



Celebrating 5 Years!

What started as a small studio with 65 students has since grown to a strong, experienced foundation for dancers in North West Winnipeg to learn, create and thrive.

Five years is a milestone, but the path to get there took much longer for the sister duo of Shauna Jurczak and Jamie Jurczak, who Co-Own the studio together. Growing up in the Maples and graduating from Maples Collegiate, they experienced success in dance, gymnastics and cheerleading. This success paved the way for them to open Maples Academy of Dance, right in the neighbourhood they grew up in.

"We grew up in the Maples, but there were no high level dance or gymnastics programs nearby, so our Mom had to drive all around the city, to neighbourhoods in Transcona, St. Boniface, Charleswood, and Fort Richmond for our activities," said Shauna Jurczak, "That was tough on us and our Mom, so when we opened, we wanted to bring our expertise to the neighbourhood we grew up in to give dancers the opportunity to succeed here."

Dance is often a dream for kids, but for the Jurczaks, it's their reality, and it is their diverse experience and expertise that makes them stand out in the dance world. Joining the Jurczaks is a staff of 8 others who have extensive dance training and teaching experience. All their staff bring a wealth of knowledge and skills outside of dance as well, in areas like Law, Kinesiology, Communications, Education, and Social Work. This helps provide a well-rounded, positive and motivating environment for their superstar students.

Positivity, encouragement, and expertise are three words the Jurczaks take personally and try to pass along to their students. Raised by their mother, Wendy, they were always encouraged to work hard and go after their dreams, and were taught to value hard work, dedication, family and community.

"One thing we learned growing up in the Maples is a sense of community and family. Our family is extremely supportive and close-knit. The community around us has always been like extended family, supporting us and helping us accomplish our goals since we were kids," said Jamie Jurczak, "Five years in the community is just as much an accomplishment for the community, as it is for us personally. We couldn't have done this without the years of support we've received."

Having grown up in the Maples, and establishing a business in the community, the Jurczaks couldn't be more proud of the role they play in helping kids in North West Winnipeg get active, have fun and find success through dance.

Here's to 5 years of dancing, and many more!