A Season of Gratitude, Growth & Giving

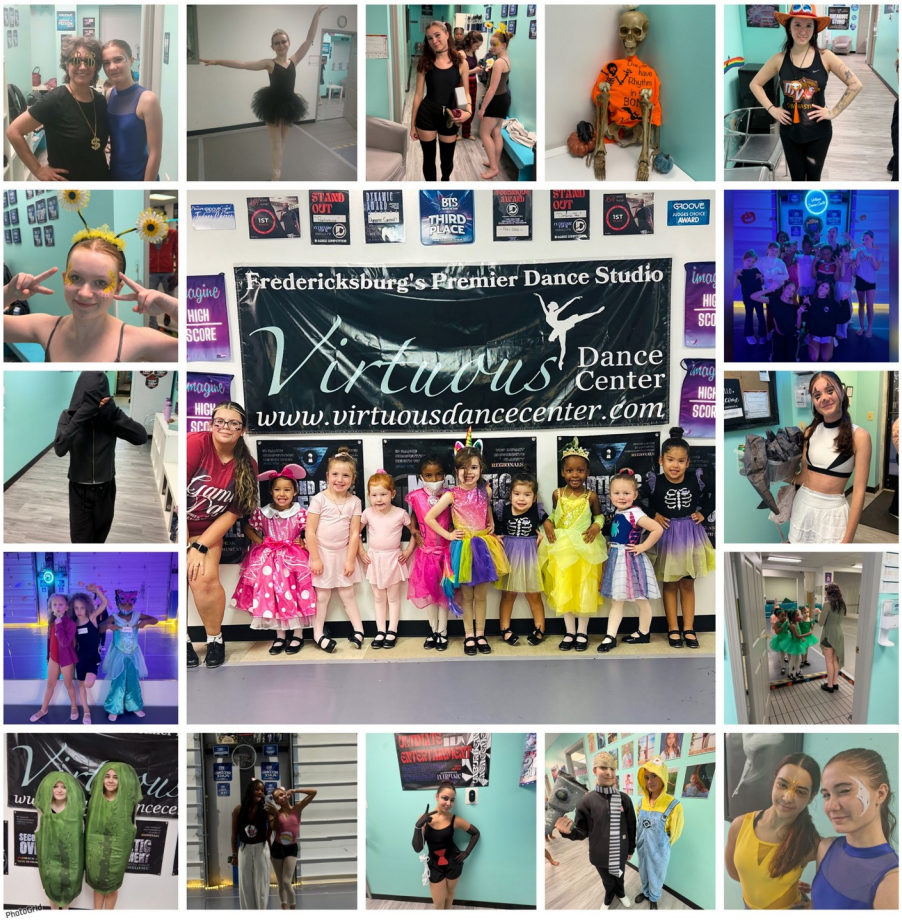
Welcome to November at VDC!

Dear VDC Families, what an exciting October! Thank you to the parents and grown-ups who joined our ballet evaluations. Your presence and encouragement made our dancers feel supported and celebrated. We also LOVED seeing the creativity and personality on display during Halloween Costume Week!

As November begins, we are especially thankful for the dancers, families, teachers, and supporters who make VDC such a special community. This month brings chances to recognize kindness, give back locally, and keep growing together.

Halloween Costume Week: Our Dancers Shined!

Enjoy a little peek at our October fun! Find more costumes, smiles, and behind-the-scenes moments on our social media.



INSTAGRAM	FACEBOOK	BEHIND THE SCENES
@virtuousdancecenter	Virtuous Dance Center	@bts.with.vdc

September Ambassador of the Month: Kenzei

Congratulations, Kenzei!

Congratulations to Kenzei, whose enthusiasm for others is just as inspiring as her dedication to dance. She celebrates classmates when they learn new skills, cheers on fellow dancers, demonstrates good sportsmanship, and leads with kindness and encouragement.

Honorable Mentions

Amari — Always willing to help classmates learn, offering kindness, friendship, and support to those around her.

Isabella — Makes sure no one feels left out and consistently cheers on her fellow dancers, helping everyone feel welcomed and included.

October Ambassador of the Month voting: November 2–5. Dancers and teachers are invited to recognize kindness, dedication, improvement, and teamwork.

Parents: Share a VDC Moment Worth Celebrating

Have you seen a dancer help someone, overcome a challenge, or show exceptional kindness? Send us the story so we can celebrate our community.

