

Good evening board members,

I'd like to give you an update on the ongoing activities of our dance and circus department. Our department is under a bit of a rebuild with our students. We have many new faces amongst our program. This is allowing us to start from scratch with a handful of senior students guiding the younger classmen. We have been working on skills progressions, performances, variations, the incorporation of the CTE program and much more!

We began this year with multiple spectacular performances at our Carnival in October. It was a big hit and allowed the newer students in the program to have a taste of what it is like to perform in front of larger audiences. We were also able to run food and drink booths to raise money for both the dance and circus programs.

Shortly after Carnival we held our dance and circus auditions for upcoming competitions. The auditions were open to all students and we can confidently say that we had a great turnout. Our teams were picked shortly after and our competitions begin this month and last through April.

In December our department participated in our first Breakfast With Santa. Our students performed multiple numbers that were Christmas themed and very audience engaging. We had breakfast, crafts and even Santa and Mrs. Clause attended the event. We also were able to get back on track and perform a variety of dance variations and contortion acts in front of viewers at Barnes and Noble.

Something's to look forward to in the upcoming weeks and months within our department are semester evaluations and competitions. During evaluations the students will work on performing in front of their peers while also assessing what skills they may need to improve on before the end of the year assessments, in which students will be placed in their proper levels for the following school year. Our departments will also be working full force on the many dance/circus numbers we are taking to competitions this season.

Toward the end of the school year, all students in all levels will perform in a recital where family members have the luxury of witnessing all of what their students have learned this school year. Recital is an event all of the students look forward to because the event does not only allow our advanced students to perform, but also our entry level students as well.

Our department has felt the normalcy of coming back onto campus with the students as well as working on getting the students back on track from the delays of COVID. We are all feeling excited and confident in the direction our program is heading with the incorporation of the CTE program and in person learning. This year has and will continue to be a great jump back into arts and education!

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Dance and Circus Department Chair