The Vision is “Everyone Dances”. As we move through space in time, every day we dance. A studio experience at an early age can enrich and encourage the natural mover in all of us. Children are wonderously creative and movement and dance classes can help them with self expression, employing both the body and the mind. Self confidence is gained. As the young mover/dancer progresses, more technique is introduced based on the disciplines of Modern Dance; however, the creative elements are always present. It is the goal to serve both the young dancer with the hope of becoming a professional dancer and the young dancer who desires to improve her or his creativity by experiencing dance.

“It has been my mission for over thirty years to provide modern dance and movement classes to children with many moving on to professional careers in modern and ballet as well as other performing arts and all improving their self confidence and presentation skills. It is important that this dance experience begin with younger children. The classes are intended to introduce this American idiom as a positive art and movement experience and to provide a foundation for those who may have the goal of further pursuing dance education and training.” - Bonnie Boilini Baxter

Classes will be taught by Bonnie Boilini Baxter, Founder and Director Emeritus of Southold Dance Theater. Bonnie became Artistic Director of Southold in 1982, creating many Modern dances, teaching and overseeing the development of the company. She received her early training in Indiana, studying primarily with Virginia Bays on the campus of Culver Academies. As a student at DePauw University, she worked closely with Margaret Dietz, a contemporary of Hanya Holm and Doris Humphrey, and was a featured performer in several of her works. Bonnie has studied with Charles Weidman, Merce Cunningham and the Martha Graham School of Dance which had a great influence on her choreography. In the fall of 1975, she opened Dancenter, an advanced studio dedicated to quality training and experiences in both modern dance and ballet. She started the formal dance program at Culver Academies and Stanley Clark School, as well as, several preschools in the area. Bonnie has served on the Boards of the Michiana Arts and Sciences Council, the Arts Literacy Task Force, the Indiana Arts Commission Dance Panel, and Firefly Festival. In 2002, Bonnie received the prestigious “Life of a Child” Award from South Bend's Memorial Health services for dedicating her life to enriching the area’s children’s lives through dance and the performing arts.

Class Descriptions and Information

This semester, a six week series of dance classes will be held once per week. Classes will typically be on Tuesdays and Fridays in the mornings and afternoons. Dance classes will be on 9/11 & 9/14, 9/18 & 9/21, 9/25 & 9/28, 10/9 & 10/12, 10/16 & 10/19, 10/25 & 10/26. Children should wear loose fitting clothing for the dance classes. Please no leotards. Parents are invited to observe their child’s dance class on Thursday, 10/25 and Friday, 10/26.

Creative Movement: (3’s and 3/4’s Activity Rooms) Movement experiences for the young child – exploring the space, gaining body awareness, and interacting with others in the environment in time. Emphasis on creative expression using music, poems, textural studies, and rhythm games. 30 minutes, once per week, $60.00 per six week session.

Dance Sampler: (4’s and 4/5’s Activity Rooms) The dance class will combine the techniques of ballet, modern, and interpretive dance. Each child will be encouraged to express himself/herself and develop his/her creativity and coordination through the fine art of dance. 45 minutes once per week, $60.00 per six week session.