BLACK FRIDAY DANCE WORKSHOP

Friday, November 27, 2026 | 6:00–7:00 PM | Ages 7–12 | $15

Get ready to dance off that Thanksgiving feast! Join us for a fun, energetic Black Friday workshop filled with movement, music, and holiday-weekend excitement.

Instructor: Jackelyn Echevarria. All skill levels welcome. Spaces are limited. To save your spot, email info@virtuousdancecenter.com.

GOBBLE GOBBLE THANKSGIVING DANCE CAMP

November 25–27, 2026 | 9:00 AM–12:00 PM | Ages 3+

Three festive mornings of dancing, crafts, snacks, and holiday fun. All skill levels welcome! $135 for three days or $60 per day. Led by Joselyn Echevarria. Bring closed-toe shoes, socks, and water. Email info@virtuousdancecenter.com to ask about remaining space.

November Fall Color Days

Accessorize your class dress code with a little autumn color!

MONDAY • GOLDEN CORN / MUSTARD

Accessorize your regular dress code with golden corn or mustard-yellow accents.

TUESDAY • CRANBERRY & BLUSH

Accessorize your regular dress code with cranberry, burgundy, or blush accents.

WEDNESDAY • DEEP FOREST GREEN & OLIVE

Accessorize your regular dress code with deep forest green, olive, or sage accents.

THURSDAY • WARM AMBER & COPPER

Accessorize your regular dress code with warm amber or copper accents.

COLOR DAYS ARE OPTIONAL. Please maintain all required class attire, footwear, and safety rules. **All choreography classes must wear all black.**

Gratitude, Community & Fall Fun

Our Thankful Tree Wall — Everyone Is Welcome

Our Thankful Tree is for EVERYONE who comes to the studio: dancers, siblings, parents, grown-ups, teachers, and staff! Write or draw something you are thankful for in dance or in life, then add your leaf to our wall. Together, we will create a tree full of gratitude throughout November.

VDC Community Potluck — Monday, November 23

Location: VDC parking lot. Bring your dish before 6:00 PM. We will open the meal at 6:30 PM. Everyone at the studio is welcome — bring a dish and bring a friend with a dish, too! We will enjoy food and community together WHILE THE KIDS DANCE. Please label dishes with ingredients and common allergens when possible.

November Community Food Drive

CANNED GOODS • COOKING OIL • THANKSGIVING PANTRY ITEMS

Support the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank! Donate nonperishable Thanksgiving foods through November 19. Fresh, frozen, and refrigerated items can be accepted November 18–19 only and will be stored until delivery on November 20.

A Little Gratitude Goes a Long Way

From a leaf on our Thankful Tree to sharing a meal together, every act of kindness strengthens our VDC family. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Community & Connection

VDC Dancers — We Want to Feature You!

Share performances, awards, milestones, and special accomplishments. Send stories and photos for consideration in future newsletters and social media features.

Come Cheer for Our Competition Team!

Our competition dancers are preparing for an exciting season. All VDC families and friends are invited to come cheer them on! Three full-studio competition events:

February 5–7, 2027 — DECA, Richmond, Virginia

March 12–14, 2027 — Revel, Alexandria, Virginia

May 21–23, 2027 — ID, Fredericksburg, Virginia

More Details to Come

We will share venue information, schedules, and spectator details as each competition approaches. Let’s fill the audience with VDC spirit!

Classroom Courtesy

Arrive and pick up on time; use the restroom before class; follow dress codes; keep outdoor shoes off studio floors. Hip-hop sneakers must be clean and non-marking. Water only, except during approved celebrations.

Celebrate Your Dancer's Birthday

We love celebrating our dancers! Families who would like to recognize their dancer's birthday during class may contact our team to discuss celebration options and guidelines. Any treats brought to share must be allergy-friendly. Please coordinate with VDC before bringing food so we can help keep every dancer safe and included. Looking for a birthday party location? Ask us about studio rental availability.

VDC Merchandise & Holiday Gifts

Show your studio pride! VDC apparel and accessories make thoughtful gifts. A limited-edition VDC jacket will be available just in time for the holidays; watch for ordering details.

Shop VDC merchandise online

Have a Business or Know a Business?

Refer a new business that purchases and pays in full for a VDC sponsorship or newsletter advertisement, and your dancer earns a $10 VDC account credit. No limit to successful referrals; credits have no cash value. Email info@virtuousdancecenter.com with the referring dancer's name.

