

# ***Gotta Dance***

*200 Turnpike Road #9, Chelmsford, MA 01824*

## **2024-2025** *Studio Handbook*



**(978) 671-0400**  
**ksgottadance.com**

# Gotta Dance Fall Schedule 2024/2025 Studio B

\*Schedule is tentative and subject to change depending on enrollment. Classes begin September 7, 2024

| Day                         | Time        | Age                 | Description          | Instructor     |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>               |             |                     |                      |                |
|                             | 3:30-4:15   | 3-5                 | Creative Dance       | Heather        |
|                             | 4:15-5:00   | 4-6                 | Ballet/Tap           | Heather        |
|                             | 5:00-6:00   | 15+                 | Lyrical II/III       | Cassey         |
| Opal/Amethyst               | 6:00-7:15   | 12+                 | Ballet II            | Jay            |
| Diamond/Rubies/Emeralds     | 7:30-8:45   | Teen/Adult          | Ballet III           | Jay            |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>              |             |                     |                      |                |
|                             | 3:30-4:00   | comp solos/privates |                      |                |
|                             | 4:00-4:45   | 8-11                | Acro                 | Liz            |
|                             | 4:45-5:45   | 12-18               | Acro                 | Liz            |
|                             | 5:45-6:30   | 11+                 | Jazz                 | Liz            |
| *Ballet required/no recital | 6:30-7:15   | Teen                | Pre-pointe II        | Elaina         |
| *Ballet requirement         | 7:15-8:15   | 13+/teacher recom.  | Pointe               | Elaina         |
|                             | 8:15-9:00   | Teen 15+            | Musical Theater      | Elaina         |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b>            |             |                     |                      |                |
|                             | 3:30-4:15   | comp solos/privates |                      |                |
|                             | 4:15-5:00   | 11+                 | Lyrical              | Liz            |
| *Audition only              | 5:00-6:00   | Teen                | Diamonds/Rubies Comp | Elaina         |
| *ballet/lyrical experience  | 6:00-6:45   | 11+                 | Contemporary II      | Hannah         |
|                             | 7:00-8:00   | 15+                 | Jazz                 | Hannah         |
| *ballet/lyrical experience  | 8:00-9:00   | 15+                 | Contemporary III     | Hannah         |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>             |             |                     |                      |                |
|                             | 1:00-2:00   | Adult               | Line Dance           | Katrina        |
|                             | 3:30-4:00   | comp solos/privates |                      |                |
|                             | 4:00-4:45   | 12+                 | Hip Hop              | Katrina        |
|                             | 4:45-5:30   | 12+                 | Tap                  | Katrina        |
| *Audition only              | 5:30-6:15   | 12+                 | Opals Comp Team      | Katrina        |
| Topaz can take              | 6:15-7:00   | 10+                 | Ballet               | Katrina        |
| *Audition only              | 7:00-7:45   | 9-12                | Crystals Comp Team   | Katrina        |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>               |             |                     |                      |                |
|                             | 3:30-4:00   | comp solos/privates |                      |                |
|                             | 4:15-4:45   | 5-7                 | Hip Hop              | Katrina        |
|                             | 4:45-5:30   | 5-7                 | Acro/Jazz            | Hannah         |
|                             | 5:30-6:15   | 7-10                | Acro/Jazz            | Hannah         |
| *Session class              | 7:00-7:45   | Adult (open level)  | Jazz                 | Katrina        |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>             |             |                     |                      |                |
| *Session class              | 8:15-9:00   | Adult/16+ Teen      | Zumba                | Katrina        |
|                             | 9:45-10:30  | 4-6                 | Hip Hop/Jazz         | TBA            |
|                             | 10:30-11:15 | 4-6                 | Ballet/Tap           | TBA            |
|                             | 11:30-12:15 | 10+                 | Lyrical              | Jamie          |
|                             | 12:15-1:00  | Teen                | Open Lyrical         | Katrina        |
|                             | 1:00-2:00   | Teen                | Open Ballet          | Katrina        |
| *Audition only              | 2:00-3:00   | Teen                | Emeralds Comp Team   | Hannah         |
| *Audition only              | 3:00-5:00   | Competition         | Competition Team     | Katrina/Cassey |

