

LAAPANOTES



Knowing When to Get Started in Music & Dance



Dear Students and Parents,

The new school year is now officially upon us. As I mentioned last month, it's a time of great anticipation, excitement and learning many new things!

Our entire faculty and staff just had a fantastic training workshop sharing and discussing our teaching strategies and goals to ensure that our students have another awesome school year in their music lessons and dance classes!

During this time each year we love to welcome our eager new music and dance students to the Academy. We have just concluded our 3 open houses and would like to thank everyone who came out and especially our faculty and staff for making them fantastic experiences! Of course, we'd also like to welcome our 100+ new students who began lessons this August. We are so glad to have you join the LAAPA family!

As we have been speaking with many new prospective students and families this month, one of the questions that we are frequently asked is "How do I know when it's the right time to get started or if music lessons and/or dance classes are going to be a good fit for me or my child?"

Having four children ages 1, 4, 7, and 10, I fully understand that kids show an interest in many different things, and it can sometimes be hard to predict what will stick. While many times, it's obvious what children will enjoy, sometimes you just don't know until they try it out! Some students have a natural talent for music and dance, others may need to work harder but progress equally as well. What I have personally found over the past 20 years here is that whether or not music and dance lessons becomes a life long pursuit for students is often dependent upon parent/guardian support.

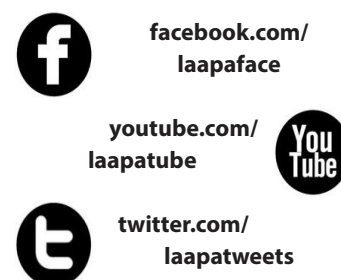
Support in terms of commitment, encouragement and environment are key.

Commitment can be a real challenge today! As technology improves to make our lives simpler, we are able to add more and more to our schedules! Parents and children are busier than ever often running to a different afterschool activity each day. A full commitment to everything can be very difficult for children to manage alone. For example, if you bring a new puppy home, your new pet will need care outside of the fun times you share together such as baths, walks, meals, etc. Children many times need help remembering these additional details to ensure that the new family pet remains in good health. Just because they forget to bathe or walk the pet doesn't mean that they don't love him/her! The same can be said for music and dance lessons. In addition to attending their regular lessons, time must be spent in practice, feeding their inspiration by watching/listening to a variety of music/dance performances, and learning to clean/maintain their instruments. Doing all of these things are necessary in order for students to grow in their love for and relationship with their instruments and programs. While some students will naturally embrace all of this on their own, many others will need some help. I personally ALWAYS needed help in these areas. I'm glad my parents were more than happy to oblige, because music is now a huge part of my life obviously.

Equally important is the creation of a **supportive environment**. Parents are the most influential people in their children's lives. Children need to know that you believe in their journey. Take the time to listen to their home performances when they ask you to sit down for a concert. They also need to have a place in the home where they are free to practice. The environment can sometimes be a challenge because of the location of the piano or overstimulation from too much sound in the home with louder instruments. While it's great to let students practice when inspiration strikes so it doesn't seem like a chore, in many cases, it truly is best to institute a daily schedule so that everyone in the house knows what to expect.

Finally, I always like to mention that music and dance classes are more than just the instruction - they build the character and feed the soul of students. Whether or not they choose to continue in the arts down the road, the skills they have developed will always be a part of who they are. So if you've been on the fence for awhile now about whether to give music and dance a shot in your life - you really can't go wrong! ~ **Ryan Cullen**

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:

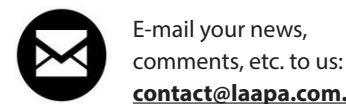


IMPORTANT DATES:

September 4 - Labor Day Holiday
No Classes

September 1-30
Fall Registration Open to All!

CONTACT US:



"Providing students of all ages with the education, inspiration, & motivation conducive to a lifetime appreciation for the performing arts since 1978."

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FALL!

It's Easy to Get Started in Music Lessons and Dance Classes! Call us Today to reserve your Time.

Covington - (985) 590-4545
Mandeville - (985) 674-2992
River Ridge - (504) 738-3050

Welcome to Our New Students who began lessons in August!