Lost & Found

Label shoes and personal belongings. Unclaimed items will be donated at the end of the first Friday of each month, beginning November 6, 2026.

Dress Code Made Simple

Proper dance attire helps teachers see alignment and technique while supporting safety, confidence, discipline and professionalism. All dancers should arrive dressed for class with hair securely pulled back.

Quick Class-by-Class Guide

BALLET

Approved level-color leotard, fitted tights, proper ballet shoes and a neat bun (short hair secured). Tiny: pink; Ballet 1 (45 min): sky blue; Ballet 1: peacock; Ballet 2: navy; Ballet 3/Pointe: black cherry. Boys: fitted white or class-color top with black shorts/leggings.

TAP

Fitted dancewear and secured hair. Tiny: black Mary Jane tap shoes; Tap 1–2 and Adaptive: black non-split-sole Oxford shoes; Tap 3: Oxford-style tap shoes.

JAZZ

Solid-color fitted leotard with black dance shorts, leggings or jazz pants; skin-color slip-on jazz shoes, unless instructed otherwise.

MODERN / CONTEMPORARY / MOVEMENT & TEXTURES

Fitted leotard or dance top with bike shorts or leggings; barefoot or instructor-approved shoes.

ACRO

Fitted leotard in any color with black dance shorts, bike shorts or leggings; secure hair.

HIP-HOP

Comfortable movement-friendly attire and clean white, dedicated, flat-bottomed, non-marking sneakers that are never worn outside.

Studio-Wide Reminders

No outdoor shoes on studio floors. Dance shoes are for indoor use only. No gum, food, phones or electronic devices in class without permission; water only in studios. Avoid jewelry and visible undergarments. Label shoes, bags and bottles. Follow instructor guidance for pointe shoes and proper fit.

NOVEMBER FALL COLORS: Accessorize your required class dress code with the designated colors. Choreography classes must wear all black.

Order Your Ballet Uniform

Order approved leotards and tights directly through VDC:

VDC Uniform Order Form

Dance Education & Character Development

As Your Skills Grow, Let Your Kindness Grow Too

The goal is progress.

Watching dancers become stronger, more confident, and more accomplished is one of the greatest rewards of dance education. However, as skills develop, so should humility and respect for others. Every dancer learns differently and progresses at their own pace. Some may master choreography quickly, while others need more time. Some have years of experience, while others are just beginning.

Being more advanced does not make someone more important, and being a stronger dancer does not make someone a better person.

We encourage dancers to celebrate their accomplishments without comparing themselves to others or making classmates feel less capable.

Never make someone feel embarrassed for struggling, needing additional help, or learning at a different pace.

Remember, every advanced dancer was once a beginner.

True confidence is being proud of your abilities while recognizing there is always more to learn. Even professional dancers continue taking classes, receiving corrections, and learning from others.

Leadership Is Earned Through Actions, Not Ability Alone

As dancers become more experienced, they naturally become role models for others. But being a strong dancer does not automatically make someone a teacher or give them the responsibility to correct or direct classmates. Teaching requires knowledge, training, patience, and an understanding of each dancer's individual needs. Our instructors are responsible for providing corrections and deciding when student assistance is appropriate. When a teacher invites a dancer to demonstrate or assist, it should be received with gratitude and humility, never as a position of superiority.

Real leadership is demonstrated by listening, being prepared, respecting teachers, encouraging classmates, and celebrating others' success.

The best leaders do not need to prove they are the best in the room. They help create an environment where everyone feels valued and encouraged to grow.

A Reminder for Our Dance Families

Parents play an important role in developing healthy practice habits. Encourage your dancer to review what they learned, celebrate their effort, and help them understand that consistency matters more than perfection.

Practice should be an opportunity to grow, not a source of pressure or competition with classmates.

And while we celebrate beautiful technique, achievements, and awards, we should equally celebrate responsibility, kindness, respect, and good sportsmanship.

These are qualities that will remain valuable long after their dancing years.

Excellence Is More Than Talent

At Virtuous Dance Center, our mission is “Achieving the Virtue of Excellence through Dance.” To us, excellence is more than perfect turns, beautiful extensions, or competition awards. It is the discipline to practice, the willingness to accept corrections, the humility to keep learning, and the kindness to encourage others.

