The Maine Dance Academy

August 1, 2020 Updates:

How can it be August already? It has almost been 5 months since I have had my entire academy at the studio, and it seems like a lifetime ago! So much has happened since we were all able to be together yet the sun continues to shine and we hold on to hope for better days ahead. Together we will get through all of this…I have no doubt. Dance Camp gave us an idea on how dance and tumbling will work this fall and I have to say, it went pretty smoothly. Thank you to all the dancers and parents who participated in our summer camp and were supportive of all the new rules. We had an amazing week and I am positive we will have an amazing fall as well. Before we get into registration day, I want to update everyone on getting back to dance/tumbling and our Moana production.

1. I spoke to Tim Doak on Wednesday, (he is the superintendent of RSU 39) concerning our recital in November. Because of the Maine state regulation of **“not having more than 100 people gathered in one enclosed place”,** we would be unable to have our recital if it were scheduled this month. We looked at the possibility of doing an outdoor production but even just having our 285 dancers and tumblers together exceeds the limit of “people gathering”. Tim said that he would work with us in anyway he could but until the state eases that regulation, we will be unable to use the Caribou Performing Arts Center. Tim also stated that the rules have been changing weekly and the state **has** been easing its regulations therefore he recommended that I **not cancel** the November date just yet and we will revisit the probability of our Moana recital on the first of September.
2. I spoke to my 8 seniors this morning on a Zoom conference to explain to them what I had learned from speaking to Tim Doak. I told them that I am committed to Moana and I will do everything in my power to have the show. We do however, have to plan for the chance that these restrictions will not be lifted in time for the November recital. We will revisit all of this the first of September and try to make some decisions then. I told them that the decision to have the recital cannot come any later than October 15th. Our new dance/tumbling season begins on October 26th and I want to give all of my families a heads up whether or not we will be able to perform the show live on Thanksgiving weekend. If we cannot perform the Moana show live then we will start our new season the week of October 26th with our new academy classes and our Frozen 2 production will begin. **PS: My senior graduates are troopers! They are so positive and are so willing to continue with Moana that it gives me great pride to know…those kids are ours!! Thanks to my Great -8 for being YOU!!**
3. If we cannot have our Moana recital I still want to put Moana on video. This year, above all other years, Moana must be recorded so that we all can remember that even through the hardest times, we can come together as friends and family to do something good. It will not be the C-Pac performance that we are used too but it still will be a performance that your children can be a part of and Moana will be forever remembered by the show that brought a county together in the toughest of times. I owe this to the seniors and I owe this all of my dancers/tumblers. I will have more on this in September. So…like Chief Tui says at the end of the recital and what is on the back of all of our Moana t-shirts…..”keep on dreaming”.
4. My 8 seniors still deserve their moment on stage therefore, I have told all of them that they will be part of our Frozen production: they will perform with us and they will have their good-bye at Sunday’s show. They deserve this and I think we as a studio, need this as well. You Great-8 will not be forgotten.
5. I do have Moana t-shirts for everyone as those were ordered for ticket day back in April. I will be passing those out the first week of dance and tumbling in September to all of our dancers and tumblers.

**New studio restrictions**: I want you to know that I will do everything in my power to keep your children and our instructors/staff safe while in my studio. I have to stick to the guidelines that the state has mandated so I am asking all of you to do the same.

