



Steppin' Out SPOTlight

Steppin' Out Studio of Dance 12844 Coldwater Road, Suite D Fort Wayne IN 46845 260-637-9660

August, 2011

www.steppinoutstudioofdance.com



Mark Your Calendar!

Shoe Sale Week:

Monday-Thursday, Aug. 22-25th, 4-8 p.m.

Classes Start:

Tuesday, Sept. 6th.

Fall Break:

Friday-Monday, Oct. 21-24th.
Classes resume on Tuesday, Oct. 25th.

Thanksgiving Break:

Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 23-25th. Classes resume on Monday, Nov. 28th.

Winter Break:

Monday, Dec. 19th-Friday, Dec. 30th. Classes resume on Monday, Jan. 2nd.

Spring Break:

Thursday, March 29th-Friday, Apr. 6th. Classes resume on Monday, Apr. 9th.

Last Day of Classes:

Thursday, May 24th.

Recital:

Friday, June 1st (Saturday Dress Rehearsal)
Saturday, June 2nd (Sunday Dress Rehearsal and Saturday Recital)
Sunday, June 3rd (Sunday Recital).

Parent Exit Interviews:

Monday-Thursday, June 4-7th.

A New Dance Year Begins!

Thank you for choosing Steppin' Out for your child's dance education. We are excited to have you as part of our dance family! Our staff is passionate about teaching dance in a professional and loving environment. This **Steppin' Out SPOTlight** newsletter details studio information, including important dates to put on your calendar for the entire dance year.

Your child's dance schedule for the upcoming year is attached with this e-mail. Each dancer has been thoughtfully placed in appropriate classes based on ability and age. Placement is so critical, because it will ensure safe technique training and proper instruction for each student. Please trust our knowledge and discretion in the class placement of your child.

September is a very busy time at the studio — especially at the front desk. Please be patient with us while we work with parents who are registering for new classes or making schedule adjustments. Unless you have questions for our office staff, do not congregate in the front office area. If an instructor feels that a student has been placed in the wrong class, I will contact you to discuss other class options. We also reserve the right to combine classes if a particular class does not have enough students to make it financially feasible.

We are pleased to have Gail Mix working as our office receptionist on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. Last year, Gail assisted Kris Laughlin on Tuesday evenings. Since Kris picked up significantly more banking and financial responsibilities early last spring, she is moving into a more private office at the studio. She will be available, however, to speak with you if you have questions for her. On Tuesdays, my co-owners, Brittney Coughlin and Kris, will share front desk duties.

Parents are welcome to wait in the lobby area during classes. There are 5 flat-screen TVs — one for each studio room — so you can watch classes. The lobby is also WI-FI-enabled for Internet access. New this year, we've added a comment box in the lobby. If you have a comment or suggestion or would like to speak with a teacher, please drop your request in the comment box.

The first week of classes, parents can walk their child back to the classroom and spend the first few minutes in class while the instructor introduces herself and explains what she will be accomplishing during the dance year. After that, however, parents are not permitted in the dance studio classroom/hallway area — ONLY dancers and teachers. Please respect this policy.

Studio guidelines can be reviewed on our website or in our brochure. The studio dress code must be followed. Among other things, no pants are to be worn in any dance class, and hair must be pulled back — off the face.

Each month you will receive a **Steppin' Out SPOTlight** newsletter by e-mail. These newsletters have timely articles, calendar updates, and other studio-related information. PLEASE take time to read them. They are the studio's primary means of communicating with our dance families. If you are not getting our e-mails, please check your e-mail provider for any blocks that may be on your account, i.e. spam or junk e-mail filters, etc. Also, be sure the studio has your current e-mail address.

In addition to having Gail Mix now working as our office receptionist, Steppin' Out is very happy to introduce two new dance instructors: Kristin Musick and Felicia Bolinger (see bios on Page 2). They join our returning instructors — Brittney Coughlin, Ashlie Petcoff, Britney Tun, Nikki Prichard, April Kuhn, and Julie Arnold, who has a new baby daughter, Elaina Lucette, born July 29th. Julie will begin teaching again on Monday, September 12th. (Our other instructors will cover Julie's classes the first week.)

Our entire staff brings their special talents, expertise, and a commitment to enriching the lives of children and promoting a positive, family atmosphere. We all look forward to a fun-filled year!

Sincerely,

Beth Berry
Studio Director



If you want the latest updates about Steppin' Out between monthly newsletters, check our **newly-designed website** (www.steppinoutstudioofdance.com) or become a **facebook** friend. Just type in Steppin' Out Studio of Dance in the search window and go from there. When you "friend" us, you'll automatically get any announcements we post. This is particularly handy if the studio needs to close for severe winter weather or when there's other urgent news.

