THE NUTCRACKER 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION- GOLD CAST

Rehearsal & Performance Details

The Nutcracker is coming up soon! We are beyond thrilled to continue this magical tradition with our community this season and want everyone to have an amazing & safe experience!

Both new & veteran performers should read through all of these important details so you know what to do/expect this year with your dancer's role. Please don't hesitate to ask questions after reading the packet!

Where can I find answers to my Nutcracker Questions?

- On the Nutcracker Information Page on the studio website: **centerstageacademy.org/nutcracker2026**
- By texting/calling the studio at 660.747.6133 or emailing: coreena@centerstageacademy.org

Which cast is my dancer in? --- THE GOLD CAST!

- All dancers in Jr. Ballet 4, Teen Ballet, Int. Ballet 1-7, Adv. Ballet 1 & 2/3, Principal & Jr. Principal dancers & Party Parents are in the GOLD cast.

FOUR PERFORMANCES: December 5 & 6 at Hendricks Hall/ UCM Campus

Saturday, December 5 at 2pm & 7pm & Sunday, December 6 at 1pm & 5:00pm

GOLD CAST IS IN ALL 4 PERFORMANCES!

Nutcracker Tickets!

- **Nutcracker ticket sales start for all shows online only on Saturday, November 14th @ 10am!**
- We are only offering in-person tickets this year.
- There are no limits on the number of tickets that can be purchased while seats are available.
- Any remaining seats will be available to purchase at the door.

More specific details on purchasing tickets are available Nutcracker page on the studio website.
www.centerstageacademy.org/nutcrackertickets2026

Nutcracker Flowers are back!

- Many families choose to give their dancer flowers after the show! For your convenience, you can pre-order flowers online when you purchase tickets or separately on the studio website through Nov. 20 & we'll have them ready and waiting for you to pick up at the show! We will also have limited flowers available for purchase in the lobby at each performance!

FINAL DAY TO ORDER NUTCRACKER 2026 SHIRTS IS WEDNESDAY, OCT 28!

Balcony Supervisor Volunteers!

- **SOME CLASSES STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help as a Balcony Supervisor!
  - You will not need a ticket to the showtime that you are volunteering during. You will be able to watch the performance from the seats in the back of the balcony with the students.
  - You will be responsible for monitoring/helping students while they are walking to and from the seats in the balcony and while in the audience.
- AGAIN, THIS YEAR! A background check will be run on ALL volunteers prior to approval.
- **NO ONE WHO HAS NOT HAD A BACKGROUND CHECK RUN IN ADVANCE WILL BE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER.**
- If you have not already done so, please stop by the front desk to fill out a form providing us with your Name, Date of Birth, SSN and Address that states that you give CSA permission to run a background check with your information.

Scan to sign up to volunteer!

Show Week Rehearsals! **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4**

- The week leading up to the show will have special rehearsal times for all performers that take the place of your regular ballet class (see schedules below). Mon. - Wed. will be In-Studio Rehearsals, Thurs. will be Staging Rehearsals, and Friday will be the **DRESS REHEARSAL for the GOLD CAST.**
- **THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE CANCELLED NOV. 30- DEC. 3:** All Ballet, Pointe, Kinder Combo & Leaps & Turns classes, Pre-Company 1 Tap & Jazz, Tap Tech 2/3, 4 & 5, Jazz Tech 1, Lyrical 5, Hip Hop 5
- **Please Note: Attending Nutcracker rehearsals takes priority over your regularly scheduled classes, so if you are one of the few dancers with a conflict, be sure to attend your Nutcracker rehearsal time!**

IN-STUDIO REHEARSALS: **GOLD CAST DETAILS: Mon., Nov. 30-Wed., Dec 2 at CENTER STAGE**

Dancers: Gold Cast dancers should wear regular ballet attire to their in-studio rehearsals.
Parents: Please drop off & pick up dancers at the start & end times!

