

2020 Nutcracker Information

The staff and faculty of the Chester Valley Dance Academy are excited to present the 2020 performance of *The Nutcracker Ballet*. We enthusiastically invite to all of our ballet students to participate.

This year's Nutcracker will be different from those in the past due to the health restrictions in our state related to COVID-19. We carefully considered many alternatives for this year's show, and have decided our best option is to record the performance and release in digital format. This will give the students the opportunity to perform while we continue to keep everyone safe. To give you an idea of how this will work, here are some of the new regulations we plan to follow:

- *Each scene will have fewer than 20 people in it to keep below the 25 person limitation for indoor gatherings.*
- *Costumes will not be shared on rehearsal days. Costumes will be cleaned after each rehearsal.*
- *Rehearsals will be separated so that there are never too many performers or students in the studio at a given time. In some instances we may utilize our zoom platform to include additional dancers in the rehearsal.*
- *Rehearsals will be on Friday evenings and Saturdays. A few Sunday afternoon rehearsals will also be needed, with specific dates to be announced in advance.*
- *Shows will be recorded one dance at a time, with time allotted between each scene to sanitize the area.*
- *During the performance recordings, only dancers, instructors, and videographers will be allowed into the recording area so as not to exceed the maximum number of gathering.*
- *The Videographer will edit the recorded performance pieces and combine together into one show.*

Nutcracker 2020 Requirements

In order to be eligible to audition for the 2020 Nutcracker, students must meet the following requirements:

- Students must have taken ballet in the summer of 2020. Previous ballet experience and participation will be considered in casting.
- All students auditioning must have taken ballet in the 2019-20 school year, be 7 years of age or older and have completed a full year of Combo III, or PB I (with previous Combo III experience) level experience or higher.

Nutcracker Auditions - Deadline for Sign-ups, September 10th

Sign ups for the Nutcracker will be available through the parent portal until Thursday, September 10th. This year we will hold limited auditions and avoid live auditions for younger grades. The majority of the cast will be assembled using your grade/age, level of in studio training and teacher input.

If your child is in one of the following grades, please bring him/her to the side door of Studio D at the designated time. They should be dressed appropriately and ready to dance.

Saturday, September 12, 2020

- 1:00-1:45 7th Grade
- 1:45-2:30 8th Grade
- 2:45-3:30 9th & 10th Grade
- 3:45-4:30 11th & 12th Grade

Tentative Nutcracker Recording Dates

We are in the process of finalizing the dates and site for recording the show. We are actively exploring several good options.

- November 27, 28, 29, 30th is our “Plan A” so that the show will be prepared and ready for distribution before the holidays. We are awaiting final confirmation of site availability.
- December 27, 28, 29, 30th is our “Plan B” with an available site secured for those dates.

We ask that those who choose to participate in the performance keep these dates available at this time. If there are new restrictions before November that prevent us from performing on those November dates, we will postpone and use the December dates.

Rehearsal Information

Rehearsals will be on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays afternoons from September 18th until the show dates. A detailed rehearsal schedule showing the time slot for each group/dance will be posted online on our website each week. Please check www.chestervalleydanceacademy.com for your rehearsal times each week. The time schedule is subject to change, and we will send notifications for any updates or changes, but we recommend you check the schedule frequently. You are responsible for keeping up to date on your rehearsal times.

Mandatory Dress Rehearsals at CVDA

- Saturday, November 14th - Times to be announced
- Sunday, November 15th - Times to be announced
- Saturday, November 21st - Times to be announced
- Sunday, November 22nd - Times to be announced

Absentee Policy

- A performer may have two excused absences from rehearsal between September 18th to November 13th. If a third rehearsal is missed during this time he/she will be replaced with the understudy and in turn becomes the understudy for the dance.
- Each part in the Nutcracker will have at least 1 understudy. (Understudies must come to every rehearsal as though they were in the dance).
- All rehearsals from Sat. 11/14 until the show are mandatory, and students may not miss any of these rehearsals.
- If you miss a rehearsal on or after November 14th until the show, you will be replaced with the understudy.
- If you leave early or arrive late to a rehearsal, you may be considered as absent and be replaced by the understudy. (This at the choreographer’s discretion.)

The policies above have been established after thorough discussions between CVDA staff and performance choreographers. We feel this level of dedication and responsibility on the part of the performers and their support group is necessary ensure our rehearsals are efficient and constructive. We are asking you to consider this commitment seriously and discuss with your child before deciding to participate in the Nutcracker. CVDA will not allow any exceptions to the rules above. We have had to enforce these rules in the past, and while that has not always been an easy or pleasant things to do, it has sometimes served as a learning experience for our dancers and defined what it means to make a choice and live up to a sincere commitment. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Bringing the 2020 Nutcracker Ballet to Life

Our annual Nutcracker provides our students with an excellent opportunity to perform in a professional production of ballet internationally recognized as a classic. The Nutcracker Ballet also gives students the opportunity to share their talent and show their family and friends their talent and skill. This is an important stepping-stone in enhancing dance technique and appreciation.

2020 Nutcracker Fees:

CVDA has always tried to keep costs for student participation in the nutcracker to a minimum while maintaining a high degree of quality in our production. The format of this years' performance will provide significant challenges to make this possible. We have instituted the following requirements for all students wishing to participate in The Nutcracker Ballet.

In previous years, we relied heavily on ticket sales to defray costs of the production. Production costs include:

1. Choreographer Fees
2. Professional Dancer Fees
3. Costumes fittings & seamstress
4. Costume rentals
5. Backdrop rentals
6. Lighting and equipment rental
7. Facility rental fees
8. Facility staffing fees
9. Props; construction and maintenance
10. Transportation of props and equipment
11. Supply costs (floors, tape, cleaning, etc).
12. Video production: recording and editing

Everyone who chooses to participate in the Nutcracker will be responsible for a **\$295.00** participation fee, which remains unchanged from last year. This year, without the ability to hold a public performance, we are faced with a significant financial challenge to make ends meet. We will try to bridge this gap by charging a fee for access to the digitally recorded performance in lieu of tickets. Each family will be charged **\$130.00**, which will include digital access to a special viewing party on the premier night of each show's release. This event will include special appearances from the choreographers, dancers and other guests, and promises to be a fun and entertaining evening to gather your families to watch and celebrate our dancers. The fee will also include a link for families to share and view the recorded program on another night or to watch over and over again. Each family will receive 2 links for the two different shows.

The total cost will be **\$425**. If you are unable to afford these fees because of financial hardship and have a child that wishes to participate in the Nutcracker, please contact the office to discuss possible alternatives.

In order to perform in the Nutcracker all account payments must be up-to-date.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support of our young dancers and the CVDA.