\*Updated 9/5/24

# Gotta Dance Fall Schedule 2024/2025 Studio A

\*Schedule is tentative and subject to change depending on enrollment. Classes begin September 7, 2024

| <i>Day</i>                | <i>Time</i> | <i>Age</i>      | <i>Description</i>   | <i>Instructor</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>             |             |                 |                      |                   |
|                           | 3:30-4:15   |                 |                      |                   |
|                           | 4:15-5:00   | 6-8             | Ballet/Tap           | Katrina           |
|                           | 5:15-6:00   | 12-14           | Amethyst Comp Team   | Katrina           |
|                           | 6:00-7:00   | Teen            | Broadway Jazz        | Katrina           |
|                           | 7:15-8:00   | 12+             | Musical Theater      | Katrina           |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>            |             |                 |                      |                   |
|                           | 4:15-4:45   | 6-8             | Hip Hop              | Jamie             |
|                           | 4:45-5:30   | 6-8             | Tap                  | Jamie             |
|                           | 5:45-6:30   | 15+             | Tap III              | Elaina            |
|                           | 6:30-7:15   | 11-13           | Pre-pointe I         | Liz               |
| <i>*Session class</i>     | 7:15-8:00   | Teen/Adult/Open | Tap                  | Katrina           |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b>          |             |                 |                      |                   |
|                           | 4:15-5:00   | 6-8             | Ballet/Jazz          | TBA               |
|                           | 5:00-5:45   | 11+             | Jazz Funk            | Liz               |
|                           | 6:00-6:45   | 15+             | Street Funk/Hip Hop  | Elaina            |
| <i>*Ballet experience</i> | 6:45-7:30   | 8-10            | Lyrical/Contemporary | Elaina            |
|                           | 7:30-8:15   |                 |                      |                   |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>           |             |                 |                      |                   |
|                           | 3:30-4:00   | 3-4             | Creative Dance       | Katrina           |
|                           | 4:00-4:45   | 9-12            | Hip Hop              | Karina            |
|                           | 4:45-5:30   | 9-12            | Jazz                 | Caroline          |
|                           | 5:30-6:15   | 9-12            | Tap                  | Caroline          |
| <i>*Session class</i>     | 6:45-7:15   | Adult/16+Teen   | Zumba                | Arpine            |
| <i>*Session class</i>     | 7:15-8:15   | Adult           | Lyrical/Jazz         | Jamie             |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>             |             |                 |                      |                   |
|                           | 9:30-10:00  | 3-5             | Creative Dance       | Katrina           |
|                           | 4:15-4:45   | 4-6             | Ballet               | Heather           |
|                           | 4:45-5:30   | 7-10            | Ballet               | Katrina           |
|                           | 5:30-6:15   | 7-10            | Topaz Comp Team      | Katrina           |
|                           | 6:15-7:00   | 7-10            | Tap                  | Katrina           |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>           |             |                 |                      |                   |
|                           | 9:15-9:45   | 3-5             | Creative Dance       | Katrina           |
|                           | 10:00-10:45 | 7-10            | Ballet               | Jamie             |
| <i>*Audition only</i>     | 10:45-11:30 | 7-9             | Sapphires Dance Team | Jamie             |
|                           | 11:30-12:15 | 6-8             | Jazz/Hip Hop         | Katrina           |
|                           | 12:15-1:00  | 10+             | Hip Hop              | TBA               |

\*Updated 9/5/24

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## **Gotta Dance Tuition Information**

**REGISTRATION FEE:** An annual registration fee of **\$25.00** per student or **\$30.00** per family will be due at the time of registration. **THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE** unless the class registered for does not run.

**ANNUAL TUITION** is due at your first class of each month and can be broken down into 10 monthly payments from September through June. Monthly payments remain the same regardless of 3-week, 4-week, or 5-week months. Statements will not be sent out unless payment is overdue. There will be a **\$25.00 late fee** if payment is not received by the 15th of each month. There will be a **\$25.00 fee for all checks returned** by the bank. **Gotta Dance** accepts cash, check, Venmo payments or automatic credit card withdrawals. **CREDIT CARD WITHDRAWALS:** Credit card withdrawal forms are available at the studio or on our website and are in effect for the current dance education year, so authorization forms must be filled out each year at the time of registration. \*A Processing Fee of \$5.00 is applied to each credit card monthly transaction.

\*Tuition is due on the first class of each month or can be mailed to: **Gotta Dance**, 200 Turnpike Road #9, Chelmsford, MA 01824.