1. Each class will enter from different entrances into the studio each week. Those that are using the smaller studio will enter through the back entrance while those using the larger studio will enter through the front of the building.
2. Students will continue to use the cubbies for their outer shoes when entering. New cubbies have been installed at the back entrance for those students using that entrance.
3. Students entering through the back of the building will go directly to the locker room to leave their outerwear and dance/tumbling bags and will wait there until the instructors bring them into the studio. Those students entering the front of the building will go directly into the waiting area to leave their outerwear and dance/tumbling bags and will wait there until the instructors bring them into the studio.
4. We will be letting out each class 7 minutes earlier each week so that they may gather their belongings and leave the building before the next class will start. This will also give the junior instructors time to clean in between classes. The next class will not enter the building until the last class has left. We are asking that students not gather by the door to wait to come into the studio. You will remain in your cars until we release the prior class. This way we will maintain the social distancing mandate and not have an overcrowding of students coming in and exiting the building.
5. Because I have a capacity limit for our studio, we will only be letting parents in that their kids need help going to the bathroom or changing their shoes. We are not allowed to help anyone to bathroom so if this is what you are most concerned with in leaving your children, then you will be allowed into the waiting are that your child has been assigned too. WE CANNOT HAVE EVERY PARENT IN THE BUILDING WAITING FOR THEIR CHILDREN SO WE ASK THAT YOU STAY CLOSE IN CASE WE NEED YOU…AND WE WILL TEXT YOU AND ALLOW YOU IN THE BUILDING IF WE NEED YOU. We will have all of your cell phones posted in our classes (we will make sure we have your correct cellphone #’s before the 1st week of class). **We understand that Temple parents and Napoleon parents may need to be in the building as these are our youngest dancers and since they are on separate nights, we will allow that but we ask that you socially distance yourselves and that you wear your masks at all times.** Also, if you have friends in those two classes, perhaps you may agree to take turns watching more than one child each week so that we have fewer parents in the studio waiting.
6. We will not be having Parent-Watch until further notice so please keep an eye for updates in messenger and for Dropbox videos each week.
7. It is more important than ever to download VENMO so that you can pay your tuition bills readily from your own homes. We can now have up to 6 parents in the dance store at one time so please just know this when needing supplies.
8. Everyone must hand sanitize on the way into the building and if you chose to do so (we highly recommend this) to hand sanitize on the way out. We have installed motion activated hand sanitizing stations at both entrances.
9. Students and parents are required to wear masks upon entry into the building. Parents must wear 04masks the entire time they are in the building. Students are required to wears masks until they reach their 6x6 box and then they can remove their masks to dance if they so choose. Masks must fit children appropriately so please make sure of this. Children will exit the studio wearing their masks and will be required to keep them on until they leave the building.

**Together we can do this….we just all need to move in the same direction and stay as positive and focused as possible. It is in times like this that we show our strength in numbers and I believe we have the best families, kids and staff to do just that!**

**Now on to Audition and Registration information.**

 Audition and Registration Day for Season #27 and Frozen 2 for **NEW STUDENYS ONLY** will still be on Monday, August 10, 2020 from 3-7:30pm with senior and youth auditions from 7:30-9:00pm. As of today, we are asking that you register online if you are a returning student and Venmo your registration fee to me @Colleen-DuPlissie. We would like the least number of students in the studio on registration day, keeping the flow open to new students only.

 We are going to adhere to a strict schedule on Registration and Audition Day: **For new students only, please register online before August 10 so that we will know what kind of numbers we will expect on audition day**. We realize that all new students need clothing and supplies so these are the times that you will be able to come to the studio to purchase your supplies. Unfortunately, you will not be able to try on clothing, so we ask that you do your best when choosing TMDA gear for your dancer and/or tumbler. We ask that you come exactly at the times below:

 New 2 year olds: 3-3:30pm New 3 year olds: 3:30-4pm New 4 year olds: 4- 4:30pm

 New 5-7 year olds: 4:30-5:15pm New 8-10 year olds: 5:15-6:30pm

New 11-12 year olds: 6:30-7pm New 13+: 7-7:30pm .

**EVERYONE ENTERING THE BUILDING MUST BE WEARING MASKS…THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

**As you can see, we are taking all the up-front, necessary precautions we need for Audition and Registration Days. We will need all of YOU to please do the same.** We will have the store also set up in the back dance studio to keep things and people spread out. Please be prepared to pay multiple people at auditions, depending on what supplies you need as you will not be able to pay just the secretaries due to social distancing. Please please…download the VENMO app, this will make payments so much easier for all of us!!