Monday, November 30 at Center Stage- GOLD Cast & Gingersnaps	
Waltz of the Snowflakes- Snow Corps de Ballet (Adv. Ballet 2/3) 4:30-5:30pm Also: **Snow Queen & Clara**	**Gingersnaps (GREEN Cast Jr. Ballet 2 Wed.)** 7:00-7:30pm Also: **Clara & Mother Ginger**
Battle Scene **(Jr. Ballet 4 Mon- Soldiers & Int. Ballet 4-Mice)** 5:30-6:30pm **Soldiers, Mice, Mouse Queen, Mouse Queen Page, Clara, Drosselmeyer** NO KINDER TOYS OR OTHER LEAD TOYS	**Act II- Principal Dancers Only** 7:30-9pm **Sugar Plum Fairy, Clara, Arabian Coffee, Marzipan, Chinese Tea, Spanish Chocolate, Lead Neapolitan, Lead Candy Cane, Plum Pas demi Soloists, Snow Queen, Dew Drop Fairy, Flower Demi Soloists, Final Waltz Flowers**
Gingersnaps (RED Cast Jr. Ballet 2 Tuesday) 6:30-7:00pm Also: **Clara & Mother Ginger**	
Tuesday, December 1 at Center Stage- Gold Cast	
Frost (Int. Ballet 5/6) & Demi Snow (JB4 Thurs) 4:30-5:30pm Also: **Clara & Snow Queen**	**Principal Rehearsals TBD** 6:15-7:45pm
Plum Palace Court (Int. Ballet 7) 5:30-6:15pm	
Wednesday, December 2 at Center Stage- Gold Cast & Party Kids	
Waltz of the Flowers **(Int. Ballet 1 & Adv. Ballet 1)** 4:30-5:30pm Also: **Dew Drop Fairy & Flower Demi Soloists**	**Neapolitan (Teen Ballet)** 7:30-8:00pm Also: **Lead Neapolitan**
Party Scene (RED Party Kids JB3 Thurs.) 5:30-6:30pm Also: **Party Parents, Dolls, Drosselmeyer, Household Staff, Bakers, Masquerade, Clara, Fritz, Clara's Friends**	**Candy Canes (Int. Ballet 2/3)** 8:00-8:30pm Also: **Lead Candy Cane**
Party Scene (GREEN Party Kids JB3 Tues.) 6:30-7:30pm Also: **Party Parents, Dolls, Drosselmeyer, Household Staff, Bakers, Masquerade, Clara, Fritz, Clara's Friends**	

COSTUME/HAIR INFORMATION SHEETS FOR ALL CLASSES ARE ONLINE!
www.centerstageacademy.org/nutcracker2026

STAGING REHEARSALS: GOLD CAST: Thursday, December 3 @ Hendricks Hall- UCM Campus

During these rehearsals, dancers will NOT attend their REGULARLY SCHEDULED ballet classes. Instead, all dancers should report to **HENDRICKS HALL** at his/her scheduled rehearsal time.

THE PARTY SCENE WILL NOT REHEARSE ON THURSDAY BUT WILL HAVE THEIR STAGING AND DRESS REHEARSALS BOTH ON FRIDAY!

- **What To Wear:** Wear your ballet class attire (leotard, tights, ballet shoes and hair in a bun)! Costumes will not be worn. Show make-up & hair is NOT required.
- **When To Arrive: Be in the auditorium ready to dance at your call time**. Each class has a very limited amount of time. Dancers only need to come for their specific rehearsal time & should leave after rehearsing.
- **Where To Enter:** Please enter through the front doors of Hendricks Hall & head into the auditorium.
- **What Should Parents Do:** Parents can drop their students off and return at the end of their child's rehearsal time, or watch quietly in the audience.
    - **DO I NEED TO CHECK IN MY STUDENT? No- there is no student check in for Staging Rehearsals**.

