



Eastern-in-the-News



EASTERN OFFERS RECREATIONAL DANCE TO AREA YOUTH IN SEPTEMBER AT WELLNESS CENTER

Moorefield — Aug. 6 — In a testament to teamwork, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College and the Hardy County Wellness Center have entered into a joint venture to provide a recreational dance program for our community. Starting in September, the college will offer a year-long, affordable recreational dance at the Wellness Center, one night per week. Classes include Beginner Ballet, Jazz, and Creative Movement, all for children and youth ages 3-18.

Because of limited class sizes, early registration is encouraged. If interested, please contact (304) 434-8000, ext. 253 for enrollment details.

Over the past two years, Eastern dance instructor, Missy Michael Shockey, has built a successful dance program, teaching and providing accomplishment, health benefit and joy to area youth. "As part of Eastern's dedication to community development, we developed plans to set up social programming to benefit our community youth," said Shockey, who works full-time days in the college's Workforce Department and teaches dance in the evenings.



Eastern's "Baby Dolls" Dance Class: Three-year olds from last year's Recreational Dance class, from left: Caroline Auville, Reece Sites, Madalyn Ketterman.

"And we determined that there would be a lot of interest in the field of dance."

Studies show dance can play vital role in childhood development because it teaches discipline, social skills, taking turns, and good manners, Shockey noted, as well as coordination, musicality, and imagination.

"When we began, we hoped to have enough interest for 6 or 8 kids in just one class. As the dance program grew, the community told us there was a larger need," she said, "and we

now are able to offer five age-based classes to more than 40 students.” To make room for the expanded classes, Shockey decided that the college would need to find a safe, centrally located facility.



Eastern's "Starlets" Dance Class: Four-year olds from last year's Recreational Dance class (left to right), Front row: Blair Weese, Leah Jo Davis, Veronica Carr, Gracie Simmons. Middle row: Kara Barb, Maggie Olah, Mattia Auville, Laci Swick. Back row: Molly Kuykendall, Grayce Ketterman, Jordan Black, Sydney Rumer.

"The problem is there just aren't many buildings in our community that can service the needs of a dance studio," she pointed out. "And another huge obstacle was rent. To keep classes affordable, we needed a place willing to accept an economical hourly rate, instead of a high monthly rent."



Eastern's "Dancing Divas" Dance Class: Five- and six-year olds from last year's Recreational Dance class (left to right): Front row: Emma Ludwig, Emmaleigh Whitaker, Grace Mallow, Brianna Mercer, Rylan Crites. Back row: Rylen Sites, Lacy Lockhart, Khloe McAvoy, Amber Williams, Kaelyn Swick, Emma Creman.

Shockey contacted Morgan Hill-See, Director of the Hardy County Wellness Center and proposed a partnership. "I knew from experience that Morgan is proactive and works hard to help children discover the health benefits of exercise."

As a result, come September, the community youth can get those benefits along with a big spoonful of fun and joy — through Eastern's Recreational Dance!



Eastern's "Showstoppers" Dance Class: Seven- to nine-year olds from last year's Recreational Dance class (left to right): Front row: Rachel Smith, Rebecca Rao, Sydney Riggelman, Paige VanMeter, Madalynn Clayton. Back row: Amber Riggelman, Makenzie Keplinger, Sierra Whitaker, Marissa Simmons.

For more information about Eastern's financial aid opportunities, programs of study, workforce training and community education, call toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College's website: "www.easternwv.edu".

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, and fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College is a comprehensive and equal opportunity community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.