### **TUITION PRICES (\*effective for classes beginning September 2024)**

30 MIN. CLASS: \$400.00 PER YEAR or \$40.00 PER MONTH

45 MIN. CLASS: \$440.00 PER YEAR or \$44.00 PER MONTH

1 HR. CLASS: \$480.00 PER YEAR or \$48.00 PER MONTH

1 HR. AND 15 MIN. CLASS: \$520.00 PER YEAR or \$52.00 PER MONTH

1 HR. AND 30 MIN. CLASS: \$560.00 PER YEAR or \$56.00 PER MONTH

**\*We are offering a 10% discount for those who pay in full for the year - cash or check only (no payments with Venmo or credit cards accepted).** The discount would be instead of a class discount of 3, 4, or 5 classes and unlimited tuition. If you are taking 4 classes that are each 45 minutes (\$44 per class) and it comes to \$149.60 (or \$1469/year), you can't get an additional 10% discount on the \$1460/year, you would have to take the 10% discount off of the full tuition price of \$1760/year (which comes to \$1584/year). **\*Tuition paid in full is non-refundable after December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**UNLIMITED CLASSES:** \$175.00 PER PERSON PER MONTH; \$255.00 FAMILY RATE FOR 2 FAMILY MEMBERS; OR \$305.00 FAMILY RATE FOR 3+ FAMILY MEMBERS (excludes Competition Team Fees)

**Family Discounts:** (discounts exclude Zumba and Competition Team fees)

3 CLASSES - 10%

4 CLASSES - 15%

5 CLASSES - 20%

### **OTHER CLASS OPTIONS:**

**PRIVATE LESSONS:** \$25 PER 30 MINUTE SESSION (EXISTING STUDENTS) OR \$30 PER 30 MINUTE SESSION (NON-STUDENTS)

**SEMI-PRIVATE LESSONS (DUOS, TRIOS, ETC.):** \$20 PER 30 MINUTE SESSION (EXISTING STUDENTS) OR \$25 PER 30 MINUTE SESSION (NON-STUDENTS)

**ZUMBA:** \$10.00 per class

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY:** You must notify the studio in writing via email if you intend to withdraw from class(es). The withdrawal will take effect from the date that your email was sent, not the date that the student last attended class. You are responsible for the tuition balance due on your account prior to your withdrawal. *If tuition is paid in full for the year and you withdraw after January 1<sup>st</sup>, no tuition refund will be given.*

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND COSTUMES:** An annual performance is planned for the end of the season. This will take place Saturday, June 21, 2025. Costumes average from \$65.00-\$85.00 per class. Costumes must be ordered well in advance; therefore, costume deposits will be due the first week of November (\$50.00 deposit per costume – **THIS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE** under any circumstances). Costume balances will be due the first week of February. Students will receive their costume upon arrival once the balance is paid in full. Refunds will not be given, and costumes cannot be returned. Annual Performance tickets will run between \$25.00-\$27.00 each and are non-refundable. Ticket sale information will be given at a later date.

**\*IMPORTANT\* ANNUAL RECITAL FEE:**

In order for us to keep our ticket prices affordable, hire a videographer, reserve the venue, lights/sound, pay our staff, purchase props, etc., we require all our families to pay a Recital Fee. **This fee is due March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**\$50.00 per dancer in the recital – includes video link and a recital t-shirt; \$80.00 per family with 2 dancers; \$100 per family with 3+ dancers – includes video link and recital t-shirts for dancers in the show. \*Extra t-shirts can be ordered for other family members on Ticket Day.**

## **Studio Guidelines**

### ***Rules and Regulations:***

Dancers are expected to be on their best behavior at all times, respecting their instructor as well as the studio. Dancers should respect our neighboring businesses by keeping their voices at a normal range and refrain from hanging out, running or wandering in the hallway. Please encourage small children to use the restroom before or after their class. When picking up your dancer, please try to be prompt in arriving in a timely manner to make the transitional periods between classes run efficiently. For your safety, your dancer will not be released from class until a parent or guardian arrives inside the building to escort him/her out. Parents are strongly encouraged to drop dancers off. Socializing in the waiting area can be very distracting for the class and instructors. If class has begun, please refrain from any questions or concerns that do not require immediate attention. Questions can be answered between classes or by reaching the Studio Owner, Katrina, at (978) 671-0400. If questions or concerns require immediate attention please approach your instructor or call Katrina immediately.

***Dress Codes:*** (please note our tights for the 2024/2025 season - Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers convertible tights)

**Acro:** Black leotard or cami, Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers convertible tights, black tap shorts, bare feet for ages 5-7, black or white Acro shoes for ages 7-Teen.

**Ballet:** Black leotard, Theatrical Pink Body Wrappers tights, ballet skirt or tap shorts, pink ballet slippers, hair pulled back away from face and off shoulders.