We want to develop not only strong dancers, but also responsible students, compassionate teammates, and respectful leaders.

To every dancer: Practice because you want to improve, not because you want to prove you are better than someone else.

Be proud of your progress, but never forget where you started.

Celebrate your strengths, but never use them to make someone else feel small.

And as you become stronger, use your growth to inspire others, not to stand above them.

Because the greatest dancers are remembered not only for how beautifully they performed, but also for how they made others feel.

Keep practicing. Keep learning. Keep growing. And above all, keep being kind.

Keep Growing

Training opportunities for all VDC dancers, including recreational and Company dancers.

TAP INTO THE HOLIDAYS WITH CHLOE & MAUD

Saturday, November 28 — Tap, Afro-funk, industry panel, and exclusive music shoot.

Tap Into the Holidays — Register

THE JUILLIARD DANCE EXPERIENCE

Sunday, January 10, 2027 | 9:30 AM–3:00 PM

The Juilliard School, New York, NY. Check eligibility and registration with the organizer.

The Juilliard Dance Experience — Details and Registration

Other Optional Training Dates

Nov 8 — Exhale Dance Convention, Washington, DC

Nov 15 — Platinum Dance Experience, Oxon Hill, MD

Nov 15 — Immerse Artists Experience, Richmond, VA

Nov 15 — Turn It Up Dance Challenge, Baltimore, MD

Nov 15 — DECA Dance Unconvention, Pennsylvania

Nov 22 — Wild Dance Intensive, location TBD

Dec 6 — Titans of Dance, Reston, VA

Recital 2027 — Important Family Information

Season 11 Recital: The Countdown Begins

Our year-end recital celebrates months of hard work and gives every dancer a chance to shine. We strive to create a professional, memorable experience while keeping costs clear and manageable for families. Watch our social media for theme clues leading up to the big reveal!

RECITAL DETAILS

Recital: Saturday, June 12, 2027 | Time TBD

Mandatory rehearsals: Thursday, June 10 and Friday, June 11 | Times TBD

Venue: Colonial Forge High School

Recital fee: $179 per dancer | $149 for siblings

Costume rental: $55 per costume, per class for additional routines

Payment dates: Recital fee listed for January 1; final installment and costume fees due February 1

What the Recital Fee Includes

Two recital tickets (distributed during the week of June 8) and one professional recital video. Shoes, tights, and nude leotards are not included, as families may already have reusable items.

Our Costume Approach

To help reduce costs, VDC plans to use rental costumes for regular recital classes, with adult and adaptive programs excepted. Additional costumes for dancers in multiple routines are $55 per costume/class rather than requiring families to purchase each costume outright.

Payment and Measurements

Families may split recital fees into two payments, payable online or at the front desk by cash, check, or credit card. Costume fees are due February 1. In December, eligible families will receive a measurement form; please submit one per dancer. If no form is submitted, VDC will use measurements taken at the studio. The measurement process does not apply to adult or adaptive classes.

All recital fees are nonrefundable. Please check your account and watch for a separate message clarifying the initial payment posting and installment schedule.

Senior Families: Help Us Create New Traditions

Parents of seniors and rising seniors: tell us how you would love to see your dancer celebrated this season or next. We want to build meaningful traditions that our dancers and families will be proud of.

Plan Ahead — Dates & Reminders

Upcoming Studio Closures

November 11, 2026 — Veterans Day

November 25–27, 2026 — Thanksgiving Break (camp still scheduled)

December 21–January 3 — Christmas / Winter Break

January 18, 2027 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 15, 2027 — Presidents' Day

March 22–28, 2027 — Spring Break

May 31, 2027 — Memorial Day

Dance Dates to Celebrate

November 2 — World Ballet Day (as listed in studio notes)

February 7 — National Ballet Day

April 29 — International Dance Day

May 25 — National Tap Dance Day

August 11 — National Hip Hop Day

September 18 — National Dance Day

Coming in December

Watch for announcements about holiday-themed classes, Bring-a-Friend activities, winter camp and training, Parent's Night Out, student recognition, and winter break details.

Thank You, VDC Families

As we continue Season 11, we are grateful for your trust, support, and enthusiasm. Thank you for helping make VDC a welcoming place where dancers of all ages can thrive. Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving!

With gratitude,

Jr & Karime Echevarria

Executive Director & Artistic Director