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## **Jane Mannion's School of Dance offers New Programs and Prices!**


Jane Mannion's School of Dance has been in existence for the past 28 years serving Highland and the surrounding areas with excellent dance instruction. Two years ago the school moved to a new 6000 square foot facility, which allowed the school to offer more classes and class times to its customers. This fall Jane Mannion's School of Dance continues to grow with the needs of the community and adjust to the changing times.


Jane Mannion's School of Dance is holding fall registration the week of August 18<sup>th</sup> and with registration this year, the school is launching new programs and new prices. The first is a new preschool program for children 3 to 6 years. The new Leap and Learn program is a comprehensive early childhood dance program that provides consistency and structure in an educational and fun atmosphere. Director Jane Mannion said "the program focuses on developing the physical, emotional, and cognitive abilities related to dance". It helps children build creativity and self expression, in addition to fundamental movement skills that are important for a child's development both physically and cognitively. Mannion said "The Leap and Learn program is based on cutting edge material from a teaching perspective as well as a learning one." She is very excited to offer this new program at the school and thinks it is perfect for younger children, It will give them a taste of dance in addition to providing creativity, socialization, and self expression.

The second new program Jane Mannion's School of Dance is offering this fall is a parent and tot class. These classes are for the even younger child age 6 -36 months in addition to a parent or caregiver. The goals of these classes are to promote the development of a child's motor and cognitive skills through pre-locomotion and locomotion activities. It also offers social experiences and interaction with other children which contributes to the development of expressiveness, creativity and social security. Enhanced bonding between the child and parent or caregiver will also occur during the classes.

Mannion says that "classes like a parent and tot class came about from the growing popularity of play dates among the new generation of parents". In addition, today's parents focus on new experiences for their children and a movement toward development is growing among them. These classes combine both desires in a class that builds children's body and brain while offering socialization for both the parent and child. Mannion anticipates this as a new movement for parents of toddlers and is excited to be moving forward with the next generation of parents and children through dance education. Both the parent and tot classes and Leap and Learn classes will be offered both during the day and evening to allow for all schedules.

Jane Mannion's School of Dance has also restructured their competitive program for the 2008-2009 dance session. Jane Mannion's School of Dance has a rich history of success with its competitive team, including over 25 National Championships. Students have competed both nationally and internationally, traveling to Spain and Italy as well as all over the United States. This year Jane Mannion's School of Dance is offering three levels of competitive dance. The levels are based on a combination of a student's dance ability and desired time commitment. Over the years Mannion has found that some





students enjoy competing in dance but not competing every weekend or every month for that matter, while others enjoy participating in numerous competitions and nationals. In an effort to encourage both levels and desires the school has developed the Achieve, Affirm and Aspire programs. The Achieve and Affirm levels are for the students who wish to pursue their love of dance at the competitive level by competing in three regional competitions and possibly a national. The Aspire level is geared for the more serious competitive student, who wishes to compete in 5 regional competitions and two nationals. All three levels will now have separate rehearsals for their competitive routines and mandatory technique classes. Mannion is excited about the new levels and hopes it will allow more students to be involved in the benefits of dance at the competitive level.

Lastly, Jane Mannion's School of Dance has adjusted its prices for the upcoming year. Mannion says "she realizes that the economy today makes it hard for families to pursue extracurricular activities like dance for their children". Thus, they have adjusted the prices to reflect the changing times by giving more classes for a lower cost. Mannion feels strongly that all children can benefit from dance, thus making it affordable is essential

For more information on the programs offered at Jane Mannion's School of Dance call 618-654-5451 or visit [www.manniondance.com](http://www.manniondance.com).