**Ballet/Jazz Combo:** Please follow Ballet dress code. Jazz shoes may need to be purchased throughout the year.

**Boys Classes:** Black jazz pants or sweatpants, solid color t-shirt or tank top, split sole dance sneakers or black jazz shoes preferred. (or any sneakers used only for dance class. Black is preferred and may be needed in performance).

**Creative Dance:** Black, pink, or purple leotard (attached skirt optional), any color tights, pink ballet shoes for girls, black jazz shoes for boys. Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers or Theatrical Pink Body Wrappers will be required for recital (TBA).

**Dance Team:** Black leotard, Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers convertible or stirrup tights, black jazz pants or tap shorts, and black jazz shoes, Nude Foot Undeez, hair pulled away from face and off shoulders.

**Hip-Hop:** Black leotard or tight fitted tank top, Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers convertible or stirrup tights, black jazz pants, split sole dance sneakers or black jazz shoes.

**Jazz/Jazz Funk/Broadway Jazz:** Black leotard, Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers convertible or stirrup tights, black jazz pants or tap shorts, black jazz shoes, hair pulled back away from face and off shoulders.

**Lyrical/Contemporary:** Black leotard, black tap shorts or Capris, Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers convertible or stirrup tights, Leather Capezio Pirouettes II H062 in NUDE (for classes ages Teen/Adult) or Foot Undeez (for classes 12 and under), hair pulled away from face and off shoulders.

**Musical Theatre:** Black leotard, black jazz pants or tap shorts, Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers convertible or stirrup tights, black jazz shoes, hair pulled away from face and off shoulders.

**Parent & Tot:** Children can dress in comfortable clothing and bare feet. Parents can come in comfortable clothing and socks or bare feet.

**Pre-Pointe & Pointe:** Black leotard, Theatrical Pink Body Wrappers tights, ballet skirt or tap shorts, pink ballet slippers and pointe shoes, hair pulled back away from face and off shoulders.

**Tap:** Black leotard, Jazzy Tan Body Wrappers convertible or stirrup tights, black jazz pants or tap shorts, tap shoes (ages 4-9 classes Maryjane taps, ages 9+ classes Oxford taps, any brand). Please go by class you are enrolled in. Not individual age. Hair pulled back away from face and off shoulders.

***Please do not arrive at dance class with improper attire. Repeat violation of dress code will result in non-participation in class. Jeans, baggy clothing, and hair down will not be tolerated.***

*\*Jewelry or gum chewing is not allowed in any class at any time.*

***Attendance:*** Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.

### ***Weather Conditions/Holidays:***

If there is a school closing or early dismissal classes will be canceled. All canceled classes can be verified by calling (978) 671-0400.

***Gotta Dance*** runs accordingly with the Chelmsford Public School System schedule and will be closed on all holidays recognized by the public schools **with the exception of June 19<sup>th</sup>** due to rehearsals needed due to the week before our annual recital performance. Our tuition remains the same price each month whether it is a three week, four week or five week month and regardless of holidays, weather cancellations or absences and it secures your student's registration in that class. Classes can be made up by attending any other class equivalent to your own. ***\*Refunds will not be given for absences or weather cancellations.***

### ***Performances and Rehearsals:***

A performance is planned for the end of the school year. Recital dates are **Dress Rehearsal on June 19, 2025 (MANDATORY attendance for dress rehearsal in order to perform in the recital)** and **Performance on June 21, 2025**. All students are expected to participate in this performance. If this may be a concern for you please inform the instructor. This will not affect your child in class however, instructors need to be aware of non-performance participants. As these dates approach, mandatory extra rehearsals will be scheduled to prepare for the performance. This usually takes place one week prior.

## **Instructor Biographies**

**Katrina Rotondi** is excited to be taking on the role of **Director and Owner of Gotta Dance** as of June 2024. She has been dancing for over thirty years and is experienced in Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet, Modern, Lyrical, Line Dancing and Musical Theater. She is also certified in Zumba and Zumba Gold. Katrina has been teaching for over twenty years at **Gotta Dance** as well as several senior centers and recreation departments in the area. She has a bachelor's degree in Theater Arts with a concentration in Dance from Franklin Pierce College. Her other accomplishments include an on-stage appearance in the Concord Players productions of "West Side Story" and "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels". She has also choreographed for the Carlisle Middle School productions of "Into the Woods" and "Bye Bye Birdie," and the Lexington Players production of "Spring Awakening" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown". When she isn't dancing (which is hardly ever), Katrina enjoys spending time with her huskies, Duncan and Comet.