Thursday, December 3 at Hendricks Hall, UCM Campus- Gold, Red & Green Casts	
Waltz of the Snowflakes **Snow Corps de Ballet (Adv. Ballet 2/3)** 3:30-4:00pm Also: **Clara & Snow Queen**	**Dream Scene** **Toys GREEN Cast (Kinder Mon.) & Mice (IB4)** 5:30-5:45pm Also: **Lead Toys, Drosselmeyer, Clara, Mouse Queen, Mouse Queen Page**
Frost (Int. Ballet 5/6) & Demi Snow (JB4 Thurs) 4:00-4:30pm Also: **Clara & Snow Queen**	**Confections RED Cast (Jr. Ballet 1 Tues Classes)** 5:45-6:15pm Also: **Plum Palace Ct (IB7), Plum Pas Demi Soloists & Arrival at the Palace Dancers**
Jesters GREEN Cast (Kinder Thursday) 4:30-4:45pm Also: **Lead Jesters**	**Confections GREEN Cast (Jr. Ballet 1 Monday)** 6:15-6:45pm Also: **Plum Palace Ct (IB7), Plum Pas Demi Soloists & Arrival at the Palace Dancers**
Gingersnaps (RED Cast Jr. Ballet 2 Tuesday) 4:45-5:00pm Also: **Clara & Mother Ginger**	**Battle Scene (JB4 Mon- Soldiers & IB4 -Mice)** 6:45-7:30pm **Mouse Queen, Mouse Queen Page, Clara, Drosselmeyer, Nutcracker** NO KINDER TOYS OR LEAD TOYS
Gingersnaps (GREEN Cast Jr. Ballet 2 Wed.) 5:00-5:15pm Also: **Clara & Mother Ginger**	**Act II** 7:30-9:15pm Sugar Plum Fairy, Clara, Plum Palace Ct (IB7), Spanish Chocolate, Arabian Coffee, Marzipan, Chinese Tea, Candy Cane (IB2/3), Neapolitan (Teen Ballet), Plum Pas Demi Soloists, Waltz of the Flowers (AB1 & IB1), Snow Queen, Flower Demi Soloists, Final Waltz Flowers
Dream Scene **Toys RED Cast (Kinder Tues.) & Mice (IB4)** 5:15-5:30pm Also: **Lead Toys, Drosselmeyer, Clara, Mouse Queen, Mouse Queen Page**	

REMINDER! Names must be clearly placed in all personal belongings, especially your ballet shoes! Label everything ASAP- items get lost at rehearsal too! Be sure to leave all valuables at home! Center Stage is not responsible for lost/damaged phones, tablets, watches, jewelry, etc…

DRESS REHEARSAL: GOLD CAST DETAILS: Fri. Dec. 4 at Hendricks Hall- UCM Campus

Dress rehearsal is MANDATORY. We enforce this strict policy for the confidence and safety of the performers. It is crucial that every student rehearse on the stage before performing and know exactly where he or she needs to be at all times.

- **What To Wear:** Dress rehearsal is a time for all students to rehearse all of their numbers in all pieces of their costumes & practice their hair & make-up to prepare for the performance!
    - **Have your make-up & hair done!** Read the class info sheet on how your class is expected to style your hair/make-up and arrive at dress rehearsal with your hair and make-up already done!
    - **Dancers should arrive already wearing tights (without underwear), and body liner UNDER your clothes. Male dancers should have a base layer of bike shorts on under street clothes.**
    - We also ask everyone to bring/ wear simple pants and a button or zip front top/ jacket to wear when you are not in costume backstage.
- **When To Arrive:** Please arrive at your appointed call time and remember to bring your ballet shoes! **PLEASE DON'T BE LATE.** We will do our best to begin and end as promptly as possible. However, this takes cooperation from everyone.

DANCER DROP OFF! To make checking dancers in more convenient and faster for parents & more secure overall, we have a **drive through drop off/ check-in** for all dancers!

- To help with traffic flow, please drive through the UCM Visitor parking lot off of South Street & Maguire at the staggered call times to drop off your dancer! CSA Staff will direct you!
    - If you would like to accompany your dancer to their dressing room, you can do so! Plan to park and walk your dancer in at the arrival time!
- **Check-In Process:** ALL DANCERS MUST CHECK IN so we know you have arrived!

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO:

- Parents of dancers in **6th grade & up** can drop their dancers off and pick them up at the end of their rehearsal (see estimated times below). These dancers can check themselves in and out!
- Parents of dancers in **K-5th grade** need to **check their student in & out**. Parents will give CS Staff a secret word at drop off. You will then need to tell CS Staff the word to check your child out!

The MANDATORY Dress Rehearsal will proceed in the following order: GOLD CAST & PARTY KIDS ONLY!

