March 20th, 2020

Char-Mar Students and Families,

We hope that all is well with you, your family and those near and dear to you. Our positive thoughts and support are with you during this time.

Char-Mar School of Dance has served as a home for art, creativity, joy, and hope for 47 years and it is important that we support each other through these difficult times. Now that COVID-19 is a prominent part of our lives, we must stay hopeful and do what we can to stay safe, healthy, happy and creative.

The staff at Char-Mar is working tirelessly to help maintain a sense of normalcy for our families during this very odd and challenging time. We have the goal of staying connected with our students and to continue their dance education so that we can prepare for our annual recital and make it through this period of social distancing and self-quarantining with ease. Like other studios locally and dance companies worldwide, we are deciding to take our teaching online from the comfort of your home! Our goal with virtual teaching is to keep up with our normal dance classes, as well as assist parents in entertaining their children throughout these long days. In turn, our fun regular dance classes will help mitigate the stresses and anxiety that COVID-19 has all sadly thrust upon us. We ask for your patience and support as we navigate this technology and prepare to offer these classes online. It is important to stay healthy - physically and mentally so that we can easily transition back to our normal classes at the end of this all.

Our staff is collaborating to film dance classes and create content for our dancers. As soon as this content has been recorded and edited, our students will once again be able to enjoy their tap, jazz, ballet, acro-dance, contemporary, and other classes. Since all of our normal dance classes will be taught virtually, for the time being, we will be adding some other fun, creative, and healthy outlets for our students to take part in throughout the day, (i.e. social media challenges, barre classes, stretch, and strength) as well as integrating regular warm-ups and combos to make the classes feel how they used to when we were all together in the studio(aka Miss Stephanie’s Happy Place). To start, classes will be pre-recorded and posted through Dance Studio Pro. Shortly after, we will offer live-streamed classes that will allow dancers to stay connected with their teachers and other students in a live (almost) hands-on setting.

Additional information on how to access the pre-recorded and live classes will be sent out soon. Please keep an eye on your email inbox and our social media pages for future communications, dance challenges, and more. Our staff and our dancers have worked tirelessly throughout the season to prepare for the recital and we cannot wait to see everyone perform and show off their dance skills.

Char-Mar will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its circumstances in our area. We are committed to prioritizing the health, safety, and well-being of our Char-Mar families. We wish everyone the best in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you for assisting our small business in continuing through these difficult times. We need each other more than ever.

As always, please email us at [charmarschoolofdance@yahoo.com](mailto:charmarschoolofdance@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

With all of the love and support we can offer,

The staff at Char-Mar School of Dance