Dance Shoe Sales Shoes must be purchased at Steppin' Out (unless otherwise noted on your attached class schedule). This will ensure that all dancers in your class have shoes that are identical, which is a necessity for recital and competitions. Please bring your dance class schedule with you to get fitted for shoes. **We'll be open for shoe sales Monday-Thursday, Aug. 22 -Aug. 25th, from 4-8 p.m.**

In almost all cases, you can take shoes home with you after being fitted. Although we keep a sizeable inventory of shoes and dancewear, if we are out of your child's size at the time of the fitting, we will promptly order them. If ordered during shoe sale week, you can pick up your shoes the day/evening of the first dance class.

Tuition Payments Monthly tuition is due the first week of each month. A \$10 late fee will be assessed if payment is received after the 10th of the month. Since classes begin on Tuesday, Sept. 6th, September's tuition is due no later than Sept. 15th. If we receive a returned check, a \$20 service charge will be assessed.

Automatic Payments If you would like to have your family's tuition automatically paid from your checking account — or from a credit/debit card — during the first week of each month (through May), just sign up at the front desk. **Forms are attached with this e-mail** — "ACH Authorization" for withdrawal from checking or "Credit/Debit Card Authorization" for withdrawal from a card.

Don't Park There! We have neighbors across from the entrance of our studio who have afternoon and evening business hours. Please do not park in the MatchMaker or Artisan Salon parking spots directly in front of their building. If spaces in front or alongside of our building are full, you may park in the spots **along the grassy area on the west side of their building** (closest to Coldwater, NOT next to their building). Thank you!

Order A Window Decal



If you'd like a Steppin' Out decal with your dancer's name underneath, we've attached an order form. Please turn your order form in at the front desk by Thursday, October 13th.

So You Think You're A Steppin' Out Idol?

Then PROVE IT in our All-Styles Production class! Sign up NOW!

All students age 5 and older are encouraged to participate, and no prior dance experience is necessary. Each year, our All-Styles Production students dance to a medley of songs taken from a popular musical...or songs that fit together well to showcase our dancers' talents. Some of our past productions were: "Hairspray," "High School Musical," "A Salute to Hollywood," and "Camp Rock."

This year, we're excited to combine the best of *So You Think You Can Dance?* and *American Idol*, featuring songs by today's hottest teen stars: **Selena Gomez, Jonas Brothers, Miley Cyrus, Justin Bieber,** and more!

Are you in? The class will meet Thursdays from 6:45-7:15 p.m. and costs just \$15/month. The production will be performed at both recitals (Saturday, June 2nd, and Sunday, June 3rd.)

We keep costume costs for our production low by ordering t-shirts with the production theme design on front and dancers' names on back. Dancers will provide their own jeans or jean shorts.

Haven't signed up yet? No problem! We accept students into our All-Styles Production class through September. Just stop by the front desk and let us know.

So you think you're a Steppin' Out Idol? Then get ready to show us your stuff!



Get To Know Our Newest Staff Members



Kristin Musick has been dancing since the age of 3. She has trained at several studios and attended various regional dance conventions. Kristin has competed at the local, regional, and national levels since the age of 13, winning several notable awards. In 2008, she was invited to dance in the Starbound National Competition's opening number.

Currently, Kristin is pursuing a Biology major and Dance minor at IPFW. She also recently attended the American College Dance Festival as a representative of IPFW.

Felicia Bolinger began dancing at the Fort Wayne Ballet Academy when she was 7. She was inspired by watching the Ballet company at age 5 with her Great-Great Aunt, Mary Felicia Stover, who told stories of meeting the world-renowned Anna Pavlova as a little girl. Felicia studied the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus and became a company member at age 11. She has performed *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and many other pieces choreographed for the Fort Wayne Ballet. Felicia began teaching Ballet at Northeast School of Dance as a teenager, and she has taught dance for more than 20 years at other dance schools. She has choreographed many Ballet and Lyrical pieces for competition that have been privileged to be recognized.

Felicia has her B.A. in Psychology and Secondary Education from IPFW, as well as a teaching certificate from the Royal Academy of Dancing. Felicia is the proud mother of 3 young men, and by day works with her father in the family business shoe repair — third generation!



Gail Mix has spent about 25 years in Human Resources, with a good portion of that working for Lincoln Financial as an Employment Consultant. She enjoyed much success in that role and was a top performer in customer service. After those job functions were moved to Philadelphia, she started her own Management Recruiting business in 1995. Prior work as a Store Manager for a retail chain gave her even more depth in customer service and business relations.

Gail and her husband, Joel, have twin girls and one son, Nelson, who is currently attending college. Daughters, Jenna and Emily, started dancing in Beth Berry's in-home studio when they were 5. After taking a few years off to explore other sports, Jenna couldn't stay away from dance and recently returned to Steppin' Out. The studio feels like a second home to Gail, and she is looking forward to building relationships with parents and dancers.

