

Sparkle's Information Break Down:

Hello, Sparkle Parents!

We are here to help teach your child not only dance moves but how to be a good student in classes and how to learn. We want to give each student the opportunities to advance at their level so we offer several different performance options.

The performance is ALWAYS optional. We realize that each student is different and they advance at different paces. That is never a reflection on what "kind" of dancer they will be, just different families have different dynamics and some students learn things like separation anxiety faster or slower than other children. You will have the option to opt in or out of the performance until we order costumes (3rd-4th week) after this point you will need to make the choice on whether you wish to participate or not. See our advice to whether the performance might be a good fit for you and your child below. Whether or not you choose to participate will not have adverse effects on whether your child will be the next prima ballerina or not. Once they start breaking into 1st grade is when those choices will need to be made.

Is the performance for me or not?

NO PERFORMANCE:

- If your child struggles with separation anxiety during the weekly classes after week 5-6 you might consider skipping this performance as they will need to be without mom/dad for at least 15 minutes during the performance and tech rehearsals.
- If they are extremely shy. If your child is extremely shy you might consider skipping the production as it can be very nerve-racking to stand in front of "200" people. Most the time the younger children just stand there if they are shy.
- It is a cheaper option. If you are not participating in the performance it will be cheaper as you will not need to purchase a costume. (\$0-\$50)
- There isn't as much "stuff" to do. If you forgo the performances you will not need to attend any of the mandatory dates, get costumes, do hair and make up, take pictures, etc. There are just less hoops to jump through. If your child is quieter and/or both parents work a ton of hours sometimes it is just less stressful to not be a part of the performance
- High Stress effects you/your child. We do our best to make tech rehearsal and performances as stress-free as possible. However, there is just stress that happens. Getting them up early enough to get their hair done, arriving to the rehearsals on time, the costume "doesn't fit right", waiting for the performances to start, waiting for the pictures to be taken, being around a bunch of unknown people, etc. There is absolutely no reason that you can't just enjoy the weekly classes till your student learns to love dance then as they age we can start adding the other things.

PERFORMANCE:

- It will always be our recommendation to participate in the performance if you think that it might at all work for your family. The performance is where they get to see the "big kids" dance and it sparks that fire inside them to want to be like the "big kids".
- If your child doesn't need to run in and out of the class during class I think the performance would be a good fit for you.

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- Please Remember that your child is young and yes they may just stand on stage, or face the wrong direction, or not do a single dance move correctly but that doesn't mean that their performance was "unsuccessful". Many children (especially at that age) can get their senses overwhelmed and it causes a reaction in their body, like standing still. It does not mean that they are not learning, in fact quite the opposite. Young children's minds can still learn and take in the space around them without them having to participate. Expect for your child to "stand still" for the performance and know that it is still very successful.
- When students work hard towards something it generally goes better when there are rewards. Participating in the performance can be that reward as they get "cool" things along the way. Such as costumes, getting to wear makeup like mommy, getting their hair done, etc.
- If you are able to keep "all the things" fun. I know that it can be stressful to get your little one up early enough to do their hair, makeup, stay off the floor when they are in their costumes, waiting their turn for pictures, etc. But if you can keep all the things as fun things, it will greatly help their experience to be a positive one.
- If your child is a visual learner it can be a great opportunity to participate in the performance. It gives them the opportunity to "see" what their goals are and why they need to work so hard in classes.
- *Please note, this is just our advice from the experience we have had with students over the years. Our advice groups everyone in the same two packages and we realize that learning is not a "one size fits all" especially at their age.*

Mandatory Dates:

Yes, your student does still need to attend the mandatory dates if you do select to be in the performance(s). We do try to accommodate the students by having separate time where we can give attention to just the young ones. This does create confusion at times but please don't hesitate to ask questions. Your mandatory dates are listed on the calendar page and the latest page if you decide to be a part of the production.

Performance Information:

Each Sparkle Class performs one piece at the very beginning of the dance performance. Because they are there for such a short amount of time we do offer 2 comp tickets for each performance. You may use these two tickets (4 total) however you see fit. (i.e. mom and dad, grandma, grandpa, etc.) If you are planning to stay to watch the full production you will need to purchase an actual dance ticket and/or if you need more than two tickets. You are allowed to sit anywhere that is not reserved for our VIP Ticket Members. We strongly recommend staying for at least one of the productions as it can encourage your little one with what is to come as well as you will see the kind of performances that are coming if you keep your student in dance.

If you ever have additional questions or concerns please be sure to reach out to the front desk staff and/or the students teacher. We are happy to help in all the ways that we can.

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