

## letter from **Jen**



JENNIFER MEEH  
*Executive Director*

Ever since I can remember, it has been my childhood dream to open a dance studio. I believe that every job and career that I have had thus far has prepared me. Dance did not just teach me to keep a beat or do a turn, it taught me to have self-confidence in everything I do.

I have gone where life takes many of us: college, marriage, a career and kids of my own. Taking dance class along with the support of my parents impacted my life more than I can describe. I learned how important it was to have a true passion for something and to work hard to achieve the goals I set for myself. At a young age I learned what it meant to work as a team, encourage others and strive for perfection. I both failed and succeeded.

It is my hope that SDA students will believe in themselves and be proud of what they have accomplished. Dedication and discipline will help them achieve their potential as dancers and become stronger individuals. I want them to work to excel and always have the self-confidence to follow their dreams.

I have been blessed with the great opportunity to impact your children's lives. Thank you for being part of the family here at SDA. I believe that with hard work, guidance and experience we can accomplish anything!

**JENNIFER MEEH** | *Executive Director*

Select Dance Academy & Performing Arts Center  
5240 12th Ave E  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
Studio: 952-233-5297  
Jen Cell: 612-986-0707  
[www.selectdance.com](http://www.selectdance.com)



## About

We provide artistically excellent and professional dance, singing, piano, guitar and acting instruction. We teach our students to be stronger individuals, believe in themselves, be proud of their accomplishments, work to excel and have self confidence in any situation. We believe in our students!

### Why Select Dance?

- Many class day/time options. Most 3/4 yr and 5/6 yr old classes in the fall are scheduled for the same hour in different studios allowing siblings to attend separate classes at the same time.
- We offer acting, dance, singing, guitar and piano lessons. You can find something for each of your children all at one place!
- Low tuition and costume fees.
- Professional instructors providing expert instruction!
- Small class sizes and assistants in all classes with students under the age of 8!
- Communication – We send monthly newsletters and emails to keep you informed on studio events!
- Competition groups meet once per week and fees are kept to a minimum!

### Summer Dance Program

The summer dance program is a great place for beginner dancers to learn the basics of dance and try out dance for the first time. The summer dance program is also great for experienced dancers looking to develop and enhance their skills over the summer. If you are considering switching dance studios our summer program is a great opportunity to give SDA a try and see if our program and instructors are what you have been looking for!

### Fall Dance Program

Our Fall dance program is a 9 month program and runs with the school year holding classes weekly September thru May concluding with a spring recital. We have created an atmosphere where children can learn and progress in a fun and non intimidating atmosphere. Classes are designed to keep the children interested and excited while learning at the same time! We offer combination classes for all age levels, hip hop classes that work on the newest steps, technique and choreography.

### 4-12 Week Dance Workshops

For families looking for an alternative to the 9 month dance program we offer shorter dance workshops throughout the school year. There are Fall, Winter and Spring sessions which are each 4-12 weeks in length.

### Competition Groups

We have established competition groups for those dancers interested in competing against other dance studios. We believe that children gain so much by being a part of dance and all that it teaches. We also believe that it is important for children to explore other activities. For that reason, our competitive dancers meet one night per week to allow our students to focus on school work and explore other activities while allowing them to dance at a competitive level.

### Piano and Guitar Lessons

Music lessons are one on one with the instructors. Lessons include basic technique, reading music, learning scales and strength exercises. All lessons are tailored to each student in order to provide a fun and rewarding experience. Students will perform in a music recital in the spring.

## Meet our Staff

### Jennifer Meeh

#### Dance Instructor/Executive Director

Jennifer has been involved in the performing arts since the age of two. She began dancing with the New Prague Dance Company in 1980 where she studied tap, ballet, jazz and pointe. She has won numerous dance competitions throughout her dancing career both as a group and soloist dancer. After high school she continued to study dance at St. Olaf College where she graduated with a dance degree - concentrating on arts management. When she graduated she began a 10 year career as a mortgage banker. She continued to take adult dance classes as well as teaching and performing. Although her corporate career was her main focus, she never gave up her love of dance or her passion for the arts. After awhile she realized something was missing. It was her love of dance and the arts that helped bring her success in life. She wanted to set an example for her children to follow their dreams and so she decided to quit her 'real job' and follow the dream she's had since she was a little girl—to own a dance studio. Because of her wide experience in the arts-her dream of a performing arts academy was born. Jennifer lives in New Prague with her husband Peter and their children Emma, Sofia, Max, Madeline and Stella.