**Heather Dinsmore** Heather began dancing over 45 years and has been dancing as a student of **Gotta Dance** since 2006 and started teaching the youngest of dancers since 2007. She also teaches Cardio classes and Line Dancing at the studio and several senior centers. Heather is a Billerica native and took dance classes at Dance Unlimited, Patti Nichol's Dance Center, and Donna Miceli Dance Center studying jazz, ballet, tap, and modern. She is a graduate of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL, where she holds a BA in Human Development and a minor in Dance. In college, she was a founding member of Co-Motion Dance Theater, spent a Winter Term studying theater in London, performed as Adriana in Shakespeare's "A Comedy of Errors," and performed in the dance ensemble in productions of "A Chorus Line" and "Grease." Heather worked for many years as a Recreation Director at a retirement community and was certified as a Therapeutic Recreation Assistant. She has taken classes towards a Dance Education Certificate through Northern Essex Community College and continues to take classes in the area. She is the wife of a Billerica Firefighter and proud mother to Kelly, Joseph, and Ryan, all alumni of **Gotta Dance**.

**Jay Newlon** has studied ballet at NYU, Juilliard/International Ballet of Caracas, Dancer's Studio, Boston Ballet, Granite State Ballet, and Boston Dance Company. He credits his teachers Hector Zaraspe for inspiration and Jimmy Reardon for technique. Jay has danced professionally with Opera Company of Boston, Bay State Ballet, Boston Dance Company, Northern Ballet Company (Granite State Ballet), Danny Sloan, Jeannette Neill's Jazzin', and Academy of Ballet Arts. He describes his style as Cecchetti derivation with some Balanchine. Jay has taught at BU, and the School of Ballet Arts. In addition to his excellent abilities in articulating the intricacies of the art of ballet both mechanically and aesthetically, his interests in advancing his students' ability in and understanding of ballet, he deeply appreciates their effort and desire to learn. He has been an integral part of **Gotta Dance** for over 18 years. Some lesser known facts about Mr. Jay are that he also holds a 1st Degree Black Belt in Kempo karate and has been actively involved in the Concord Players.

**Cassandra Floor** started her dance career in musical theater. While she attended Fitchburg State College, she was the choreographer for Lowell High School's competing Show Choir as well as numerous local community theater productions. She also instructed lyrical classes for the FSC Dance Club and choreographed and performed in FSC's productions of Romeo and Juliet and Zorba! She graduated from Fitchburg State College with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and a double major in Theater. She served as choreography adjudicator for the Mill City Show Choir Festival from 2008-2010. Currently, she is a first-grade teacher in Lowell Public Schools and shares her love of dance with her students by incorporating movement into their daily routine. Cassandra has been an instructor and choreographer at **Gotta Dance** for over 15 years. She teaches many styles, but she adores lyrical, contemporary, and tap. She enjoys working with serious dancers who want to improve their technique and is proud being a choreographer for the **Gotta Dance** Competition Team. Cassandra shares her love for dance with her daughter, Sophia.

**Elisabeth L'Heureux** has been dancing since the age of 2. Grow up in the competitive dance world and now teaches students of all ages and levels while also continuing her dance education to this day. Her unique visions and choreography have won numerous special awards and national title championships. She has also had the opportunity to give back to her community as well, choreographing for singers, show choirs, musicals and school dance teams. She has been featured in music videos and movies and has traveled as a backup dancer as well as getting the chance to adjudicate as a competition judge. She enjoys sharing her passion for dance and teaching and we are so happy she is with us at **Gotta Dance!**

**Alyssa Murnane** was a student at *Gotta Dance* for over 10 years and is happy to be back as a teacher. Along with her dance education with Karrie Stang Mason and the *Gotta Dance* staff she has worked with several well-known instructors and choreographers attending master classes and conventions throughout the New England area. Alyssa has experience in acrobatics, ballet, contemporary, hip hop, jazz, lyrical, and pointe. She is a longtime member of the *Gotta Dance* performance and competitions teams and has achieved many awards over the years for her hard work and dedication. Alyssa has participated in many local performances over the years sharing her talent and love for dance with the community at places such as nursing homes, senior centers, fairs and more. She has also been assisting classes and working with young children for the past four years. This past year Alyssa has taught lessons at the Lowell YMCA and was substitute teaching and choreographing at *Gotta Dance*. Alyssa loves dancing and working with children who share the same passion and is very excited to return as a part of the *Gotta Dance* staff for the upcoming season.

