

NUTCRACKER INFORMATION

Most Important Tip:

Make sure that we have your current e-mail address and phone. Most communication will be via e-mail.

Cost:

Nutcracker fee is \$275 for the first child and \$150 for the second. Please note that this fee covers the cost of the teacher's time and the use of the rehearsal and performance space. This fee does NOT include costumes. Nutcracker fee should be paid in full by the first of October.

Auditions/Summer Rehearsals:

* We do our best to find the perfect parts for each child based on his/her interests, abilities and the needs of the show. If your child has any concerns or questions about his/her part, please let us know.

* Summer Rehearsals are generally held during the day the last two weeks of summer. This gives us the chance to work out the show before moving to shorter weekend rehearsals. If your child cannot attend these rehearsals, please let us know.

* Middle school and high school students must participate in either a Swansboro Dance Studio Dance Camp or some other dance training over the summer.

* ALL NUTCRACKER PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ENROLLED IN AT LEAST 1 BALLET CLASS DURING THE 2015-2016 DANCE SEASON!

Nutcracker needs parents (or any family members) too!

* Adult family members interested in appearing in the production as Party Guests should see Mrs. Heather for more information.

* Family members interested in set building or sewing costumes should see Mrs. Heather to see how they can contribute.

* If your family has an artificial Christmas tree to loan for the set, it would be greatly appreciated in November.

* All families will be asked to sell tickets and to help with set up and clean up before and after the show. (See details under "Performance.")

Saturday Fall Rehearsals:

* Weekend rehearsals generally start after Labor Day and run through the weekend before performance. These rehearsals are very important. While we understand that most everyone will miss one or two due to illness, vacations or scheduling conflicts, it is VITAL that Nutcracker rehearsals are a priority to you and your child. Attendance will be taken at each rehearsal. If your child misses too many rehearsals, they will lose their role. If your child will be participating in another activity that requires his/her regular attendance on Saturday mornings in the fall, Nutcracker is not for you.

* Rehearsal times are generally given at least a month in advance, usually via e-mail. Some rehearsals will be for your child's specific part and may be as short as 15 minutes. Others will involve an entire act, and may require his/her presence for a couple of hours.

* There will be no rehearsals on Labor Day Weekend or Mullet Festival Weekend.

* There is no eating or drinking anything but water in the dance studio. We encourage you to send water with your child in a leak-proof container.

* Children may bring books, games or electronic devices for their personal entertainment while waiting for their rehearsal time as long as it is not a distraction to the rehearsal. We are not responsible for loss or damage to personal items.

* Frequently your child will be free to leave before the scheduled rehearsal time. You might consider arriving 10-15 minutes before the scheduled end time.

* You MUST pick up your child by the final scheduled end time.

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Costumes:

Swansboro Dance Studio reuses and repurposes as many costumes as possible. You may be asked to purchase a new costume, or you may be able to rent a used one. All fees are due in advance.

- 1) Rentals – Costume Rentals are \$10. They should be cleaned according to instructions prior to their prompt return after the show.
- 2) New Costumes – Though new costumes are yours to keep, remember that they might be used again for next year. Please store them carefully.
- 3) Costume donation – If you have a costume you no longer need, please consider donating them to the studio so that someone else may rent them.

* All female dancers are required to have theater pink tights, ballet shoes and wear their hair in a low ballerina bun unless otherwise instructed. The bun should be in a hairnet, available at any drug store. *

Purchase of a nude leotard is strongly encouraged so that your child may quickly change costumes backstage. There is not enough room to give everyone a private changing area. These leotards may be purchased at Sue's Dance Studio in Jacksonville, or many online stores.

Performances:

* Performance dates will be announced as soon as they are set. Most likely, there will be field trip performances on Thursday and/or Friday of that week.

* All families are given two free tickets per show, and asked to sell five tickets per show. Tickets are \$5 each. It is helpful to have all your tickets sold by dress rehearsal so that we can be confident that our students will have full audiences to appreciate their hard work.

* Good items to have backstage at performances: extra tights, bobby pins (and other hairstyling items), safety pins, and stage makeup.

The following OPTIONAL items will be available for purchase close to performance time and at dress rehearsal:

- DVD - \$25 (Usually a choice of 2 performances available)
- Photo book of performance - \$75
- Souvenir Nutcrackers - \$20 sold to benefit the costs of our dancers who attend summer programs.



Nutcracker Audition Form & Contract

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Last year I was: _____

Please understand being part of the Nutcracker requires a great deal of commitment and sacrifice from lots of people; the students, the parents, and the teachers. We all must be committed to making this performance one to remember!

I, _____, agree to attend all rehearsals dressed in proper ballet attire. If I miss a rehearsal, I will learn the choreography I missed before my next rehearsal. I understand that if I do not know my choreography, I will lose my role. I agree to practice all my choreography at home, so that I am prepared at each rehearsal.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____