

March 13, 2020

At APSD the health and safety of our faculty and students are our most important priorities. After the Governor's announcement last night, we have determined that it is in the best interest of our faculty and families to temporarily suspend all classes and private lessons at APSD.

Effective Monday, March 16, the studio will be closed at least until Monday, April 6 to help slow the spread of COVID-19. APSD spring break was originally April 6-11. Depending on how things develop, we may re-open on either April 6 or April 13.

We will follow Chippewa Valley School District and remain open today, March 13 and will also hold regular classes tomorrow, March 14. We are asking that students age 8 and older be dropped off today and tomorrow to reduce the number of people in the studio lobby. If you are concerned about your dancer attending classes, you may keep your child home and refer to our class make-up policy. We will continue to clean the studio extremely thoroughly as we have been doing all week.

We plan on making up the classes missed in a variety of ways. We are canceling studio pictures the week of May 11-15. In place of pictures, we will have a regular class week. We are currently working with the photographer to try and find a new set of dates for pictures. Classes that are technique only (not in the recital) are finished in May. We will be using the class time from these techniques only classes in June to make-up some of the missed classes. We may add 5 minutes to the first and last class of each day for a number of weeks to help make-up lost time in those classes. Additionally, we are exploring the idea of online classes and resources should we need to remain closed longer than expected. It will take us some time to determine the best way to make up time lost for all classes and will be dependent upon how long we are closed. We ask for your patience at this time.

In the meantime, the recital date of June 20th currently remains unchanged. We are working to set up a shared folder for parents and students where they can access the music and videos for each class for recital dances. Some classes may only have music and not a video. Things developed very quickly this week and we will have to close before all teachers are able to record their dances. Cecchetti classes have not yet started recital dances as we have been preparing for exams. We still feel that we will have plenty of time to prepare a recital dance once classes resume.

Regarding Cecchetti exams this Sunday, we are in contact with the Cecchetti Council. We are waiting to hear back on whether or not we will be holding exams. An email will be sent as soon as that information becomes available.

We all care very deeply about our students and know that this news will be very disappointing to them. It is not a decision that was made lightly however, we feel we have a responsibility to lessen the risk to our community as much as possible. We greatly appreciate your support during these challenging times. We will continue to monitor the situation and will update you accordingly. As always, thank you for choosing to dance with us!

In partnership,
Amber Michalik and the APSD Staff