**Hannah Jeffers** Hannah has been a student at *Gotta Dance* for 13 years. Along with her years of training from Karrie Garber and the *Gotta Dance* staff she has attended many master classes and conventions taught by many instructors and choreographers. Hannah has experience in pointe, ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap, lyrical, contemporary, acro, and musical theatre. She is a member of the performance and competition teams and has received many awards and achievements throughout her years of performing and competing. Along with dancing, Hannah has been a part of many of Billerica Memorial High School's musicals such as "Playing Favorites 2 & 3," "Sweeney Todd," and "Annie" for which she was Assistant Dance Captain. Hannah has performed at local shows with our dance teams including senior centers, nursing homes, and fairs. She is currently a member of the OnStagers, the theatre company at Merrimack College. She has also been an assistant for four years in Acro, Jazz, and Lyrical classes. She has choreographed for many theatre camps throughout the years and choreographed "Matilda Jr.", the 2023 spring musical at Marshall Middle School. Hannah loves dancing and working with all our students who share the same passion and determination that she has for dance. She is beyond excited to be part of the *Gotta Dance* staff after being a student for so long.

**Jamie Johnson** has been dancing for over 25 years. She found her passion for dance once she started taking classes at Gotta Dance over 18 years ago. Jamie has also been a substitute teacher for many classes throughout the studio over the past several years. She has participated in various dance conventions and was on the competition team for approximately five years. One of her favorite styles of dance is Jazz but she definitely enjoys all forms of dance. Jamie is very passionate and hardworking when it comes to her work and dance. She has been a preschool teacher for 9 years and has such a big heart for small children and seeing them grow and smile. Jamie is beyond excited to be part of the *Gotta Dance* family. Jamie attends Middlesex Community College where she is earning her director certification in Early Education. Once she finishes her degree she plans on earning her bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Once she earns her director certification she plans to work as an assistant director or a director of an early childhood center and furthering her education and knowledge.

**Caroline Stevenson** was a student at *Gotta Dance* for 15 years. In addition to Karrie Mason and the *Gotta Dance* staff, she has worked with several well-known instructors and choreographers and attended master classes and conventions throughout New England. Caroline has experience in ballet, tap, contemporary, lyrical, hip hop and jazz. She was a long-time member of the performance and competition teams. Caroline has performed at local shows with our dance teams including senior centers, nursing homes, and fairs, and enjoys sharing her passion for dance with others. Caroline graduated from the University of Delaware with a B.S. in Early Childhood and Special Education and a minor in dance. She is a special education teacher at The New England Center for Children and pursuing her master's in special education at Simmons University. She loves working with children and sharing her passion for dance. She can't wait to be back teaching at the studio she calls a second home.

**Elaina Cobb** started her dance education as a toddler and have continued for 20 years and counting. She has studied a variety of styles including ballet, pointé, jazz, Broadway jazz, tap, modern, contemporary, musical theater, and hip hop. Her education has come from a variety of different choreographers and teachers from across the world. She performed with Dance Prism Ballet for 8 years as a cast member and 2 years as an apprentice. During her time with Dance Prism Ballet, she was a part of their pointé core for 6 years. After graduating high school, Elaina continued studies at the University of Maine where she was heavily involved in their dance department. She completed credits in dance composition and choreography and choreographed pieces independently and for UMaine Hip Hop club throughout her 4 years and had pieces in the semester showcases. While at school she taught ballet and pointe at Releve Dance Center for 2 years and choreographed 10 dances in her time there. As a former *Gotta Dance* student, she is so excited to be back!

**Karina Mejia** is excited to be starting her first year as a dance instructor. She has over 10 years of dance experience. Karina was a student at *Gotta Dance* for several years and a longtime member on the *Gotta Dance* Competition Team. Karina graduated from Westfield State University, where she was part of the Hip Hop Competitive Dance Team. During her time there, the team won 1<sup>st</sup> overall at the New England Regional Championship and placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the Nation for Open Hip Hop in 2022. While Karina works in Business Marketing by day, she has such a love for dance is excited to share that passion with our *Gotta Dance* dancers.

**Alexis Bucci** Alexis Bucci has been dancing off and on for 15 years between dance class and theatre settings. Though she didn't seriously devote herself to dance until high school when she started classes at **Gotta Dance**. Alexis has experience in tap, musical theatre, jazz, lyrical, ballet, modern, and has also been on the Gotta Dance Competition Team. Before teaching, she had subbed and assisted classes at the studio. Alexis has an associate's degree in Theatre and a Certificate in Arts Administration from Middlesex Community College. She is working towards finishing a bachelor's degree in Theatre with a minor in Dance from the University of New Hampshire. Her time in theatre has focused on improv, stage lighting, and choreography. She has choreographed children's productions of Peter Pan, Beauty and the Beast, and Annie. One of her greatest passions is working with children, especially in arts education settings. In addition to **Gotta Dance**, Alexis teaches improv and drama and works with infants, toddlers and preschoolers at a daycare. Teaching at **Gotta Dance** is such a special way for Alexis to combine her love of dance and working with children, and she is grateful to be a part of **Gotta Dance**!