**The fall semester for all new students will be begin on Tuesday, December 1, 2020. They will begin to receive finale choreography on October 27, 2020.**

**Senior auditions: 7:30-8pm:** You will receive your audition music on August 1, 2020 via Dropbox with all the instructions you will need for your audition. You will receive music that you will need to choreograph to and lip sync to as well. When you receive your audition music you will also receive further instructions. TMDA instructors are not allowed to help you with your audition. Seniors need to inform thru messenger if they are returning to be part of Frozen 2. If I do not hear from my returning senior students by August 1st, then you will not receive your audition music.

**Youth auditions 8:00-9:00pm:** You will receive your audition music on August 1, 2020 via Dropbox with all the instructions you will need for your audition. 50% of the audition score is practice effort therefore, if your child has not shown us that he/she practices each and every week, they will receive a zero score for that part of the audition. We will audition students 5-9 for the part of little Anna and little Elsa. We will audition students 12 and up for the youth chorus and extras. You will receive music that you will need to choreograph to and lip sync to as well. When you receive your audition music you will also receive further instructions. TMDA instructors are not allowed to help you with your audition. You have until August 1st to register for a part and that is when you will receive your audition music.

All youth cast auditions will need to fill out a separate registration form that is attached to this newsletter below this year as well as a $20 audition fee. You can email the form to me and Venmo the fee to me as well.

**On Tuesday August 11, 2020 if you are a returning student and need supplies then you can come to the studio during these set times.** We ask that you come exactly at the times below:

3-4 year olds: 3-4pm 5-7 year olds: 4-5pm 8-10 year olds: 5-6pm

 11-12 year olds: 6-7pm 13+: 7-8pm

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**Dance and tumbling for returning students will begin the week of September 22, 2020.**

**Dance and tumbling for new students will begin the week of December 1, 2020.**

 Because the first 5 weeks of dance (September 22-October 22, 2020) this coming fall will be a continuation of the Spring Semester 2020, our fall semester will only commence on October 27, 2020. Tuition for the fall semester will only be due the week of October 27, 2020. This will leave us 4 weeks until our scheduled recital Thanksgiving weekend. We will begin working on our Frozen 2 finales during this time.

 There are still a lot of questions to be answered on how tuition will work for the fall semester so I will try to answer them now:

1. Fall Semester for Frozen 2 will run from October 27, 2020 thru February 4, 2021 with two weeks off at Christmas but receiving dance choreography during 1 of those weeks. ( Christmas break will be December 18, 2020-Janaury 3, 2021) A 13 week semester as always.
2. 2- Spring semester will run from February 9- May 6, 2021 and there will be choreography each of these weeks even during scheduled school breaks. TMDA WILL NOT be taking any weeks off during January or March as we have done in the past. A 13 week semester as always.
3. 3- If you decide to return to TMDA to be part of Moana and yet do not wish to continue to dance with TMDA after our recital November 28 & 29, 2020 then you will only owe 4 weeks of tuition from October 26 thru November 20, 2020. You will still need to attend these classes even though we will be starting Finale choreography as we will also still be rehearsing our Moana choreography right up until recital time at Thanksgiving. You will not need to register for the Frozen 2 recital, but you will need to alert us on or before August 11th that you will return for Moana but not for Frozen 2. This will allow us to form our new classes for the beginning of Season 27 on December 1, 2020. 4- **New classes for Frozen 2 will be posted on Monday, November 30, 2020. All students will come to their new classes starting Tuesday, December 1, 2020.**

**NEW students** will start classes the week of December 1st. They will either register or audition on August 10th, 2020 and begin their classes on December 1st. New students will also find out what classes they will be in on Monday, November 30th, 2020. New students will receive finale choreography each week starting October 27th until they start in the studio on December 1.

**NEW Senior and NEW youth cast students will start Frozen 2 rehearsals** in October as usual on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:30pm. 7- **Moana graduates and youth cast students** will have rehearsal on weekends to accommodate the graduates that are travelling from University of Maine to attend these practices.

