



2020 Spring Recital Handbook

Philosophy, Policies, and Procedures

It's Recital Time!

MDU's Spring Recital is a rite of passage for hundreds of youngsters, a chance to shine in front of family and friends that is anticipated with nervous excitement. MDU's Spring Recital offers our students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to their families and friends with the results of a year of hard work, dedication, and progress.

A big part of the dance training process includes learning through performance. The experience helps build self-esteem and confidence. Onstage experience can also result in better school presentations, improved social skills, and strong interview skills for future college or job opportunities. Participating in rehearsals helps children develop retention skills, teamwork, and adaptability.

We've created this handbook in an effort to clarify what is required in terms of commitments and responsibility in order to make the Spring Recital a great experience for students, teachers, parents, tech crew, and audience members alike. We're going to have a GREAT show and we look forward to sharing it with you!

- Miss Misty, Miss Shayna and Your MDU Staff

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Show Assignments

MDU will produce 6 different shows across the weekend of May 15-17, 2020 at Viterbo University's Fine Arts Center. Show Assignments are published on February 15 via email and on the "Recital" page of our website.

Updates

As the season progresses, additional Spring Recital information or updates will be published in **Monthly Studio Newsletters** and additional email communications as needed. This information can also be referenced via the **"RECITAL" page of our website**. Make it your responsibility to keep abreast of this important information. It's a team effort; students, parents, teachers, and the directors are key players in the show's success!

Home Practice

Students are encouraged to practice their Spring Recital choreography on a regular basis. Our Spring **"Parent Observation Week"** is the perfect chance to take a quick video of our latest choreography to help your dancer practice at home!

SPRING RECITAL TICKETS

"ONLINE R.S.V.P. - Reserved Seating for EVery Parent"

This is a parents-only, pre-sale opportunity offered **ONLINE ONLY!** Parents are allowed to purchase up to two (2) main floor tickets per show that their child is involved in before ticket sales officially begin. RSVP Ticket Sales begin **ONLINE at 11:00 am on Friday, March 6** on a first come, first serve basis. You will receive an email from the Viterbo University Box Office by Monday, March 2 with instructions on how to set up your online account. RSVP tickets will be available for purchase online (on a first come, first serve basis) March 6 – 11, when regular ticket sales begin. Choose this ticketing option if having access to Main Floor seats is your priority!

"General SALES"

Tickets for ALL SHOWS go on sale **ONLINE and IN PERSON** at the Viterbo University Box Office **beginning at 11:00 am on Wednesday, March 11**. All studio accounts (tuition, costumes, etc.) must be paid in full before any family member may purchase Spring Recital tickets. Tickets are limited to ten (10) tickets per show that your child is involved in for the first week of General Sales. This limit will be removed beginning Wednesday, March 18 when ticket sales are open to the public. Choose this ticketing option if sitting together as a family or group is your priority!

- Ticket prices are as follows: \$20 - Main Floor, \$17 – 1st Balcony, and \$15 – 2nd Balcony.
- In an effort to create an organized and professional atmosphere, all tickets are **reserved seating**.
- Viterbo requires each audience member, **regardless of age**, to have a reserved seat.
- No children will be allowed to sit on a parent's lap without a "Lap Ticket".
- All of our Spring Recitals are considered family entertainment and are approximately two and a half hours in length.

COSTUMES, TIGHTS, SHOES, HAIR & MAKE UP

Costumes

We spend many hours determining the right costumes for each class. They are always age-appropriate and of the highest quality possible. Costumes include accessories, but not tights or shoes. Costumes are distributed as they arrive; usually in the months of February, March, and April. Costumes come from a variety of manufacturers, so students with multiple costumes may not receive all of their costumes at the same time. To ensure that there are no costume problems, students should not wear their costumes, prior to their photo session, dress rehearsal, or performance.

Although rare, alterations and/or exchanges are sometimes needed. MDU offers a Costume Alteration Day for FREE alterations each Spring. Watch your Monthly Studio Newsletter for date and times. After this time, alterations will be the responsibility of the parent. MDU will also exchange costume sizes within one week of distribution at no cost to you, if returned in its original packaging. After that week, there may be additional shipping/handling fees and /or limited availability.

Tights & Shoes

To ensure that there are no discrepancies in color and style, students wear special dance tights (not nylons) and specific shoes for their performance. Recital Tights are available for pre-order March 15-31 via our dancewear boutique, Everything Dance. A list with specific tights colors and a reminder of required shoes will be published on March 15 along with details on the pre-order option.

Hair & Makeup

Stage lights are very bright and can wash out features. In order to see every dancer's sparkling eyes and smile, girls wear makeup for the Spring Recital: red-tone lipstick, blush, eye shadow, and mascara. For the boys, a little blush works well. Uniform hairstyles are also required. Beginning Level and older dancers wear a "Professional Bun" with a left side part. Children's classes (up to Kidance Level) wear a "Classic Bun" with all the hair pulled straight back from the face. Not sure how to make the perfect bun? MDU offers a FREE Hair & Makeup Workshop each Spring. Watch your Monthly Studio Newsletter for date and times. Please see your teacher for suggestions if you have very short hair.

DRESS REHEARSALS

Participation in the Dress Rehearsal is **MANDATORY**. At MDU we have 2 unique "Dress Rehearsal" experiences:

In-Class Dress Rehearsal takes place the week of May 4-9, during your dancers regular class time at the studio. This is also their final class period of the season. Parents are allowed to observe the entire class during our In-Class Dress Rehearsal week to get final reminders and tips from their instructor.