**Melissa Johnson** brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to the studio with over 20 years of experience in the dance world. A graduate of The University of Lowell with a degree in Business Administration, Melissa has trained extensively in Jazz, Lyrical, Tap, Ballet, Hip Hop & Contemporary studying under renowned choreographers and performers. Melissa began her dance journey at the young age of 2, quickly falling in love with the art form's blend of creativity, discipline, and expression. Her teaching philosophy centers around fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where students of all levels can thrive. In addition to teaching, Melissa has won several regional and national placements at competitions, along with titles. She was honored the title of Elite Dancer at Excel in Motion, assisting SYTYCD winner Lauren Froderman and Aaron Turner. Melissa was also a member of the UMass Lowell Dance Team and dance team choreographer. Melissa is excited to share her passion and expertise with students, helping them develop both their technical abilities and their love of dance. Outside of dance, Melissa enjoys traveling and arts & crafts, which further enriches her teaching and creativity.

## Class Descriptions

**Acro:** The class will focus on conditioning, flexibility, and tumbling. Basic Acro skills such as bridges, rolls, cartwheels, standing back bends, back walkovers, front walkovers, and limbers will be included. As students advance they will learn ariels, handsprings, and tucks. Dance elements will be incorporated into the class as well. Dancers should always come to class in dance/gymnastic attire preferably a leotard or fitted leggings and a cami top. Street clothes are not permitted, and hair must be worn up and securely fastened for safety reasons. Dancers will be barefoot during all Acro classes.

**Advanced Classes:** These level II, III, and IV classes are designed for instructors **and students** with a strong dance background. All advanced classes have pre-requisites of at least 2 years in the previous level class.

**Ballet:** This class is the true foundation for all other classes and will enhance your ability to learn all styles of dance. The discipline of ballet will improve posture, coordination, learning ability, and dance etiquette needed to study the art of dance. Ballet class is recommended for all dancers and is required for students taking advanced level classes or participating in performing companies.

**Broadway Jazz:** This upbeat class teaches Broadway-style jazz choreography and stage presence focusing on dance numbers from musicals past and present. Students will learn jazz technique, dance terminology, and develop coordination and flexibility.

**Competition Teams:** Competition Teams are designed for serious dancers who love to dance, perform, and compete. Competition students should dance at least 3-5 hours per week. Dance must be their number one activity. All competition students must be enrolled in ballet and jazz classes. Some dance experience is necessary. Auditions are required. Ages 7-Adult. Please see your instructor for more information.

**Contemporary:** Contemporary Dance is a compilation of different techniques based on Modern Dance. It involves integrating the mind body spirit connection with the dance movement. The dance may also strengthen improvisation skills to express the mood of the piece as there is an emotional connection to this style. This class is designed to expand a dancer's perception of dance by experimenting with unique and creative movement in a non-conventional way. Contemporary class will include technique, improvisations, and creative patterns. This divergent discipline of dance is sure to create and/or enhance aesthetic awareness. Dancers are most often barefoot. Some ballet background required.

**Creative Dance:** Creative Dance is designed for preschool aged children. This class helps children to recognize their physical person. It teaches them dance moves with a fun approach through games and songs. This class also includes stretching, tumbling and development of motor skills.



**Dance Teams:** Dance Teams are designed for hard working students who love to dance and perform. They will be challenged with dance routines from all disciplines such as Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet, Lyrical, Musical Theatre and more. They will be a part of our performing groups dancing at various locations throughout the year and representing "Gotta Dance". All dance team members must be enrolled in ballet class. Auditions required. Ages 7-Adult. Please see your instructor for more information.

**Hip-Hop:** An enjoyable and challenging dance class with hip moves and fun foot work done to top 40 music. This class will enhance strength and coordination. Hip-Hop is very upbeat using different body parts in an up and down motion. Appropriate for both boys and girls!!! Jazz/ ballet class highly increases ability to learn hip-hop, though lit is not required, it is recommended that jazz/ballet class be considered as well).

