

Central Midwest Ballet Academy Newsletter

Nhsda special edition

For this issue, I decided to write on why I joined NHSDA and how it has helped me inside and outside of the studio. I also included a personal narrative by veteran editor and current NHSDA president Lillian Thompson.

Nana:

Although I loved dancing since the young age of three, I never considered dancing professionally. Throughout primary school I spent hours on top of hours in the studio, and even venturing out to Seattle for a five week long summer intensive. After entering high school, I decided to try out for my high school dance team while still attending CMBA full time. My weekly studio hours reached a peak of 30 hours. However, I was still firm on my decision to pursue dance only as a hobby.

Lillian:

At 12 years old, I decided I was going to be a professional ballerina. So, from middle school through my junior year of high school, I intensely trained in CMBA's pre-professional level and attended yearly summer intensives. Now a senior in high school, I have decided against no a professional ballet career. Such is a choice that has 12 year old me shocked, for I never thought that I would want to abandon my dream to dance professionally. But my college applications look unusual. Since I spent much of my high school years devoted to ballet, I did not have time for jobs or clubs, resulting in a lack of extracurricular activities.

However, through CMBA's chapter of National Honors Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA), the hundreds of hours we both have spent dancing all while earning good grades will be recognized. As a NHSDA member, our years on pointe will be acknowledged not only on our college applications, but throughout the rest of our lives.

NHSDA is a way for students who love dance and have pursued it with hopes of becoming as good as possible to receive recognition for the hundreds of hours spent in the studio. It is an asset to any college application, as a membership with NHSDA demonstrates work ethic, leadership, and passion. NHSDA also gives students experience in collaborating with others to enrich their dance community through fundraisers and events, such as the "CMB Bounceback", a fundraiser performance that raised over \$1500 for CMBA this past September. Members will also have the chance to give back to their local community through volunteer opportunities. Involvement in NHSDA is not only impressive on college applications, but an exciting way to facilitate community and gain key skills for life and leadership.

If you are a CMBA student interested in joining, email lilly.thompson2002@gmail.com for questions and to join.

About our guest

Lillian is a senior at Waunakee High School

*Ballet term pop quiz!*

A: Degage means to disengage!

Q: What does fouetté mean?

Hint: It's a verb

About the Editor

Nana is a junior at Madison West High School and dances in the standard 3 division and on Madison West Dance Team.