Aamna U.
Abigail S.
Addison S.
(thanks to Ainsley S.)
Akbar U.
Akshara M.
Alex G.
Allison C.
Amiya W.
Amy H.
Andrew C.
Anjalie C.
Annaliese R.
Arianna W.
Ashleigh W.
Ava M.
Avani M.
Avery L.
Belicia S.
Brayan C.
Catherine P.
Charles N.
(thanks to Elenore B.)
Christian M.
Claire L.
(thanks to Susan H.)
Connor L.
(thanks to Zachary M.)
Cooper H.
(thanks to Harper W.)
Dax H.
Destiny M.
(thanks to Aida D.)
Dorileyne F.
Elijah W.
Ella G.
Ella C.
(thanks to Karla B.)
Eric Y.
Ethan H.
Evelyn S.
Greyson P.
Hannah F.
Hayley W.
Hope H.
Imaan U.
Jace R.
Jack S.
Jessie Z.
Jim C.
John L.
(thanks to Susan H.)
Joseph M.
Jude B.
Julia B.
Julie M.
Kaden B.
Kamahri S.
Karli S.
Katelyn W.
Katy A.
Kennedy J.
(thanks to Kate Z.)
Kyle D.
Lance L.
(thanks to Zachary M.)
La'Shai W.
Laurie H.
Leah A.
Leila A.
(thanks to Brooke M.)
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Student News



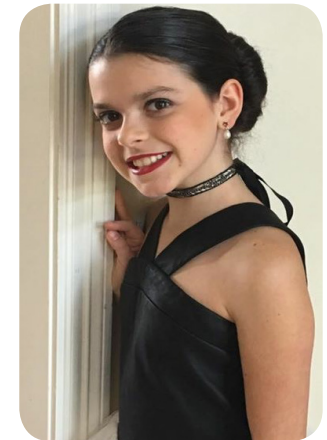
Covington School of Music student, **Shea Storms** participated in the Covington Louisiana Actor's Playhouse System productions of A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens and Pirates Past Noon. Shea also played Queen Eleanor in Frank Levy's Playmakers Summer Theatre Camp production of Robin Hood and the March Hare in Alice in Wonderland.

River Ridge School of Music & Dance student, **Kenedi Littles** (right) received a new puppy for her birthday! She brought it to the school for her instructors to see. Kenedi takes ballet, piano, and recently started violin lessons.



Covington School of Music students, **Shea Storms**, **Emma Goodgion** and former LAAPA Students **Lizzie Pelto** and **Rebekah Russell** were part of CLAPS (Covington Louisiana Actors Playhouse System). Where they were part of 4 musicals in 6 weeks. (You can check out their website www.clapsonline.org for more info).

Mandeville School of Music & Dance student **Olivia Nicaud** (right) was accepted for a second year to the NAD Pro Team. She was also selected to be part of the Church of the King dance team. Oliva takes voice lessons with Mrs. Carolyn.



Mandeville School of Music & Dance student **Cindy van Duyn** performed at Christwood Retirement Center on August 20. The event was part of Christ Episcopal Church's third Sunday concert series. Cindy is a student of Mrs. Carolyn and has been taking voice at Laapa for six years. She was accompanied by a seven piece jazz combo.

Have News to Share? E-mail your news to studentnews@laapa.com!
Connect with us on Facebook at [facebook.com/laapaface](https://www.facebook.com/laapaface)

Happy September Birthdays!

(Students) Aaron N. (adult), Abigail N. (7), Abigail S. (10), Aiden T. (11), Alexa A. (15), Andjelina M. (7), Andrew C. (13), Annabella G. (9), Avril S. (10), Benjamin C. (5) Brooke W. (14), Bryce B. (14), Caleb H. (11), Camryn J. (16), Carleigh Q. (14), Carolina H. (7), Chance H. (3), Chloe D. (3), Claire L. (7), Clark L. (8), Claude S. (11), Colin B. (10), Cruz P. (8), Devin B. (5), Dylan S. (9), Ella B. (12), Ella C. (7), Elle G. (8), Ellis B. (5), Emily T. (16), Ethan H. (4), Fletcher E. (12), Griffin H. (4), Henry M. (7), Henry O. (6), Hope S. (14), Isaac M. (8), Isabella Ca. (7), Isabella Cu. (4), Isabella S. (16), Isaiah C. (4), Izelh M. (11), J.R.R. (adult), Jaxson H. (7), Jaycee H. (11), John L. (5), Jolun D. (adult), Jonathan H. (17), Jordan C. (13), Jude C. (15), Kahlan D. (8), Katelyn W. (14), Katie S. (adult), La'Shai W. (13), Lathaniel G. (12), Laurie H. (adult), Liam M. (16), Lillian S. (12), Linden B. (3), Lindsey S. (16), London T. (10), Maddie B. (11), Madeline W. (12), Maja B. (9), Mary P. (adult), Melia P. (11), Melody M. (13), Nathan P. (8), Nick P. (16), Nicole P. (15), Oliver S. (adult), Oliver W. (9), Patrick D. (11), Patrick T. (15), Reece S. (5), Reginald B. (17), Samir P. (10), Sarah D. (16), Sarah H. (14), Sofia M. (8), Soren G. (10), Swathi K. (16), Sylvia B. (15), Thomas S. (adult), Trayzi D. (10), Trellis D. (10), Wyatt T. (9), Zachary N. (9)