WHO	CALL (ARRIVAL) TIME	START/END TIME
Party Scene- GOLD CAST: Clara, Fritz, Clara's Friends, Party Parents, Dolls, Drosselmeyer, Household Staff, Bakers, Masquerade	4:00pm Party Scene GOLD cast change into costumes!	4:30-5:00: Staging with Green Cast 5:00-5:30: Staging with Red Cast 5:30-6:00: Dress with Green Cast 6:00-6:30: Dress with Red Cast
Remaining GOLD Cast ACT I: Mice, Soldiers, Frost, Snow & Demi Snow ACT II: Plum Palace Ct, Neapolitan, Candy Canes, Flowers	ACT I: Arrive 6:15pm ACT II: Arrive 6:20pm **Drop off/check-in at this time!**	7:00: Start Dress Rehearsal at End of Party Scene **ESTIMATED PICK UP TIMES:** Mice & Soldiers: 8:00pm, Demi Snow & Frost: 8:10pm All others: 8:45pm
Snow/Flowers	After Dress Rehearsal	Spacing rehearsal if needed. End time TBD
All dancers should leave rehearsal after your last number is finished rehearsing. No Curtain Call rehearsal.		

NO FOOD is allowed backstage during the dress rehearsal or performances! There are too many white costumes to take ANY chances! (Water bottles with caps are permitted.)

AFTER CHECKING IN!

- **DANCERS!!!** Report to your assigned room and check in verbally with CS Staff. Make sure you use this room as your dressing room; do not switch to another room to be with your friends.
    - This is where our staff will find you throughout the rehearsal.
- Your costume will be labeled & waiting for you backstage. CS Staff will give you further instructions on when to change into them. **DO NOT GET INTO COSTUME UNTIL ASKED TO DO SO!**

- **Please remember that you are RENTING these costumes from Center Stage and treat them with care!** A damaged costume fee will apply if careless behavior causes harm to your child's costume. Thank you!
- **PARENTS!!!** If you choose to accompany your child in, please then leave your dancer at the dressing room with CS Staff until they have finished rehearsing.

AFTER REHEARSING!

- **IMPORTANT!** After you are done rehearsing your last number you will need to turn all pieces of your costume back in with CS Staff! You should then check out with CS staff & leave the rehearsal.
- **PARENTS!** All K-5th grade students must be checked out by a guardian! For rehearsal this will happen outside their dressing rooms. 6th & up students can check themselves out. **Parents- If you are watching the dress rehearsal, please come check your child out after they finish and then you can continue watching the rehearsal with your child.**

PERFORMANCES: GOLD CAST DETAILS: Sat & Sun. Dec. 5 & 6 at Hendricks Hall- UCM Campus

PERFORMANCE START/END TIME	CALL (ARRIVAL) TIME	WARM-UPS ON STAGE
Red/Gold Casts Saturday, Dec 5 Show Start time: 2pm Pick-up time: 4:15ish	**12:15pm:** All Int. Ballet 2/3 & up for warmups! **1:00pm: ACT I:** Party Children, Toys, Soldiers, Demi Snow **1:15pm: ACT II:** Demi-Flowers, Gingersnaps, Confections	**12:30 PM (12:15 PM Call)** (Int. Ballet 2/3-7, Teen Ballet & Advanced Ballet 1-2/3 ONLY)
Green/Gold Casts Saturday, Dec. 5 Show Start time: 7PM Pick-up time: 9:15ish	**5:15pm:** All Int. Ballet 2/3 & up for warmups! **6:00pm: ACT I:** Party Children, Toys, Soldiers, Demi Snow **6:15pm: ACT II:** Demi-Flowers, Gingersnaps, Confections, Jesters	**5:30 PM (5:15 PM Call)** (Int, Ballet 2/3-7, Teen Ballet & Advanced Ballet 1-2/3 ONLY)
Green/Gold Casts Sunday, Dec. 6 Show Start Time: 1pm Pick-up time: 3:15ish	**11:00am:** All Int. Ballet 2/3 & up for warmups! **12:00pm: ACT I:** Party Children, Toys, Soldiers, Demi Snow **12:15pm: ACT II:** Demi-Flowers, Gingersnaps, Confections, Jesters	**11:30 AM (11:00 AM Call)** (Int, Ballet 2/3-7, Teen Ballet & Advanced Ballet 1-2/3 ONLY)
Red/Gold Casts Sunday, Dec. 6 Show Start Time: 5pm Pick-up time: 7:15ish	**3:30pm:** All Int. Ballet 2/3 & up for warmups! **4:00pm: ACT I:** Party Children, Toys, Soldiers, Demi Snow **4:15pm: ACT II:** Demi-Flowers, Gingersnaps, Confections	**3:45 PM (3:30 PM Call)** (Int. Ballet 2/3-7, Teen Ballet & Advanced Ballet 1-2/3 ONLY)

