

Welcome to Christi's Dance! We are so excited to have you and your child join us on this adventure of dance.



My name is Amy Russell and I am beginning my first year as the Dance Program Director. I am originally from Michigan and relocated to Vero Beach in January. I grew up dancing at a small studio in rural Michigan and continued my dance education while attending college in Ann Arbor, MI. Ballet will always be my first love, but college introduced me to a variety of tap styles and modern dance. I look forward to watching the dancers at Christi's grow in their appreciation of and knowledge of dance over the upcoming season.

We begin this year with a number of changes. Most obvious is the beautiful, new studio. This dedicated dance space will allow the children's dance program to grow to meet the needs of all the students. The 1,300 square foot dance space will almost double the current studio and features a floating floor with a Marley surface, in-studio restroom and viewing windows. Dance families will still be able to access the Christi's amenities as they have in the past. The dance staff and I plan to work together to help your child grow as a dancer, in skills and techniques, and as a person, through increased self-confidence and poise.

We believe that the decision to study dance involves a commitment from both the students and their families. Each student should plan to attend class regularly and classes should be undertaken with the intention of completing the entire season (Sept-Sept.) Dance is a "team sport" and each family's commitment to the Christi's Dance team is evident in the children's growth as dancers and their performance at the end of the year recital.

Christi's Dance holds a formal recital each spring. Participation in the recital not only allows the children to perfect the skills they have acquired throughout the season, but also helps build self-confidence while developing theatrical presence, expressiveness, and teamwork. Although performance in the recital is not mandatory, we encourage all of our students to participate and showcase their hard work for their family and friends. Recital costs are limited to per-costume charges and a family recital charge which includes tickets to the show. Class pictures and a DVD of the recital will also be available for additional fees. More information will be distributed in November.

We are excited to start the year with both new and returning teachers. Watch the studio wall for information about the teachers.

We see dance as a good foundation for life long health and physical activity. If you have a problem or concern you may call us at 772.563.0905. I wish to keep the lines of communication open. Thank you so much for joining us!

Meet the Staff



Amy Russell - Dance Director

- BA in English from Concordia University-Ann Arbor, MI
- 20+ years of dance training in ballet, tap, and contemporary
- College coursework in dance technique, choreography and dance teaching methods
- Mother of two



Jocelyn Sample - Jazzy Tumbling, Jazz, Jazzerinas

- BAS in Organizational Management from Indian River State College
- 25 years dance training
- Owned a dance studio for 5 years
- 13 years as a dance instructor
- Mom to a 3 year-old and infant twin boys.



Ashly Jensen - Ballet, Pointe, Christi's Dancers

- BA in Dance and Creative Writing from Roger Williams University
- 21 years of dance training in Westchester, NY
- Danced professionally in NYC and Boston for 5 years
- 5 years of dance teaching experience



Lauren Collins - Dance Sampler, Dance Tots, Jazzerinas, Ballet, Contemporary

- AS in Psychology from Indian River State College, currently working toward her BS in PTA
- 16 years of dance training in ballet, HipHop, contemporary, jazz and tap
- Former member of Ultimate All Stars of Vero Beach, competitive HipHop team
- Began dancing and gymnastics here at Christi's



Lydia Pitman - Dance Tots, Dance Sampler, Jazzy Tumbling, Dance Combo

- 15 years of dance training in ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical and clogging
- Has danced competitively since the age of 12



Olivia Assaf - HipHop

- Originally from Washington state.
- Trained in ballet, jazz, modern and tap
- 8 years as dancer and lead choreographer for Master's Commission in Kirkland, WA
- Has taught both adult and children's classes
- Performed and held workshops nationally and internationally

Important Dates 2015-2016

September 1
Fall Classes Begin

November 2-7
Spring Recital costume sizing

November 15
Costume fee auto debit

November 26-29
Thanksgiving break (no classes)

December 14-18
Christmas Showcase Week
(Parent Performance at the end of class)

December 24-January 1
Winter Break (no classes)

January 2
Classes Resume

January 15
Final Day to Add/Change Recital
Classes

March 16-21
Costume Distribution Week

March 21-27
Spring Break (no classes)

April 15
Spring Recital Fee auto debit

May 4-9
Picture Week

May 13
Spring Recital Rehearsals

May 14
Spring Recital!!!

June 6
Summer Schedule Begins

Class Attire

All Ballet Classes and Combination Classes

(including Dance Tots, PreBallet, Jazzerinas, Dance Combo/Sampler)

- Hair must be pulled away from the face in a ballet bun.
- Leotards are required. They may be any solid color with a ballet skirt or shorts. Gems and sequins should be kept to a minimum.
- Pink ballet tights are required.
- Pink ballet slippers, black tap shoes and oxford jazz shoes are required for the appropriate discipline.

Hip Hop

- Comfortable clothes you can move in. No shorts without tights. No Midriffs. Non-marking athletic shoes or dance sneakers. Hair must be secured from face.

Jazz

- Any dance tights and leotard with optional shorts. Black oxford jazz shoes. Hair must be secured away from face.

Lyrical and Contemporary

- Solid color leotard and tights. Dance paws shoes. Hair must be secured.