



October Fall Newsletter

Character • Community • Festive Fun

Welcome to October at VDC!

The crisp fall air is here, and the studio is buzzing with energy! This month, we are focusing on character, community and festive fun. Grab your calendars - we have an action-packed month ahead as our dancers continue to **Dance, Grow, Perform and Belong**.

Introducing the Studio Ambassador of the Month Program

At Virtuous Dance Center, our mission is “**Achieving the Virtue of Excellence Through Dance.**” While we encourage our dancers to grow technically, we also believe true excellence is built on character, community and heart.

To celebrate the dancers who uplift our studio culture, we are launching our new **Studio Ambassador of the Month Program!** This award recognizes well-rounded dancers using two important perspectives:

1. **Peer Nominations - Heart & Community:** Dancers will nominate classmates who demonstrate kindness, quiet leadership, respect and enthusiastic support for others.
2. **Teacher Evaluations - Work Ethic & Technique:** Teachers will evaluate the nominees using a 35-point rubric that considers energy, growth, application of corrections, professional focus, attendance and punctuality.

Each winner will be announced at the beginning of the following month and featured on our studio social media!

Coming Soon: Recital Information & Updates

We know everyone is excited for our big end-of-year showcase! Official details will be released soon. Please watch your inbox for announcements about:

- **Recital dates and times** so families can save the dates early
- **Recital fees and package details** for costumes and participation
- **Performance schedules** showing which classes will perform in each showcase

Senior Parents: Help Us Make Senior Year Unforgettable!

Can you believe senior year is already here? This season, we want to try something new. Instead of waiting until the June recital to shower our graduates with love, we want to celebrate their journey with fun, casual moments throughout the entire season.

We need your input to plan moments they will truly enjoy. Please email us with the subject line “**Celebrating Our Seniors**” and share your ideas for new traditions, such as senior merchandise, lobby spotlights, social media takeovers or a senior pizza day.

Spooky Fun Studio Dress-Up Weeks

Why wait until October 31 to have all the fun? Dancers are invited to bring the festive spirit into the studio by dressing up all month long!

- **Week 1:** Wear an old recital costume
- **Week 2:** Crazy Sock Week
- **Week 3:** Dress as your favorite character
- **Week 4:** Wear your Halloween costume

Costumes must be safe to dance in, worn with appropriate shoes and free of anything hazardous or distracting.

Ballet 1-3 and Pointe dancers: You may add festive accessories, but the standard dress code, including leotard, tights, proper shoes and appropriate hair, is still required.

Candy Donations

If you are able, please donate candy so our teachers can treat the dancers! If your dancer has a food allergy, please remind us so everyone can participate safely and feel included.

Bring a Friend to Dance

Celebrate National Dance Week at VDC

October 2-11, 2026

Dance is even better with friends! To celebrate **National Dance Week**, VDC dancers are invited to bring a friend to dance **free** and share what they love most: dance!

Friends can participate in class, try something new, meet our VDC family and experience what makes dancing at VDC so much fun.

Bring a Friend and You Could Win

Every VDC dancer whose friend enrolls at VDC will be entered into our **Bring a Friend Giveaway**:

1. **First Prize:** Free full-page advertisement in our 2027 Recital Program
2. **Second Prize:** \$50 off your recital fee
3. **Third Prize:** Free VDC studio T-shirt

The more friends you bring, the more entries you earn!

Enroll and You Both Receive a Credit

When the friend enrolls at VDC, **both the new dancer and the referring current VDC dancer will receive a \$10 VDC account credit.** The credits will be applied after the new dancer completes their second month of enrollment. Credits have no cash value.

Their Class Their Choice

Your friend does not have to attend the same class you take. They may choose any eligible VDC class that fits their age, skill level, interests and schedule. Whether they want to try Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Contemporary or another eligible class, there is an opportunity to find the right fit.

Company competition classes are excluded.

No Dancewear No Problem

Friends should wear comfortable, stretchy clothing that allows them to move. Dance shoes are welcome, but athletic shoes or bare feet are also acceptable when appropriate for the class. Friends will participate in the class, not just watch.

Online Registration Required

All friends must be registered online before participating. Registration will collect the friend's name, age and any relevant allergies or medical concerns. A parent or legal guardian must complete the participation waiver online before the friend may participate.

Invite your best friend, neighbor, school friend - or all three! Come dance, make memories and share your love of dance at VDC.

Exciting News More Ways to Grow

Training Opportunities for All VDC Dancers

At Virtuous Dance Center, we value growth. Some of the best growth happens when dancers step outside their comfort zones, experience new teachers and styles, and challenge themselves in new environments.

