



May 20, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you can all imagine, this has been a difficult time for the staff of Mongan Dance Academy, both emotionally and administratively. We have not been able to plan in advance like usual for the recital, Summer Session, nor even Fall Session due to the coronavirus pandemic. Out of safety for our students and families, and in accordance with the State of Illinois COVID-19 Phase-In policies, our recital will not be performed in an auditorium with 600 guests and several classes of children waiting backstage to perform. Therefore, we have made two alternative plans for performing the dances. Regardless of which plan we use, each class will be professionally recorded and the videos will be pieced together so we have a very special, unique showcase of *Hello, Broadway!*

Our students are deserving of a recital. No matter how this recital takes place, we will do everything to make sure this event is memorable, exciting, and perfect for your dancer. The students have all been incredibly patient, hard-working, and focused during these terribly difficult times. Our teachers are so proud of the work the children are putting in to make an unforgettable recital happen. Although nothing is set in stone, we have two solid scenarios of how the recital should take place. First, we will explain why we are holding two additional weeks of classes for the recital students, and then the location of the performances.

### **EXTRA RECITAL CLASSES IN AUGUST**

We will have a shortened 6-week Summer Session. Then our recital participants will return for two weeks in August **at no additional cost**. Classes will be held at the same day/time as the current class schedule. We may meet in person if it is safe at that time. If it is not safe to meet in person, or if any family is not comfortable sending their child back in person, we will offer the meetings on Zoom. The purpose of the two weeks is as follows:

- **Week 1 (week of August 3-8)** – Dress rehearsal during class time. The students will wear their costume and rehearse their dances.
- **Week 2 (week of August 10-15)** – Students will meet to perform their dances in their costume during their regularly scheduled class time. The location of the performance will be determined according to the “RECITAL PERFORMANCE LOCATION” section on the next page.

We are planning a drive-by pick-up for recital costumes in the back of our studio. Details will be emailed at a later date on how this will be coordinated. We will still be ordering our memorable recital tee shirts. We will be making them extra special this year to

reflect the extraordinary situation of this year's recital. We will provide additional information when shirts are available to order.

### **RECITAL PERFORMANCE LOCATION**

- **If it is SAFE to meet in person** and we can accommodate a small audience of parents and siblings in a pre-determined location, each class will perform their dance for their family and siblings only. We have a few locations in mind, but we will confirm the location as we near the recital time. (Note: If a family is not comfortable with meeting in person, that child can meet via Zoom and send in a home recording to us to have it edited into their class's recorded dance.)
- **In the event that it is UNSAFE to meet in person**, our recital participants will meet on Zoom in their costumes. A family member at home will record a video of the student's performance and email it to us. We will have a professional company edit the videos together for an unforgettable video recital.

As we approach the end of summer, we will make the appropriate decision and send out further details about which route will be taken, and how this will all be accomplished. Please remember that Mongan Dance Academy values above all else the safety and health of our students, staff, and families.

As always, we thank you for being patient and understanding during this period of uncertainty and transition. We thank you for standing by and supporting your children. We thank you for lending your much valued electronic devices and time for your child to attend class. We are so grateful for you and all that you do to support both your child's passion and Mongan Dance Academy.

We do plan on returning to-usual programming for the Fall Session, as long as it is safe. Again, we will have a better idea of how classes will be held later this summer. The schedule should be very similar to the 2019/2020 schedule.

We miss you all, and we pray daily for our students, families, staff, and community.

Sincerely,  
Ms Shannon and Ms Linda  
Mongan Dance Academy