**Jazz & Street Jazz Funk:** A great dance class with fun moves, teaching technique, dance terminology, coordination, and flexibility. Choreography will include leaps, turns, kicks, and many traveling steps, along with other fancy moves. This challenging class will be done to upbeat music. Jazz Funk adds a few hip-hop elements to the choreography and class technique. Great for all ages.

**Line Dance:** This class is designed for Adults and Senior Citizens. This is a great form of low impact exercise. Learn several Country and Social Line Dances done at functions from the Hustle to the Boot Scootin' Boogie. Dances will be done to a wide variety of music. Give it a shot!!! You'll love it.

**Lyrical:** This expressionistic class includes a combination of ballet and jazz dancing. With the leaps and turns of jazz combined with the fluency of ballet. This class teaches you balance, strength, posture, and the ability to release inner energy. Some ballet background is required, and Jazz experience is helpful.

**Musical Theater:** Fun, Fun, Fun!!! For the dancer who wants to act or the actor who wants to dance. This class is definitely designed for the "performer." Come on Drama Queens! This class will teach stage presence and self-confidence along with stylistic moves from Broadway musicals. Group vocals will play a role in this class. Too shy?? Come join us anyway, we will change that! Designed for ages 7+.

**Parent & Tot:** Your toddler is using his/her skills to become a good problem solver and is beginning to understand the patterns and actions they need to perform, and in what order, to reach a goal. Through this motor planning, they will imitate and will begin to understand the use of objects. The activities we will do will support motor planning, color recognition, listening, taking turns, and following directions.

**Tap:** Let's make some noise! This fun class will teach the coordination of making rhythmic music with your feet. This class will consist of quick footwork with upper and lower body movement while learning to understand more about music and its rhythm.

**Zumba®:** This Dance/Aerobic program incorporates footwork and body movements from flamenco, salsa, and other dances. Participants pump their legs, windmill their arms, gyrate their hips, clap their hands, dip, slide, and spin all to a frenzied beat that leaves them with flushed cheeks and dripping in sweat.

# ***Gotta Dance***

200 Turnpike Road #9, Chelmsford, MA 01824

978-671-0040 ~ [www.ksgottadance.com](http://www.ksgottadance.com)

## **2024/2025 Calendar**

We follow the *Chelmsford Public Schools* weather related school delays/cancelations – if school is delayed, no morning classes before 12:00 pm, if school is canceled, the studio will be closed. There will be a message on the studio voice mail to confirm openings and closings as well as notices posted to our social media: (Facebook – “*KS Gotta Dance*”, Instagram – “*ksgottadance*”).

### **2024**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Saturday, September 7 <sup>th</sup>  | First day of 2024/2025 classes begin!                       |
| Monday, October 14 <sup>th</sup> , Columbus Day                            | <b>CLOSED</b> for all classes                               |
| Tuesday, November 5 <sup>th</sup> , Election Day                           | <b>OPEN</b> for all classes                                 |
| Monday, November 11 <sup>th</sup> , Veterans Day                           | <b>CLOSED</b> for all classes                               |
| Wednesday, November 27 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday, November 30 <sup>th</sup> | <b>CLOSED</b> for Thanksgiving holiday weekend              |
| Monday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>        | <b>CLOSED</b> for holiday celebrations/school vacation week |

### **2025**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Saturday, January 4 <sup>th</sup>   | <b>OPEN</b> for all classes                      |
| Monday, January 20 <sup>th</sup> , Martin Luther King Day                       | <b>CLOSED</b> for all classes                    |
| Monday, February 17 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>         | <b>CLOSED</b> for February school vacation week  |
| Friday, April 18 <sup>th</sup> , Good Friday & Saturday, April 19 <sup>th</sup> | <b>OPEN</b> for all classes                      |
| Monday, April 21 <sup>st</sup> – Saturday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>               | <b>CLOSED</b> for April school vacation week     |
| Sunday, May 5 <sup>th</sup>   | TICKET DAY                                       |
| Saturday, May 24 <sup>th</sup> - Monday, May 26 <sup>th</sup>                   | <b>CLOSED</b> for Memorial Day weekend           |
| Sunday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>  | PICTURE DAY                                      |
| Monday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Last day of 2024/2025 classes                    |
| Tuesday, June 17 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, June 18 <sup>th</sup>               | In-house studio rehearsals                       |
| Thursday, June 19 <sup>th</sup>   | Dress Rehearsal at the Collins Center            |
| Saturday, June 21 <sup>st</sup>   | Annual Recital Performance at the Collins Center |

*\*Updated 7/19/24*