**\*\*VERY IMPORTANT: REMEMBER THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE WILL CHANGE IF WE IN FACT CAN NO LONGER PERFORM OUR MAONA RECITAL. IF THAT DOES BECOME THE CASE THEN WE WILL BEGIN OUR NEW SEASON THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 26 WITH ALL OF OUR NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS. THE NEW CLASS LIST WILL THEN BE POSTED ON OCTOBER 18, 2020 AND ALL OF OUR STUDENTS WILL GO TO THEIR NEW CLASSES DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 26TH., 2020.**

I do realize that everything above seems like “just so much” but I have had a lot of time to think about this and trust me, this is the best that we can do. It will be A LOT to do but ….we can do this if we do it …TOGETHER. 😊

**Now let us move on to Moana.** We will begin our fall semester by giving everyone back the 5 weeks we missed during our necessary, “stay at home order”. During these 5 weeks we will review all of our dances, learn the extra song “Good Job” that was sent to all of our classes in April and then learn our last finale song that was sent out in March to announce Frozen 2. We will continue to rehearse all of our Moana choreography right up until our Thanksgiving recital. We will have awards week on November 17, 18 & 19, 2020 right before we head out to Thanksgiving break and recital.

1. Recital Week for Moana will be Thanksgiving week.
2. Ticket day will be Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 9-1:30pm. (We are still unsure at what capacity we will be able to have our show.)
3. Finale and tumbling rehearsal will be Wednesday November 25, 2020 from 1-3pm followed by lighting rehearsal for seniors and youth cast.
4. Full Dress rehearsal will be Friday, November 27, 2020 from 1-4:30pm.
5. Recital shows will be Saturday, November 28, 2020 at 7pm and Sunday November 29, 2020 at 2pm. (and…. we will pray for amazing weather for that weekend!)
6. Season #27 classes will be posted to our website on Monday, November 30, 2020.
7. New classes and Frozen 2 choreography will begin December 1, 2020. All students, new and returning, will attend their new dance and tumbling classes starting Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

-Students that need supplies will need to have a mask when entering the store as well as their parents. Only 6 parents will be allowed in the store at one time. If you can purchase items without your dance or tumbler with you, please do so that we can keep the store clear of extra people.

One way or another, **we will have dance and tumbling!.** We will all have to be super flexible and completely cooperative. It is the only way that our studio will survive**. I want to be able to re-open TMDA, but I will need your support …so let us do this together. Thanks so much!**

**VENMO:** We will require all of our families to download this app. This is how you will pay for your tuitions and also costume deposits. You may also use this app to pay for supplies when in the dance store. We ask that you use this app to pay for your registration fees when registering online. Once you have downloaded this app and connect it to your bank account, please locate me at @Colleen-DuPlissie. Friend me on the app and I will accept you and then you are ready to make payments. It is that easy and this will cut down on the un-necessary traffic in the building. We will continue to social distance all through the fall semester so please, learn how to use the VENMO app as soon as possible.

**Please read this:**

1. If you are wanting to be part of TMDA in the fall for Frozen 2, please register online before August 10, 2020. This goes for NEW and RETURNING students.
2. If you are retuning to complete our Moana year and will be participating in our Thanksgiving recital but have decided not to return for Frozen 2, then I will need an email stating just that. I NEED TO KNOW WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN MOANA. I will assume that if you register for Frozen 2 then you will be participating in Moana as well.

I hope I have covered everything that you need to know to return to TMDA this fall. Audition and Registration day is just a week away so please get those online registrations to me asap. If you are not returning for Moana, please let me know so that we know how to proceed with dance and tumbling before our September start date. Always know that I will understand whatever your decision may be. We have all missed you very much!

Be safe…Be kind ….., Miss Colleen xoxo

(The youth audition reg form is below, and you have until Midnight tonight to still fill out the form below to be able to audition.)

**The Maine Dance Academy – Youth Audition Registration Form**

Student’s Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell#:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s dance class in 2019-2020:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I understand that if I audition for a youth part at TMDA, I will continue to practice my dances for my regular class and will always come prepared for youth practices. I also understand that I will be required to purchase all costumes and or props associated with the part I receive. I agree to be at all youth practices when scheduled which will be on Wednesday evening from 7:30-9pm starting in September 2020.

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parental Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Venmo the $20 fee to @Colleen-DuPlissie

5-9 year olds for Anna or Elsa

12+ for youth cast chorus and extra’s