(Faculty) Rebecca P., Lisa W., Benjamin H., Layla S., Joshua T., Tina A., Charles R., Elliot T., Dr. Mark W.

Student of the Month - Isabel Rodriguez



Covington School of Music student, **Isabel Rodriguez**, currently takes piano and voice lessons and has previously taken guitar lessons here at LAAPA! We recently had a chance to speak with her and learn a little more about her lessons and interests!

Tell us about yourself and how long you've been taking lessons at LAAPA.

I'm 17, I'm a senior in high school, and I've been taking lessons at LAAPA for 7 years.

What are some of your interests/hobbies outside of music?

I enjoy learning foreign languages – I've been teaching myself Russian for about a month now, and I plan to major in Russian and minor in Linguistics.

What has your instruction helped you to accomplish?

It has definitely helped me with my confidence, and it teaches me to be more certain in things that I am doing.

What is your favorite part about lessons each week?

Letting go of all the stress of each week, it's a little place where I can just let go!

What has been your overall experience at LAAPA?

Phenomenal! I've been here for 7 years, and I remember the first time I performed on stage – I broke down crying – but now I love it!

Welcome to our New August Students (continued)

Lionel B., Lolo L., Lydia C., Madison B., Maja B., Mantas K., Marriam U., Mary L., Mason S. (thanks to Ciana S.), Mason P., Mia S., Michelle V., Miguel R., Morah B., Nathaniel C., Nithya R., Owen D., Owen R. (thanks to Elenore B.), Payton B., Peyton B., Reese B., Regina J., Reginald J., Rose Marie S., Sam G., Samantha R., Sarah S., Sarayi R., Shlok D., Sofia S., Sophia A., Sophia D., Stacey J. (thanks to Asaely C.), Taelor W., Tia S., Vanessa T., Whitney P., William C., Zhaoju T., Zoe L. (thanks to Lauren L.)

Student Shout Outs!

"Kayla loves her piano lessons plus she practices without being reminded!

Mr. Russell is great with her - he really makes sure to always give her challenging things to do."

~ **Harry Family**

"At first Percy and Dillan were skeptical about taking hip hop dance classes, but after the first one they couldn't wait to come back. They love Mrs. Mary and really appreciate how well she pays attention to each student and is able to provide personalized feedback."

~ **Washington Family**

Congrats to our Summer Referral Contest Winner...



Our Summer referral contest has now concluded and we're pleased to congratulate student, Mia Pittmann for being selected at random for referring a friend to LAAPA! Mia won a brand new 128 GB iPad!

Thanks to everyone who continually refers the academy - it's the highest compliment we can receive and truly appreciated!

Stay tuned for our Fall Contest which will be announced soon!

Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts
2020 Dickory Ave. #200
Harahan, LA 70123



LAAPANOTES - SEPTEMBER 2017



It's Back to School Music & Dance Lessons Time! Have You reserved your spot?

Register Now for Fall...

MUSIC & DANCE LESSONS



\$45

New Students

Sign up for music or dance lessons & **GET \$45 OFF** your first full month of lessons!

Offer Code: **fallnews**

\$45

Current Students

Sign up for an additional music or dance program & **GET \$45 OFF** your first full month of lessons!

Offer Code: **fallnews**



Award winning lessons in piano, voice, guitar, violin, drums, brass, woodwinds, ballet, hip hop, tap, preschool and more!

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or request more info online:

laapa.com

Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts
campuses in Covington - Harahan - Mandeville

Hurry! Offers Expire 9/15/17

Limit 2 per customer. Must be surrendered at original time of registration between 9/1/17-9/15/17. Not valid with other offer or for cash, refunds, or tuition credits.