

The Maine Dance Academy

September 1, 2026

Colleen's thoughts on Class Placement

Dear parents of our dancers and tumblers,

Welcome to The Maine Dance Academy! Thank you for supporting our Academy and bringing your children to us for their dance, ballet and tumbling education. We have an amazing staff and we look forward to instructing your children this year. We have an incredible year planned for our production of **WICKED!** Thank you for being part of our **33RD** season at TMDA!

I wanted to share my thoughts with you about how we go about placing your children in the proper dance, ballet, and tumbling classes. We have spent many hours looking at our lists to make sure that we do right with each student. We want to see all our students succeed in the classes they participate in and to do so they must be placed appropriately. We want to push them sufficiently for them to learn but not push them so much that it is either too difficult or overwhelming for them. Finding that balance is what we put most of our emphasis on. We feel that if we push them too hard they are overwhelmed and they quit. Sometimes we feel that if we hold them back they are not pleased with the class they are put in, they quit. It's a dilemma we face each year, and we don't take that lightly. We obviously want to keep all our students engaged so that they enjoy their time with us at the Academy. I've been doing this now for 33 years and I take this part of my job very seriously. Therefore I hope you understand our reasons for putting your children in the classes we have chosen for them. I tell my students all the time that we don't place them into classes, they place themselves by what they show us in class each week. We look for **consistent effort** each week if they are to be placed in any of our 5 troupe classes. We also look at their **experience**, their **talent**, their **skill level** and their **dedication**. Being a consistent "practicer" is a wonderful trait for a dancer however; practicing must also turn into skill. If a dancer doesn't achieve the skills we teach them through practice then they cannot advance to a more difficult class. **We will graduate a student to a more difficult class when they show us that they not only have the skills to handle a more difficult class but also the drive, consistent practice effort and attitude to succeed in it.**

Some years a student may be the youngest in their class for which they look to the older students for guidance. Some years a student may be the oldest in a class so

that they can help lead the younger ones along and set a good example for them at the same time. Children are usually placed by age from 2-5 and then we start to separate them by the skills that I mentioned above. If dancers have the talent to dance with much older students, then that is where we will place them. The same rules apply for tumbling.

****If your child has been placed in one of our 4 Troupe classes or Company, you will need to sign the Troupe Contract and bring it to your child's first class. This is mandatory for all Troupe and Company dancers.** You can find this contract on the opening page of our website.

Thank you for bringing your children to us and thank you for understanding our decisions.

Once we start dance and if we see that we have made a mistake with our new dancers that are just starting this year, then we will make the changes necessary to place that child correctly within the first 2 weeks of dance. We will contact the parents of this child and coordinate the new placement for the following week of dance. Please give us that time to reevaluate our decisions. Dancers that are return dancers have already been placed correctly as we know your children's ability from the prior year.

As for tumbling, **we do not have auditions for tumbling** therefore we usually take the first two weeks to see exactly where our students belong. Students that are returning students have already been placed where they belong. New students have only been placed by age and not skill/talent. Miss Allie and Mr. Chris will be making those decisions concerning our new students during the first week and if they feel that they have to move students then they will be in touch with the parents of those students. Again, allow us the first week of class before those changes can be made.

When you are looking for your child's name in the class list, the first set of names are our dancers. **Those names are in red.** The second set of names are our ballet students. **Those names are in purple.** The final list of names are our tumbling students and **those names are in green.** Once you have located your child's name and the class they are in, you will then go to the class schedule for each week. You will find this schedule as well as the year long schedule on the opening page of our website. Here you will find your child's class with the day and time they are

scheduled for. We are grateful for your support of our Academy and again, we look forward to working with your children this year.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT: This week we will be sending you the September newsletter. We will also be creating Facebook groups for each of our classes therefore:

- 1- **Please make sure that you have friended me (Colleen DuPlissie) and Jordyn Rossignol on Facebook.** We ask you do this immediately so that we can add you to your Facebook class group.
- 2- In this Facebook group you will be receiving updates for the group as well as your dance videos. These dance videos are imperative to your children's success at TMDA so please make sure you friend us as soon as possible.
- 3- These Facebook groups are private and no one can be added to them unless you have prior approval from Jordyn or myself. Only parents or guardians that the dancer lives with (and will need to practice with) may be added to Facebook groups. Please do not add relatives to these private groups. Dance videos cannot be shared or put on the internet.
- 4- These groups are to be used for TMDA's notices and videos only. Questions should not be put in these groups; you can privately message your instructors. Please know that you will find all your information for each month in the monthly Newsletter.
- 5- Monthly Newsletters will be found the first Monday of each month on our website. **Go to MENU at the top right of the opening page of our website and then go to NEWSLETTERS.**

This September newsletter is very informative for the fall semester. I encourage you to read it entirely. All our schedules, tuition dues etc.. will be found in this newsletter.

Dance begins the week of September 14, 2026. This will be our first week of dance, ballet and tumbling and you can find the entire year's schedule on the opening page of our website. **WE WILL HAVE PARENT-WATCH IN ALL CLASSES THE FIRST WEEK OF DANCE, BALLET AND TUMBLING. THIS IS TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE AND ALSO GO OVER COSTUME SIZING WITH YOU. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE HAVE ONE PARENT AT THIS PARENT-WATCH.**

To find the class list, you can now go to the Newsletter Link under the Menu tab. You can then find the class weekly schedule as well as the year long schedule on the opening page of the website. Please look for the September Newsletter under this link as well and we will also send it to your Facebook group in or around September 3, 2026. In this newsletter you will find all the things you need to know to start dance and tumbling the week of September 14, 2026.

I look forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks. It happens to be my birthday week, so I'm going to step away from my computer for a couple of days to enjoy the last days of Summer before I head back to the county. Thank you for your understanding.

My best to all of you....see you in class!

*Miss Colleen, Miss Jordyn, Miss Delaney, Miss
Malerie, Miss Elizabeth, Miss Emily, Miss Viv-P,
Mr. Chris, Miss Brittany, Miss Allison, Miss
Raegan, Miss Sadie, Miss Mallory, Miss Ciwa,
Miss Addelyn, Miss Monroe and Miss Viv-B.*