

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 140+ 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 2, 5, 8, and 11, 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 lifelong 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**

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IMPORTANT DATES:

September 3 - Labor Day Holiday
No Classes

September 1-30
Fall Registration Open to All!

CONTACT US:



E-mail your news, comments, etc. to us:
contact@laapa.com

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REGISTER NOW FOR THE FALL!

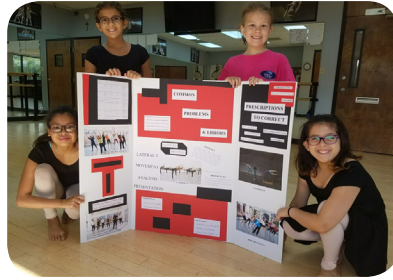
It's Easy to Get Started in Music Lessons and Dance Classes! Call us Today to reserve your Time.

Covington - (985) 590-4545
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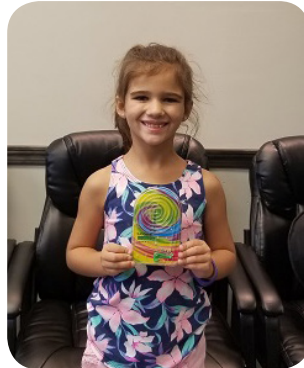
Welcome to Our New Students who began lessons in August!

Abel G.
Abigail W.
Abigail V.
Abilyn K.
Addyson W.
AJ D.
Alex L.
Alexandra M.
Aliyah B.
Allison P.
Amelia R.
Andrea S.
Angeli B.
Angelina F.
Anisha M.
Anna D.
Ava D.
Bailey S.
Barbara Ame B.
Brinn M.
Brooklyn P.
Brooks B.
(thanks to Nicole B.)
Bruce B.
(thanks to Nicole B.)
Callie B.
Camille R.
(thanks to the Pierre Family)
Chance V.
Charles S.
Charlotte H.
Chase P.
Chloe N.
Connor M.
Dan S.
Daniel F.
David R.
Day H.
Denise B.
Derek H.
Derinisha T.
Derriel T.
Donovan B.
Elaine C.
Eli W.
(thanks to Davian A.)
Eli F.
Elise S.
Elizabeth G.
Emile P.
Emily G.
Emma W.
Emma S.
Evelyn T.
Faith M.
Gemma A.
Genesis M.
Genevieve C.
Giancarlo M.
(thanks to Sam & Andres G.)
Gideon S.
Grace B.
Hannah S.
Henslee S.
Hudson B.
Irene C.
Isabella C.
Jacelyn S.
Jack B.
Jack V.
(thanks to Charlie V.)
(continued p .3)

Student News



River Ridge School of Music & Dance students **Sofia Sayyad, Mia Sayyad, Jaelyn Jarrell, Samantha Saucedo, and Beth Teagle** participated in this Summer's Dance Intensive Camp with Mrs. Mary and Ms. Lauren! They learned all about dance strength & conditioning and different dance techniques, including Modern Dance (pictured left).



Covington School of Music student **Joseph Sanders** saved up 5 Superior Student tickets and redeemed a prize from the treasure chest!



River Ridge School of Music & Dance student **Ava Kennedy** earned a special surprise prize by saving up 10 Superior Student tickets!

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)



A HUGE thank you to the St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce and to all who came out to support and be a part of the official Grand Opening of our beautiful new Mandeville location! (pictured above) Academy Director Ryan Cullen cutting the red ribbon with the help of our amazing faculty, staff, parents & students!

Happy September Birthdays!