We are excited to share these outside training opportunities with **all VDC dancers**. You do not have to be a Company dancer to participate. These events are open to both recreational and Company dancers who want additional training and opportunities to experience the larger dance community.

October Opportunities

- **October 4:** Wild Dance Intensive | Baltimore, MD
- **October 11:** Infinite Dance Intensive | Manassas, VA

- **October 16:** Monsters Dance Convention | Reston, VA
- **October 17:** Ignite Dance Competition | Richmond, VA
- **October 25:** Groove Dance Competition | Baltimore, MD

November Opportunities

- **November 8:** Exhale Dance Convention | Washington, DC
- **November 15:** Platinum Dance Experience | Oxon Hill, MD
- **November 15:** Immerse Artists Experience | Richmond, VA
- **November 15:** Turn It Up Dance Challenge | Baltimore, MD
- **November 22:** Wild Dance Intensive
- **November 28:** Tap Into the Holidays | Springfield, VA

December Opportunity

- **December 6:** Titans of Dance | Reston, VA

Interested in Joining Us

Let us know! **VDC will handle your dancer's registration as long as spots are available.** These events are completely optional and are simply additional opportunities for dancers who want to train more, try something new, meet new teachers and continue growing.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month: Latin Jazz Open Class

Join us at VDC as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a special Latin Jazz Open Class with Fernando Naranjo!

Dancers will explore Latin-inspired movement, musicality, rhythm and jazz technique in a fun and energetic class. This is a great opportunity to experience a different style, challenge yourself and celebrate Hispanic culture through dance.

- Date: Friday, October 9, 2026
- Time: 6:00-7:30 PM
- Ages: 12 and up
- Teacher: Fernando Naranjo
- Cost: \$25 per dancer
- Location: Virtuous Dance Center, 31 Utah Place #101, Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Open to VDC dancers and the community! You do not have to be a current VDC dancer to participate. Space is limited! Register online at VirtuousDanceCenter.com.

Ritmo • Pasión • Disciplina • Arte • Cultura

Join If You Dare: Thriller Pop-Up Class

Calling all ghosts, ghouls and zombies! Learn iconic, spooky dance moves just in time for Halloween. Bring your energy and your best monster face!

- **Date:** Friday, October 23, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00-7:00 PM
- **Ages:** 7-12
- **Level:** All skill levels welcome
- **Teacher:** Jackelyn Echevarria
- **Cost:** \$15 per dancer
- **Location:** Virtuous Dance Center, 31 Utah Place, Fredericksburg, VA 22405
- **What to Bring:** Comfortable clothes for movement and a water bottle

Space is limited! To register, email info@virtuousdancecenter.com before spots vanish.

Celebrate Your Dancer's Birthday During Class

Let's dance, celebrate and make special memories on your dancer's birthday! Families are welcome to bring cupcakes or treats to share with the class.

To help every dancer celebrate safely:

- Please let us know ahead of time so we can share information about classroom food allergies.
- You may also bring clearly labeled allergy-friendly treats that everyone can enjoy.

VDC Dancers: We Want to Feature You!

We strive to make VDC more than a place to learn how to dance and perform. Our studio is a thriving community built through hard work, lifelong friendships and unforgettable milestones. We want our social media to reflect the heart of our studio: **our incredible, well-rounded dancers.**

Whether you are a recreational dancer who reached a personal goal, an academic superstar or someone making a difference in the community, we want to celebrate you!

What We Are Looking For

- **Studio & Professional Photos:** Recent studio snapshots or professional dance photos
- **Studio Besties:** Fun group photos or candid moments with dance friends
- **Dance Milestones:** A new skill, flexibility goal, competition award or any achievement that makes you proud
- **School Achievements:** Honor roll, outstanding report cards, club leadership or academic awards
- **Volunteer Moments:** Photos or stories of dancers serving their community
- **Seasonal Photos:** Dance or studio pictures connected to holidays and special seasons

How to Submit

Upload your high-quality photos or videos using our [VDC Social Media Submission Folder](#). Please include:

1. **Your Story:** A short note explaining the photo, achievement or volunteer experience
2. **Credit:** The photographer, dancewear brand or event location, when applicable
3. **Social Media Handle:** The dancer's or parent's handle so we can tag you

Helping Your Dancer Shine: Tips for Growth in Class

- **Good Etiquette:** Arriving early and dressed for class gives dancers a quiet moment to focus. It shows respect for the studio and creates a calm foundation for learning.
- **Applying Corrections:** When dancers listen to a teacher's correction and try it right away, they build skills more quickly and turn feedback into growth.
- **Being Consistent:** Showing up ready to learn each week builds confidence and helps teachers see that dancers are dependable and ready for new challenges.
- **A Steady Work Ethic:** Giving their best effort in every class builds a strong foundation and shows dedication to improvement.
- **Positive Attitude & Energy:** Entering the studio with a positive, excited attitude helps create an encouraging environment for everyone.
- **Dancing Full-Out:** Giving 100 percent, even when tired, reviewing a familiar skill or attempting something difficult, builds resilience and makes every rehearsal count.

