

4/3/20

Hello Fabulous BCS Families!

For those of you who jumped into the online experience this week, thank you! Also, thank you for bearing with us through a few hiccups as we figure out this new platform. We have gotten wonderful feedback from our group class and private lesson attendees, and we encourage anyone who missed out this week to jump into online class as soon as you can (Pre-Ballet and Tip & Tap, you'll get your chance tomorrow morning!). You can find your Zoom links in the customer portal, as well as your email and google classroom. If you are missing a link or google classroom code, please let us know!

As you all know, the stay-at-home order has been extended until April 30th. This means that the new tentative "re-open" date for BCS is now May 1st. We will, of course, keep you updated as any new information develops, and we will also post updates on our website. As of now, we are still planning to hold all of our performances in May.

For anyone who has been hesitant to join us online, here are some wonderful reasons that were shared with us as to why continuing online is beneficial:

1. Students have worked hard in their training, and they owe it to themselves to continue even when they're at home.
2. Online training will enrich what the students have learned in the studio.
3. Online education will make students analytical, thoughtful, and critical thinkers.
4. It will teach students that "the show must go on" even when plans change, and challenges arise.
5. It will keep students physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy while they are quarantined.
6. It will give students a sense of connection and community.
7. It will help students maintain a sense of normalcy and routine while so much is happening around them.

We hope to see you all online very soon, and thank you for supporting BCS!!

Warmly,
Team BCS

3/26/20

Greetings, families! We hope you are having as good of a spring break as you can, and are taking advantage of some extra time with family. For those of you who are considered essential workers, and can't take advantage of extra time at home, all of us at BCS are very grateful for your hard work and sacrifice! We hope this is all over sooner than later.

As you all know, our state is on a stay-at-home order until April 7th. Due to this order, BCS is not able to operate inside the studio until after April 7th. Our staff has put together the following plan to continue to provide training for our students during this time, and to help ensure that there will be a studio to come back to when this difficult time is over.

What is Google Classroom?

Google Classroom is a platform that many students already use through their schools. It is a tool for us to post assignments, videos, worksheets, extra readings, and to communicate with our families. If you have/are a student involved in a **group class** (including company dances, duos & trios), and you have not received your class code for Google Classroom, please let us know right away. It is important that all students access their classes in Google Classroom! You can download the app, or visit classroom.google.com.

How will group classes be held?

All group classes (including company dances, duos & trios) and private lessons will be held live via Zoom, with the exception of Intermediate & Advanced Ballet and Pointe.

How will Intermediate & Advanced Ballet and Pointe classes be held?

As these classes are fairly repetitive week-to-week, students will receive pre-recorded classes in Google Classroom, and will also be given supplemental materials to work on at home. Students will be given an assignment to ensure they are keeping up with training at home.

How will private lessons be held?

All private lessons will be held live via Zoom, with the exception of Acro privates. Acro privates will be made up upon return to the studio. For piano lessons, we recommend propping your device slightly behind you, where your teacher would normally sit, so they are able to see your music and your hands.

What time will classes/lessons be held?

Classes and lessons will be held at their usual times, on their usual days. Keeping times the same is in the interest of students who have e-learning during the day, and also to keep a sense of consistency and normalcy.

Will classes be recorded?

Yes, all group classes will be recorded and uploaded to Google Classroom, so students can continue to practice at home during the week.

How do I join a Zoom class or lesson?

Throughout this week, we have made it even easier to join a Zoom class or lesson! You will receive a Zoom link for all of your classes/lessons in your email, in the Google Classroom for each group class, and in the customer portal. These links will no longer require a password. You will also be able to join the Zoom class/lesson directly in the customer portal, if that is easier for you. To provide additional support for students at home, teachers will also be posting supplemental materials and assignments in Google Classroom.

Any important tips for using Zoom?

Zoom has a small time lag, so it's important that all students in private voice lessons, private dance lessons, and duos/trios have their rehearsal music. We will be sure everyone receives any music they need. We also recommend downloading the Zoom app, if you don't plan to stream class/lessons directly in the customer portal. We also ask that everyone DISABLE the setting to cancel background noise. Canceling background noise causes pianos with sustain pedal to be silenced, and it can also cause music to sound distorted. We have attached a helpful tutorial on how to accomplish this in Zoom!

When will BCS resume in-person classes & lessons?

At this time, we plan to resume on April 8th. We will keep you updated if this changes at any time.

We greatly appreciate your support for our small business during this unprecedented time! You all make it possible for our staff to continue to work and provide for their families, and for us to continue to provide instruction for our students. **If you are suffering from financial hardship during this time, please let us know.** We are happy to help in whatever way we can. We are all in this together! Our staff will continue to keep you all up-to-date, and to post updates on the BCS website, facebook, and instagram. Please be safe, be healthy, and be kind to one another. We hope to see all of your faces very soon!

Warmly,
Team BCS

3/14/2020

Hi BCS Families!