(Students) Abigail N. (8), Aidan O. (8), Aiden T. (12), Ainsley C. (7), Alex L. (9), Alexa A. (16), Alexandra S. (16), Allison P. (7), Ally B. (4), Amielle V. (7), Autumn Z. (4), Aydin S. (7), Barbara Ame B. (70), Brianna I. (14), Bronx S. (9), Brooke W. (15), Bruce B. (39), Bryce B. (15), Caleb H. (12), Camille R. (5), Carleigh Q. (15), Carolina H. (8), Chase S. (8), Chloe D. (4), Dan L. (48), Dean E. (13), Derinisha T. (4), Destiny G. (17), Devin B. (6), Dhyuti M. (6), Elizabeth G. (7), Ella B. (13), Elle G. (9), Emily T. (17), Ethan H. (5), Evan G. (8), Fletcher E. (13), Frank C. (6), Gemma A. (4), Genesis M. (5), Gianna C. (12), Griffin H. (5), Henry M. (8), Hope S. (15), Ivan B. (12), Izelh M. (12), J.R. R. (75), Jack B. (14), Jack F. (13), Jacob R. (10), Jamari H. (11), Jamiya M. (9), Jordan C. (14), Jose M. (13), Jude C. (16), Kahlan D. (9), Katelyn W. (15), Katherine T. (12), Katie S. (37), Lathaniel G. (13), Liam M. (17), Lillian S. (13), Linda Sabine S. (8), Linden B. (4), Lindsey S. (17), Lola H. (12), Madeline W. (13), Mae E. (3), Maja B. (10), Marlee C. (14), Mary H. (16), Mary P. (64), Matthew Y. (4), Melody M. (14), Mikaela W. (7), Nico H. (9), Nicole P. (16), Olive W. (5), Oliver S. (24), Richard H. (9), Ricky P. (14), Samir P. (11), Sarah D. (17), Sarah H. (15), Savannah B. (13), Scarlett T. (6), Scotty C. (6), Sienna M. (8), Skylar B. (12), Sofia M. (9), Soren G. (11), Swathi K. (17), Taylor P. (6), Thomas M. (7), Tiernan L. (16), Tori L. (10), Trinity S. (4), Violet F. (7), Wyatt T. (10)

(Faculty) Ben H., Josh T., Rebecca P., Layla S., Lisa W., Dr. Mark W., Reggie S., Tina A.

Student of the Month - Payton Brunning



Covington School of Music student, **Payton Brunning**, currently takes piano and voice lessons here at LAAPA! We recently had a chance to speak with her and learn a little more about her lessons and interests!

How long you've been taking lessons at LAAPA?

"I've been taking piano and voice lessons with Ms. Alexandra for about 1 year now."

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

"I love to dance! I take ballet lessons, and I also really like jazz dancing!"

What does music mean to you?

"I love music!"

What is your favorite part about lessons each week?

"My favorite part about my lessons is my teacher, Ms. Alexandra! She's the best!"

What has been your overall experience at LAAPA?

"I LOVE taking lessons at LAAPA!! It's been awesome!"

(Parents) What made you choose LAAPA?

"Your reputation. We looked you up and we were very impressed with the talent level of your instructors and their qualifications. We are so happy with LAAPA! Payton has grown so much over this past year. Her confidence has increased and she is really blossoming!"

Welcome to our New August Students (continued)

Jackson K., Jacob R., JoAnn Y., Joel B. (thanks to Megan S.), Jon D., Kaden J., Kathleen G., Kent T., Kyleigh G., Lana L., Landri B., Landry C., Landry B. (thanks to Nicole B.), Larry M., Leilany M. (thanks to Carolyn R.), Levi W., Lilly Grace W., Lily Kate P., Linda L., Lori J., Lucas H., Luke K., Lydia L., Madelyn B., Madison M., Maggie M., Marlee C., Mary H., Matthew B., Meredith H., Michael M., Mila L., Nick W., Nico H., Nikolas C., Oliver H. (thanks to Olive W.), Olivia A. (thanks to Sarah A.), Payton C., Peyton H. (thanks to Alex M.), Peyton C., Peyton B., Phoenix R., Presley C., Rachel R., Rayleigh H., Rayne K., Reagan D., Reagan H. (thanks to Randy H.), Rex O., Ricky P., Ridhaan D., Roxanne P., Sarah L., Sawyer L., Shadell B., Shagun A., Shelby B., Siena S. (thanks to Sarah C.), Skip P., Skylar B., Sofia M. (thanks to Sam & Andres G.), Sophia H., Sophie H., Steele A., Taylor P. (thanks to Alicia M.), Tiernan L., Tracy M., Travis B., Vivi B., Yunseong L., Zach P., Zoey J., Zoey H. (thanks to Amanda W.)

Student Shout Outs!

"I've been taking private tap dance lessons with Mrs. Mary for the past year. Besides awesome, Mary is creative and always helping this 40+ year old guy (me) better his technique."

~ Jeremy Hebert

"My granddaughter takes piano lessons with Dr. Vera. We absolutely love her! It has been even more of a wonderful experience than I thought. My whole family is so impressed with Lyla's accomplishments. I highly recommend LAAPA. High 5 for this Music Academy!"

~Carpenter Family

Recital Photos: It's Not Too Late to Order!



Recital Photos are still available! You can check them out at:

www.laapa.com/current-students/photos

**All music recital photos were taken by Craig Macaluso Photography!
Dance recital photos were taken by Mr. Armand of Penumbra Photos, Inc!**

LAAPANOTES

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