



Darby's Doodles

Studio Owner Information

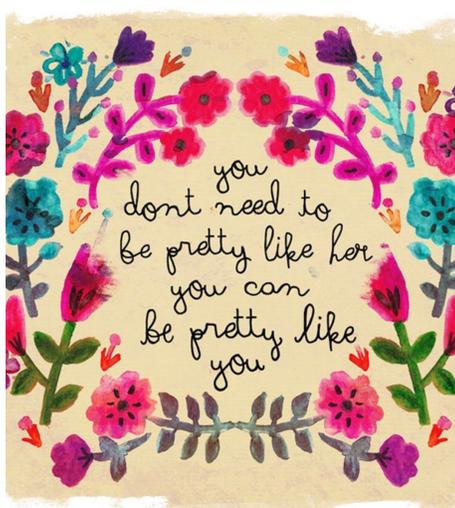
Hello March!

As I sit on my patio typing this in 65 degree sunny weather, I am feeling sorry for all my friends up north where it is still snowing! Oh my! You can feel sorry for me when it hits July and I am sweltering in 95 degree heat and humidity. Hope you are all surviving competition season and getting ready for recitals which will be here in no time at all. There doesn't seem to be a down time in your business, but I admire you for your driving passion, continuous perfection and your heart for making your studios the best they can be for your students and your community.

Please send me your recital dates if you have not done so.

Dates to Remember

July 23, 2019	Annual National Training Onalaska, Wisconsin
July 24, 2019	Rhythm Works Training Onalaska, Wisconsin
April 10, 2019 11AM CST	Educational Webinar (details coming)



In a world where you can be anything, *be yourself!*

The trainings will be held at the International Performing Arts and Training Center. If you are a studio owner, you will be busy with your MTJGD seminar, but you could send a teacher, liaison, or anyone else you feel would benefit from our training. They can bring the information back to your home studio. If your teacher is interested in the RWID training, it is the very next day. If you are not a MTJGD member, you will not be affected by the concurrent sessions. Come to Wisconsin and learn about More Than Just Great Dancing, Rhythm Works and Darby's Dancers. Thank you to Misty Lown for hosting us again this year.

*New England Training date still TBA, likely fall.

Curtain Call Event

Several families responded to our request to participate in the Sensory Stimulation Icon Research project in York, PA the end of April. We have our group from Fredericksburg Ballet Centre in Fredericksburg, VA traveling to York on April 26 for their debut modeling experience. We are going to Ashburn Academy of Dance in Ashburn, VA for the same experience on April 27. Several dancers are flying in from MN and even a set of twins from UT. I am privileged to be working with Tricia Gomez from Rhythm Works, Katie Gatlin from YPAD and Ashley Zimmerman from Curtain Call on this project. More importantly, I will

be working with Ashley Slemp from FBC and her students and Anne Marie Kimmell and Katie Beliveau from AAD and their students. Congratulations to our Darby's Dancers models! Pictures coming for sure!

Curtain Call is going to be providing some discounts and special promotions just for Darby's Dancers studios. This new line of costumes is just super for our kids.

Sister Studios

I thought it would be a good idea for each of you to have a sister studio to mentor. Teenage volunteers mentoring dancers, teachers mentoring teens, owners mentoring teachers and chapters mentoring chapters. I guess that leaves me mentoring all of you. Wow, that's a tall order! I will send out a list of our Big/Little Sisters in a separate email. I ask that you reach out to your group and be there for them when they have questions and concerns. Help encourage them to be the best they can be. Share your ideas and experiences with them. Help them get started. I'm always here but I think there is great benefit in your reaching out to each other. This is especially important when we have a new chapter to join us.

Challenge

I want to challenge **EACH** of you to recommend at least one studio owner/dance studio to me that you think might be a good fit for our program and dancers. This should be someone you know anywhere in the US. I ask that you give me the contact information for that person/studio and send them a quick email telling them that you did so. Then when I reach out, I can honestly use your name and say that you recommended I contact them. Just thought this might be a good way to help us grow. **Our mission: *To bring the joy of the performing arts to as many children with special needs as possible.*** Need your help, thanks!

Education

Have you ever thought that you just can't possibly do something and then you manage to find a way? When there is a will, there is a way! So many of our dancers just have to **find a way** to make things work. I was reminded of that recently when I was unable to do some very small household tasks because the arthritis in my hands is so bad, I no longer have much grip. It is almost impossible for me to open a jar, twist a can opener, tuck in sheets, carry my purse by the handle or clasp jewelry. Simple stuff, right.....until it's not simple. Our dancers might struggle to stand on one foot, spread their toes to give better balance, extend a limb for a beautiful pose, stay still long enough to wait for the next beat or understand the basic command of "5-6-7-8 and *then* you start. Be mindful in all that you do with your students. Find ways other than the traditional to have them participate. A student with limited mobility and slowness when walking certainly can not do a turn in a regular 1-2-3-4 beat. But maybe they could strike a standing pose or do a beautiful bow or reach for the stars. You guys are the dance professionals, but I know the heart of a child with special needs. They want to be successful and shine, just like anyone else. Make sure the goal is achievable! Shine on, dancers!

Reminder: Membership dues are due annually on the date on your contract. Our fees are \$199 a year (MTJGD members 25% off). Fundraising fees are due in June (for Jan-Jun fundraising) and December (for Jul-Dec fundraising). If you have done (or plan to do) a Double Good fundraiser, those fees are due at the close of the sale.