- **What To Wear:** Dancers should arrive already wearing tights (without underwear) & body liner UNDER your clothes with your make-up & hair done. Male dancers should wear a base layer of bike shorts.
- **We also ask everyone to bring/ wear simple pants and a button or zip front top/ jacket to wear when you are not in costume backstage.** If dancers choose to go to the balcony to watch the show, they will need to have clothes on over their body liner.
- **When To Arrive:** Please arrive at your call time by class & remember your ballet shoes!

DANCER DROP OFF/CHECK-IN!

- To help with traffic flow, please drive through the UCM Visitor parking lot off of South Street & Maguire at the staggered call times to drop off your dancer! CSA Staff will direct you!
    - If you would like to accompany your dancer to their dressing room, you can do so! Plan to park and walk your dancer in at the time below!
- **Check-In:** ALL DANCERS MUST CHECK IN so we know you have arrived!

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO:

- Parents of dancers in **6th grade & up** can drop their dancers off. These dancers can check themselves in and out!
- Parents of dancers in **K-5th grade** need to **check their student in & out**. Parents will give CS Staff a secret word at drop off. You will then need to tell CS Staff the word to check your child out!
- The box office opens 1 hour before the show & the audience will open 30 minutes before show time!

AFTER CHECKING IN!

- **DANCERS!** If you are in **Act I**, please follow instructions on changing into your costume and then remain in your dressing rooms, calmly to protect your costumes, until you are asked to line up!
- If you are in **Act II**, wait to change into your costume until instructed to do so & remain calmly in your dressing room until Center Stage Staff gives you further instructions.

WHILE BACKSTAGE:

- **All students will stay with CS Staff or Balcony Supervisors for the entire performance.** Dancers might want to bring along a few quiet, CLEAN activities.
- **The only drinks allowed backstage are bottles of water with lids. ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD IS ALLOWED BACKSTAGE!** Due to food allergies & white costumes we don't allow ANY snacks backstage for any ages. Please have your dancer eat a good meal before the performance to tide them over.

CURTAIN CALL!

All students will be in the curtain call! For the safety of all performers backstage, parents will not be allowed to check out their child prior to the conclusion of the curtain call.

- After the curtain call, ALL students will return to their assigned dressing areas to change out of their costumes.
- **IMPORTANT! Dancers MUST turn all pieces of their costume back in with staff before you leave after each performance!**
- Due to limited time in between shows, dancers will not be able to take pictures on stage after the performances.
- CS Staff will try to take a picture of students in their costumes in front of the Nutcracker banner backstage to then share with families!
- **PARENTS!** To maintain an organized, safe and secure environment for all children, we are asking for only one person to pick up their dancer after the show. You will need to sign them out in the lower Hendricks lobby and NOT in the dressing rooms.
- **There is no rush to get to the sign-out area!** Wait and hang out a bit before heading to the lower lobby. All of the dancers have to change & gather their personal items before being escorted as a group to the check-out area! It will take at least 15 minutes before any dancers are ready to be checked out!

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- **SHOW ORDER** sheets are available online.
- Tights are available to purchase at the front desk & will be available backstage at the performances. We can charge your account so no cash or card is necessary!
- **VIDEOS & PICTURES:** You are welcome to take pictures (no flash) and video of the performance. HOWEVER, please be courteous of audience members behind you. NO tripods or standing up in the audience to video.
- Please remember to be a courteous audience member. Enter and exit the house only through the back doors between numbers.
- **No guests should ever meet a dancer backstage!** Our space is extremely limited, and for the safety of our performers, we do not allow any additional people backstage. CS Staff will make sure all students are accounted for and help out when needed. **You can reach CS Staff via TEXT during the performance! 660.747.6133**
- **Dads, brothers, etc.:** Please be aware that dancers often have to make quick changes directly backstage or offstage. We make every effort to provide a modest changing area, but this is impossible at certain times. Please make a conscious effort to avoid all areas around the stage.