

### GOALS

At My King Studio, we are thankful for each of our students and families! We strive to provide an educational atmosphere that allows for growth, confidence, and peace in dance and life.

#### Main Goals for our students:

- **To grow closer to Christ through the expression of their God-given gifts**
- **To learn dance and tumbling in a challenging, yet enjoyable way**
- **To become a better dancer each year - progress takes time!**

Although fellowship with others is important also, it is not our main focus - i.e. being with friends does not supersede correct class placement. This provides the opportunity for students to make new connections with other students as well!

### CRITERIA

We care about our students and want the best for each one. Because of this, we look at each student as a whole dancer/tumbler, determining placement in consideration of multiple factors:

- **Assessment** - looking at the students' current abilities and skill set in regard to technique, musicality, memory, expression
- **Aptitude** - considering what the student is ready to learn next - technically, physically, mentally, emotionally, socially
- **Attitude** - being mindful of the students' mental readiness, focus, & work ethic
- **Attendance** - consistent attendance in class is imperative for a student to progress well

Please note that Ballet & Tap classes are foundational for technique and can facilitate faster progress in all dance.

### EXPECTATIONS

- **When first joining a class**, it may take a couple weeks for a teacher to assess a student and place them appropriately.
- **During the start of the school year**, teachers will spend the first month introducing material and becoming familiar with their students and the general level of each of their classes. Placement changes will take place throughout September and into the beginning of October as needed. Thank you for your patience during that time.
- **For School Year Students**, teacher recommendations for the upcoming school year are distributed in the Spring. These are not set in stone and can be discussed with your teacher(s) and the director as needed.
- **For New Summer Students**, teacher recommendations for the upcoming school year are distributed at the end of the Summer Session.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LEARNING & MASTERING?

Because students typically stay in each level for 2-4 years, there is an ebb and flow of their experiences in class.

Throughout the years, they will be in and out of the Learning and Mastering phases:

- **LEARNING** - When in a new level, students spend the first year or two becoming familiar with the material being presented, growing accustomed to the movement style, and working in a group setting as an individual who is also part of a "team."
- **MASTERING** - For the remaining year or more in a level, students are now mastering their skills, growing their confidence & leadership abilities as they set the example for their classmates, and improving their abilities to use the skills they are learning as a form of artistic expression.

It is crucial for students to work through both of these phases in order to grow in a well-rounded manner. If students are moved too quickly from one level to the next, they go from the Learning phase right back into the Learning phase again, missing out on the rich opportunities that spending time in the Mastering phase can provide. Teachers are equipped to provide the needed extra challenges for students in the Mastering phase, while also allowing students in the Learning phase to feel comfortable with the material that is being covered.

### SHIFTING TO A DIFFERENT CLASS

We want the students to feel encouraged at whatever level they are, as we are all still learning. And students can thrive when placed in the most appropriate level for them.

- **If a student is still learning skills** that are necessary to help them to be successful in a particular class/level, the teacher may want to see the student moved to a different level that will help them to develop a strong foundation & truly master the skills needed to grow with confidence and strength.
- **If a student has mastered many or all of the skills** in a particular class/level, the teacher may want to see if the student would be successful in the next level.

Please note that proper etiquette regarding placement always assumes a student will be placed in the class one level below the recommended class if for some reason the family cannot arrange for a student to be in the recommended level.

**Thank you and please let us know how we can help you have a great learning experience here at MKS!**

If there are any questions about a student, please set up a meeting as needed through the Front Desk.