

Dear Illumination Dancers and Families,

First and foremost we want to say how much we love having you a part of our dance family! We are really looking forward to our upcoming season with you!

As your teachers, we want to remind you that we are dedicated to your growth as a dancer & human being. Proper class placement is something that greatly impacts your growth. There can be joy and disappointment because of where you have been placed. Please remember that it takes many, many years for dancers to perform in proper technique and we encourage you to continue to work hard in your classes and apply the corrections your teachers are giving you on a consistent basis.

Below are some FAQ's about our class placements / levels here at Illumination.

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**"I WORKED REALLY HARD IN CLASS THIS YEAR. WHY DIDN'T I GET MOVED UP?"**

Thank you for your hard work - it does not go unnoticed! Most dancers do not advance a level/class every year. Children's bodies develop at different rates, and they learn and master skills at different times, so a two to three year span for each class / level is the most beneficial way to learn dance. Teachers explain in class through group and individual corrections what would be needed to advance. Continue to focus on applying corrections you've been given & continuing to develop proper technique.

**"WHY DON'T DANCERS GET MOVED UP EVERY YEAR?"**

"Stand tall, hold your center, shoulders down, feet wide, rotate from the hips, knees over toes, chin level, arms strong..." Those are some of the corrections given BEFORE a dancer begins dancing! There is so much more to dance than doing 5 pirouettes or kicking your leg up to your head. Anyone can do that, but can they do it displaying proper technique? Dance is a complex art form and it takes years to become a proficient dancer. The most important thing is to be patient. There has to be a connection between the mind and the body in order to excel. You may think you understand the correction your teacher is giving you, but your body is not displaying that you understand just yet. Don't give up, keep working hard & it will happen. It just takes time and determination to meet your personal goals.



### **“DO I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR TO MOVE TO A DIFFERENT CLASS?”**

We are constantly evaluating dancers in their classes. That’s our job after all! :) If we feel a dancer is ready to advance, we will contact you immediately to let you know. Dancers can advance at anytime throughout the season before recital choreography begins and costumes are ordered. We love when our students set goals, apply their corrections & blow us away with their improvement!

### **“I’VE BEEN DANCING SINCE I WAS THREE. WHY AM I STILL IN “THIS” CLASS?”**

Every dance studio has different criteria for the way they level their classes. At Illumination, we have open level classes divided by age for ages 3 through 18. Our leveled classes begin around the age of 9 and students are placed by ability by our teaching team. Our leveled classes are intended for dancers who have displayed great focus in class, a willingness to learn & apply corrections, proper technique and are ready to take their dance education more seriously. Consistent attendance is also quite important so they do not miss important topics covered in class.

*“The key to growth is to keep believing. Don’t be fooled by that negative voice in your head. Keep believing in your potential, ability to beat obstacles, and instincts on how to move forward. The same strength you’ve used to come this far is what is going to take you even further than you can imagine.” - Cory Allen*

### **“WHY WERE MY FRIENDS MOVED UP BUT I WASN’T? WE STARTED DANCING AT THE SAME TIME/WE’VE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER.”**

We know it is fun to be in the same class as your friends. However, we do not base your placement on what level your friend was placed. We have found that some dancers progress faster when they are not in class with their friends. There is less social distraction and you are able to focus on your teacher, your technique & your progress.

If your friend was moved up a level and you were not, congratulate them for their progress and use that as motivation to progress yourself! If you were moved up but your friend was not, encourage them to keep working hard and be humble! Be kind to one another because there will be a day when you will be dancing together again and friendship is much more important than level placements.



## **"WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO MOVE UP A CLASS?"**

Your teachers will go over this towards the beginning of each season. Set some personal goals in the areas that may need some work, focus & pay attention in class, soak up and apply every correction the class and/or you are given.

**THE CLASSROOM IS A SAFE SPACE TO MAKE MISTAKES, BE AWKWARD AND FAIL.  
LEARNING THROUGH FAILURE IS A KEY TO SUCCESS.**

"When we give ourselves permission to fail, we, at the same time, give ourselves permission to excel." — Eloise Ristad

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Our teachers are trained, skilled and committed to seeing each child grow and develop into incredible dancers. Placements always come down to what the teaching team collectively feels is the best level/class for each student at that moment in time. We appreciate your trust and support in our decisions!

If you have any additional questions, please email us at [illuminationdancede@gmail.com](mailto:illuminationdancede@gmail.com).

Again, please remember we love all our students and have placed them where we feel it will be best for them physically, mentally, emotionally & allow them to continue growing! Keep up all your great work! We look forward to sharing our passion for dance with you this season!

*The Illumination Teaching Team*