A dancer's journey matters more than how quickly they progress. Mastering a fundamental skill with strong technique, control and confidence creates a solid foundation for the future. Rushing into advanced movements before a dancer is ready can lead to poor habits and slow long-term progress. True growth takes time, and we love watching our dancers develop their skills the right way!

Next month's tip: Why independent practice matters, how to practice correctly and the risks of practicing incorrectly.

Coming in November: Gobble Gobble Thanksgiving Dance Camp

Get your little movers ready to wiggle, giggle and groove! Our Thanksgiving Dance Camp includes three mornings of high-energy dance routines, festive crafts, snacks and holiday fun. No experience is needed; all levels are welcome!

- **Dates:** November 25-27, 2026
- **Time:** 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
- **Ages:** 3+
- **Cost:** \$135 for all three days or \$60 per day
- **Lead Teacher:** Joselyn Echevarria
- **What to Bring:** Closed-toe shoes, socks and a water bottle
- **Registration Deadline:** October 19, 2026

Spots fill quickly! Email info@virtuousedancecenter.com to register.

Please note: Regular studio classes will be closed for Thanksgiving Break, but the Thanksgiving Dance Camp will still take place as scheduled.

Have a Business or Know a Business

Partner With Virtuous Dance Center

Do you own a business, or know a local business that would like to support our dancers while reaching VDC families? We are now offering opportunities for businesses to sponsor VDC and advertise in our newsletter.

Whether it is your business, your employer, a favorite local restaurant, realtor, salon, service provider or another community business, we would love to connect with them.

Refer a Business and Earn VDC Credit

VDC dancers who refer a new business that purchases a sponsorship or advertisement will receive a **\$10 VDC account credit**. There is no limit to how many businesses you may refer - the more successful referrals, the more credit you can earn.

Interested businesses may email info@virtuousdancecenter.com for sponsorship opportunities, advertising options and pricing. They should include the name of the VDC dancer who referred them so the dancer receives credit.

Referral Credit Policy: The \$10 VDC account credit will be applied only after the referred business has purchased and paid in full for its sponsorship or advertisement. Referral rewards are issued as VDC account credit only and have no cash value.

Support local. Support dance. Grow together.

Label Your Items & Lost and Found Policy

Please write your dancer's name on **all shoes and personal belongings**, and check the Lost and Found regularly.

Beginning in November, unclaimed items will be donated at the end of the day on the first Friday of each month. The first donation date will be **Friday, November 6, 2026**.

Upcoming Studio Closures

- **Columbus Day:** Monday, October 12, 2026
- **Veterans Day:** Wednesday, November 11, 2026
- **Thanksgiving Break:** November 25-27, 2026
- **Christmas Break:** December 21, 2026-January 3, 2027
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** Monday, January 18, 2027
- **Presidents' Day:** Monday, February 15, 2027
- **Spring Break:** March 22-28, 2027
- **Memorial Day:** Monday, May 31, 2027

Upcoming Dance-Related Dates

- **National Dance Week:** October 2-11, 2026 - bringing nationwide awareness and recognition to the art of dance

- **World Ballet Day:** November 2, 2026 - featuring behind-the-scenes content from ballet companies around the world
- **National Ballet Day:** February 7 - celebrating the grace, technique and artistry of classical ballet
- **International Dance Day:** April 29 - commemorating the birth of Jean-Georges Noverre
- **National Tap Dance Day:** May 25 - celebrating tap dance and its history as a distinct American art form
- **National Hip Hop Day:** August 11, 2027 - marking the anniversary of the 1973 back-to-school jam where DJ Kool Herc helped pioneer the breakbeat
- **National Dance Day:** September 18, 2027 - the third Saturday of September

Are we missing a dance-related day you would like included in a future newsletter? Email us with the information!

Thank you for your support, your time and for being such an important part of our studio family. Let's make this their best year of dance yet!

 Follow us on Instagram and share your VDC moments with us: @virtuousdancecenter

Virtuous Dance Center

31 Utah Place, Fredericksburg, VA 22405

info@virtuousdancecenter.com