

Lessons Learned

By Kaitlyn Adams – Graduating Class of Deer Park High School 2018
Vic D'Amore Dancer

My eyes adjust to the pitch-blackness that surrounds me. All I can hear are nervous heartbeats, each one full of adrenaline. Suddenly the lights are on, we're all smiling, and after 3 minutes, it's all over. 10 months of hard work, 10 months of spent money, 10 months of sweat and tears, all for 3 minutes on a stage.

This is what I live for. No words can describe the complete euphoria felt after a great show. No words can describe the joy of sharing the stage with friends, you've known for so long they've become family. No words can describe how much of an impact this experience has had on my life. Dance has truly shaped me into the person I am today, and I am eternally grateful.

The hard work and dedication I put into every single class, just for 3 minutes at the end of the year, has taught me so much. Not every action must be met with an equal reaction. Not every good deed must be met with a reward. I've spend countless hours rehearsing dances that people will see only once. I've learned that sometimes the work you put into something won't always equal a result of the same magnitude. In learning this, I have become humble.

The discipline I've learned will stick with me throughout my whole life. If I ever missed a class, it was my job to call my teacher, not my mothers. If I ever missed a class, it was my job to learn everything that was taught, so as to not hold my classmates back when I returned. I learned that deadlines are deadlines are deadlines. Missing one would result in consequences, not second chances. In practicing this, I have learned responsibility.

Different classes with different people have taught me more than any school lesson would. Learning to dance with new people around me has taught me flexibility. No dance looks great when everyone looks different. People love conformity. This being said, I had to work with the people around me to learn how they danced and how they interpreted things.

This allowed me to succeed in every performance. The ability to work with whomever you are told to is a valuable skill that can be used anywhere I go. In experiencing this, I have learned the importance of teamwork.

The most important lesson dance has taught me, is that life isn't fair. Not everything will go your way. I know that I can't expect anything to be given to me; I need to work hard for everything I want. Sometimes, I'll be told "no" and when that happens, I've learned to get up, keep trying, and work harder, until it's impossible for someone to say "no". This has taught me the value of hard work.

Although dance is not something I plan to pursue in the future, I know it will always have a place in my heart, mind, and soul in the form of a lesson. Dance has not only taught me how to pointe my feet, it has taught me how to be a good person. It has taught me how to succeed in the world. Dance has taught me more than any teacher ever could; with a responsible mind, a humble heart, and a hard working soul, anything is possible.