### Katie Phillips

#### Dance Instructor

Katie is originally from the Duluth-Superior area. She studied at the School of the Minnesota Ballet for many years before joining competition teams at Madill Dance Center. Her training included ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop, modern/contemporary and tap before she moved to Minneapolis for college. Katie continued studying with the dance, theater and music departments at the University of Minnesota while earning a degree in history. She's been in many theater, dance and musical theater productions, including "West Side Story" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. She is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in History at the University of Minnesota. She has taught at SDA since 2008, and is thankful to have this opportunity to still be active in the performing arts. Katie and her husband, Jake, live near Minneapolis with their dog, Nova. In her spare time, Katie likes to bake, read, knit and crochet.

### Mary Kate Gross

#### Dance Instructor

Mary Kate began dancing at the age of 4. She studied tap, ballet, lyrical and jazz for 11 years with the New Prague Dance Company. After high school, Mary Kate attended the University of Minnesota Duluth and obtained a degree in Organizational Management. In addition, she was still able to find time to fit in a couple dance and theater classes while in college. Mary Kate currently works for the Department of Veterans Affairs. In her free time, Mary Kate likes to run, read and be a tourist, even if its in her own backyard. She is very excited to be with SDA as a teacher and looks forward to spending time with the kids every week.

### Nicole Lechner

#### Dance Instructor

Nicole danced with Kay Marie and Carol (KMC) School of Dance for 14 years studying ballet, pointe, jazz, lyrical, tap, hip-hop and musical theater. She danced competitively for ten years consistently earning stand-out dancer and high point awards. While dancing at KMC she also taught competition classes, small groups, solos, duets, and trios. She was a dance instructor at Jam Hops teaching ballet, jazz and tap. Nicole signed with KMA Agency and did auditions and shows in Minneapolis and Chicago. For three years she studied with Myron Johnson and his dance company, Ballet of the Dolls. She also worked with Grant Whitaker teaching international conventions and camps for advanced students.

## More

### Shari Jezak

#### Dance Instructor

Shari Jezak has been dancing for 22 years and she studied all styles of dance at Perry Woodard School of Dance in Bay City, Michigan. She was also on the competition team there for 4 years. Her favorite style is and always has been tap! While she believes the other styles are equally important for making a well-rounded dancer, tap has always been the most fun for her because it is so energetic and lively. If she's not in the dance studio, she's either managing her family's business in the Mall of America (The Amazing Mirror Maze! — check it out), catching up on her favorite shows, or jet-setting to Michigan and back visiting family and friends. She's very happy to be teaching at SDA this year! She believes teaching dance is such a fun way to be creative and pass on the love of dance.

### Deane Tasler

#### Dance Instructor

Deane trained largely at Larkin Dance Studio, with a little help from the nice folks at Zenon.. His training includes tap, jazz, hip-hop, a little ballet, and lots of musical theatre. Deane has performed in nearly 20 shows including on the main stage at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres. There, he appeared as a twice-featured dancer in the tap-happy Anything Goes; as Bernardo in West Side Story; as the sound engineer in Singin' in the Rain; and as a featured tap dancer in Swing. Deane's choreography credits include the musicals Aida, You Ain't Nothin' but a Werewolf, A Christmas Carol, The Will Rogers' Follies, West Side Story, Guys and Dolls, Grease. He is also a director and choreographer for Ashland Productions. His choreography at Maple Grove Senior High has been recognized at the annual Spotlight Award. In 2009, Deane won the Junior Division Choreography Award at International Dance Challenge in Minneapolis; and in 2011, the Senior Division Choreography Award at Bravo. Happy tapping!

### Natalia Cornelius

#### Music Instructor

Natalia was born in Crimea, on the Black Sea in the former USSR. There she attended a music college in Simferopol – the capital of Crimea. At the end of her first year she was accepted into the Musical theatre orchestra as a cellist. She continued her education and played for four years. She then began teaching music for the next 3 years. After she was accepted to the Leningrad Institute of Culture (now St. Petersburg University of Art), she graduated with a Degree in conducting both pop and jazz orchestras. She has taught almost all of her life in schools and has privately taught piano, cello and flute. In 1999 she moved to the United States and has been teaching piano, cello, flute and music theory. She has one son and spends her free time painting and playing with her dog.

### Scott Deming

#### Guitar instructor

Scott's education in music began at age 6 when he started taking piano lessons from a neighbor. At age 9, he picked up the guitar and it quickly became his focus. Mostly self taught, he's dabbled in many different types of music ranging from jazz to hard rock and thoroughly enjoys passing along what he's learned to others whether they are beginning or advanced players. Even after 20 years of playing the guitar, he still gets that same excited feeling when he learns something new and he hopes the same for his students. Scott attended the Minneapolis community and technical college studying music theory and composition, jazz guitar lessons and jazz and rock history.