Thank you to those of you who took the time to fill out our survey yesterday. It was very helpful in developing a plan for the coming week, and in encouraging creative ways to continue educating with less risk. Keeping our students' and families' best interests and safety in mind, here is the plan for BCS, beginning Monday, March 16th:

- Most group classes will be conducted as "e-classes." You will receive a link to each e-class in which you/your child are enrolled, once the videos are available. The videos will not be quite as long as a regular class, because teachers will go through the material once. However, students will have the ability to go slower and repeat certain sections in order to learn at their own pace. Students may also view the videos as many times as they would like, to continue practicing and conditioning throughout the coming weeks.
- We encourage students (especially those in acting classes) to send in videos of themselves practicing, in order that the teachers may provide feedback and critiques! You may email your videos to info@beyondcenterstage.com.
- Classes that will NOT be conducted as e-classes are as follows:
 - Beginning Acro/Tumbling (Thur. 5:30pm)- Make up 6/4/20
 - Intermediate/Advanced Acro/Tumbling (Wed. 5:45pm)- Make up TBD
 - Intermediate/Advanced Acro/Tumbling (Thur. 6:15pm)- Make up 6/4/20
 - Intermediate Ballet (Ms. Jan, Mon. 7:15pm)- Make up 6/1/20
 - Beginning Pointe (Ms. Jan, M. 8:15pm)- Make up 6/1/20
- Some private lessons and company duets *may* still be conducted. **Private lesson students and company duets will be contacted individually.**
- BCS has spring break from March 23rd-28th. This was an already scheduled break for which you are not billed.
- As of now, BCS will resume all classes and lessons on Monday, March 30th.
- **A note for dance company families:** At this point, Hall of Fame has not canceled the competition on April 3-5, although we know that things have been changing quickly. We will be sure to keep you notified as soon as we receive additional information from Hall of Fame.

Thanks again to everyone for your support of BCS. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. We all wish you and your families health and safety over the next few weeks!

Very Warmly,
Team BCS

3/13/20

Greetings, BCS Family! I know that the last few days have been especially trying on many families and students as all of us try to navigate this unprecedented situation. I want to thank all of you for supporting BCS and our efforts to keep the studio clean and safe for our students and families! My family and I are especially grateful for your continued enrollment at BCS during this uncertain time, as it is becoming especially difficult for small business owners. We thank you for understanding the importance of continuing arts education!

By now, I'm sure most of you are aware of many school closures, including Elmhurst District 205. District 205 has announced that they will be closing from March 16- April 3rd. As a small business, our staff is weighing the options we have regarding our schedule next week. While we are a small studio, and our class sizes are also fairly small, we do not want our families to feel uncomfortable or unsafe if we do remain open. Therefore, in addition to the safety and cleaning measures we have put into place, we have put together a very short survey to gauge your feelings as a studio family. **I am asking that you please take a second to fill out the survey this evening** so we are able to make a decision regarding closures, putting our students and families at the forefront of this decision. You can find the link to the short survey here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePR5KRDamouRmo_JzwqpyN5APpXvldLdTDKAx75raW5A83g/viewform?usp=sf_link

A few additional notes to keep in mind:

- **BCS will be open for any scheduled lessons/classes today, tomorrow, and Sunday**
- **At this time, BCS plans to be open the week of March 30th**

I will be posting regular updates regarding BCS and Covid-19 on our website; simply look for the big red banner on the main homepage. I will also be sending out emails, texts, instagram, and facebook posts regarding our schedule next week as soon as possible. In the meantime, I would ask that you please step in and help a neighbor, friend, or BCS family who might be in need. And if you are a working parent with no child care options, **please** reach out to BCS. We are all here for you, and are happy to offer help or support in whatever way we can. Please stay safe, and be kind to one another! We will be in touch very soon!

Very Warmly,
Ms. Sara
Owner, Beyond Center Stage LLC

3/12/2020

Dear BCS Families,

We wanted to address the COVID-19 virus in regards to our studio policies. We understand how stressful this time is as schools and businesses take precautionary measures. We want to assure you that BCS is continuing to monitor updates from the health community and school districts, and we are committed to the safety of all of our students, families and staff. The staff will also be enacting the following policies & procedures:

- All staff will wash hands upon entering the building, and in between all classes and lessons.
- Every 30 minutes, all touched surfaces will be sanitized. This includes door handles, light switches, waiting room furniture, toys, and bathroom fixtures.
- Contact with students and families will be limited (no hugs, high-fives, or handshakes), and teachers may alter choreography if need be.
- After each class or lesson, any equipment (including barres, mats, pianos, props, etc) will be disinfected, as well as studio & lesson room door handles. **Please inform the BCS office if your child has any allergies to disinfectant sprays or wipes.** Teachers may leave a minute or two at the end of classes/lessons to allow for the sanitizing of equipment, and to ensure our schedule continues to run on time.
- BCS will be posting guidelines from the CDC throughout the building.

As we do our part at BCS to protect our students, families and staff, we are also asking our students and families to assist us by participating in the following procedures:

- Please wash your hands upon entering the building, following proper hand washing technique. We have provided a stool in the front restroom for small children, but they still may need help reaching the soap dispensers. [Here are some helpful videos to demonstrate how to properly wash your hands.](#)
- Do not share food or drinks
- Wash hands in between each class or lesson
- Avoid direct contact with others, as well as commonly touched surfaces
- Do not come to BCS if you or a family member are ill, or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath)

Classes, rehearsals, and lessons will continue to be held on their regular schedule unless specified otherwise.

If you are unsure whether to keep your child home, please follow these guidelines:

- Fever over 100 °F (must be fever free for 24 hours **without** the use of medication)
- Fever over 100 °F with cough and/or sore throat
- Student experiencing nausea and/or vomiting

We appreciate your cooperation as we all endure this undesirable experience. Please reach out with any further questions.

Warmly,
Team BCS