On-Stage Dress Rehearsal takes place May 12-14, at Viterbo University. The On-Stage Dress Rehearsal allows the students to become familiar with the theater and feel comfortable with their performance, costume(s), and being onstage. Lighting, music cues, entrances, exits, formations, and all other logistics are rehearsed so the students have the best experience possible on stage.

Our On-Stage Dress Rehearsals are relaxed, yet organized and timely. Students should arrive in costume, with hair and makeup done. Once you are done rehearsing, you may leave. However, it is always fun to stay for a while with your child and watch quietly from the back of the theater so they can see other groups rehearse. You can find your assigned On-Stage Dress Rehearsal time on the "**Recital Quick Reference Guide**" which is published on March 15. Videotaping and photography is allowed at the Dress Rehearsal, but not at the Spring Recital.

Dressing-Room Etiquette

Students are reminded to respect other students' space and property in the dressing rooms. The students will spend more time in the dressing rooms than onstage, so keeping these areas organized and clean is important. A parent "pep talk" in this department goes a long way in preventing lost shoes and accessories. Drinks are not allowed in the dressing rooms. Drinking fountains are located nearby. Please limit snacks to portable, non-messy ones such as fruit snacks. Dancers are reminded not to go into the theater or lobby areas in costume before, during or after the shows.

Grand Finale

All students participate in the Grand Finale at the end of the recital. The finale is rehearsed in classes during the last month of classes, but will not be rehearsed at the On-Stage Dress Rehearsals at Viterbo University.

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK UP

On-Stage Dress Rehearsal Arrival and Dismissal

A parent or guardian should bring the students to the theater, where they will be checked in and placed under the supervision of their teacher(s). All students will sit with their class, by row, on the left side of the theater. When a class has completed its time on stage, they will be dismissed. Please arrive in costume 15 minutes before your scheduled rehearsal time.

Spring Recital Performance Arrival and Dismissal

Parents should bring their children to their assigned dressing rooms where they will be checked in and placed under the supervision of their Class Mom(s) and/or teachers for the entire length of the performance. Dressing rooms will be stocked with various activities. After the finale, teachers bring the groups to various points in the theater for pick up, which will be printed in the Spring Recital Yearbook-Program Booklet the day of the show. We regret that we cannot accommodate backstage visits during the show. Please arrive in costume 30 minute before your show time.

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

MDU's annual Daddy-Daughter Dance is a must-see part of each show and also results in a cherished memory for years to come! Dancers in our Kidlets/Taplets level (Kindergarten) and up are eligible to perform in the Daddy-Daughter Dance at the Spring Recital.

Rehearsals to learn choreography are held with Miss Misty at the studio during the last 2 weeks of our regular season. Participants also have the opportunity to rehearse On-Stage at Viterbo University. Registration details and rehearsal times are available under the "Recital" tab of our website.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Anyone interested in volunteering to help backstage is welcome! A volunteer form is required and can be submitted via the link provided to families via email of February 15. This link is also available under the "Recital" tab on our website. Our backstage managers work very hard to put an efficient system in place, and we ask that all volunteers rely on their experience and follow their instructions. All volunteers must be at least 14 years of age.

All volunteers will receive an identification badge, which must be worn at all times. Please do not bring guests, including children, with you while you are volunteering. Please submit your Volunteer Preference Form by March 1, as we would like to place as many volunteers as possible before regular ticket sales begin!

Class Moms are needed for each class to supervise the dancers. They do not need a Spring Recital ticket and will be able to watch their children perform from the side of the stage while volunteering. They are responsible for making sure that each child is in the proper costume, has the proper accessories and shoes, and is backstage at the appropriate time. **This is an exciting job!**

Ushers are needed for each show to assist the Viterbo University staff with collecting tickets, helping audience members find their seats, and assisting with Spring Recital Yearbook-Program booklet sales. Ushers do not need a Spring Recital ticket and are able to watch the entire show standing inside the auditorium. Only 8 volunteer ushers are allowed per show as Viterbo University provides their own additional ushers.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOS

Individual Photos (Optional): You are invited to have your individual photo taken by Design Photography. Individual photo dates, package pricing, and sign up information will be published in your Studio Newsletter and under the "Recital" tab of our website. All photos are taken at Design Photography in Onalaska. Ordering and previewing will take place at Design Photography.

Group Photos (Required): Purchasing a group photo is optional, but ALL dancers will have their group photo taken by Design Photography after they rehearse their dance on stage during their On-Stage Dress Rehearsal at Viterbo. Ordering will take place in the lobby at Viterbo. Pricing and package information will be available at Design Photography's table at Viterbo during Dress Rehearsal Week.

Recital Videos (Optional): AVP Media will be professionally videotaping the Spring Recital. Order details will be available in your Studio Newsletter, the "recital" tab of our website and at the AVP Media table at the On-Stage Dress Rehearsal. Personal videotaping is allowed during the Dress Rehearsal only. No personal video cameras are allowed in the theater during the Spring Recital.

SPRING RECITAL MEMORIES

MDU offers convenient Recital Memories Package Options and A la Carte item purchasing that will make Spring Recital easier for families! Watch your Monthly Newsletter or visit the "Recital" tab of our website for more details and easy purchasing of the following:

- Spring Recital Yearbook-Program Booklet
- Limited Edition "2020 Vision" T-shirts - featuring every dancer's name on the back
- Spring Recital Videos from AVP Media
- Flower Bouquets for your Dancer from Sunshine Floral
- Personalized Dancer Love Notes
- Daddy Daughter Dance sign-up
- NEW: Stuffed Plush Puppy "Stellarina" (our new studio mascot)

THANK YOU for reading!

We are looking forward to celebrating a wonderful Spring Recital with YOU!