and Pre-Tumbling program that runs 45 minutes – one time per week. This will give them a strong basis for the world of dance in technique and rhythm, as well as strengthening their bodies. If they begin in this program they will automatically be put into a 1-hour Tap and Jazz class their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, unless something else is requested. But as a beginner 5 or 6 year old they also have the option of beginning with a 1 hour Classical Ballet class. When they are 7 years old, they may choose from any of the forms of dance that we offer at our studio which include: Tap and Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre or Jazz Technique.

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**If your dancer begins at age 7 or older:**

They may choose any form of dance we offer which includes: Tap and Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre or Jazz Technique. For our more advanced Classical Ballet students, we offer Pointe.

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**Please understand that the first year can be a little confusing and we welcome any questions. We want this experience to be rewarding for you as well as your dancer, so please don't be afraid to make yourself familiar with us. You will receive your "First Dance-O-Gram," via e-mail, the first week of classes - and a new monthly newsletter after that. If you do not get the e-mail, make sure you obtain one in our office. Thank you for letting *Becky's School of Dance* educate your child in the world of dance.**