

Dear Parents,

I want to welcome you and your child to the Taking Shape Star Leadership program. The Star Leadership program is a nationally recognized youth leadership curriculum used by over hundreds of dance studios and youth organizations around the world.

My name is Tracey Wozny and I am the founder of the Taking Shape non-profit organization whose mission is to grow young leaders who impact others Here, Near and Far. Here in our local communities, Near in our surrounding city and Far in our world.

The vision of this program evolved after 20 years of teaching dance and witnessing the leaders our students became not only in our studio, but in their schools and community. I have observed over the years important values that were gained by kids who were involved in a consistent performing arts program. Values such as discipline, structure, confidence and serving the community. However, some very important character core values were missing. I started implementing "character life lessons" which were short classroom discussions with my students around the "ballet barre." We discussed values such as kindness, perseverance, gratitude and setting goals. I started seeing the dramatic change in my students over the years by simply creating awareness around these core leadership values. These values became our studio language, our culture and our identity. These life lessons are now published into a written curriculum that we call the Star Leadership Curriculum.

We started teaching this class in our studio in 2015 and it is on our schedule just like a ballet class. Just like ballet is the foundation of dance, our leadership class is the foundation of our character.

We are excited to see this program start in your Liberty Dance Center this year! Your owner, Kate Moody and myself are part of an amazing dance industry community called "More Than Just Great Dancing." We believe in not only developing great dancers but growing great kids!

We know it takes a village to impact the children of this next generation. We look forward to the success of the Star Leadership program in your studio. I am honored to partner with amazing parents like you and Liberty Dance Center on this important mission to grow young leaders Here, Near and Far!

Lead on,
Tracey L. Wozny

