

Nutcracker FAQ

What is the WSD Nutcracker?

The Nutcracker is a 100+ year old ballet tradition that tells the story of Clara, her magical Nutcracker doll, and all of their Christmas Eve adventures. The WSD Nutcracker is our very own interpretation of this classical ballet, with a narration, a shortened running time and a cast of our very own WSD Ballet students.

The WSD Nutcracker will be performed Saturday, December 16th at 2:00pm and 6:00pm and Sunday, December 17th at 2:00pm and 6:00pm at **Glacier Peak High School**. Pre-Ballet/Tap, Level I and Level II dancers will be performing in two of the four scheduled performances. Level III, IV, V and Teen/Adult dancers will perform in all shows, though some pieces may be double cast. The performances will run approximately one hour.

Performance assignments will not be announced until October 1st, so dancers considering participation will want to make sure they are available for all show dates and times.

Who can take part in the performance?

All Ballet students from Pre-Ballet/Tap to Advanced are eligible to participate in the WSD Nutcracker. Participating in Nutcracker is like adding an additional class (or more for our older dancers) to your weekly schedule for the months of October, November and December. Nutcracker dances are not practiced in weekly technique classes, however dancers must maintain regular attendance in their weekly technique classes to be eligible to perform.

To participate, dancers need to return their signed contracts and the performance fee to the studio by September 30th. We encourage our WSD families to review the contract and the rehearsal schedule, and understand the commitment outside of class before committing to the performance.

What is the time commitment for performers and their families?

We have high expectations of those who chose to perform. It's important to understand the commitment of performance ahead of time.

The following are Mandatory Rehearsals for the WSD Nutcracker:

In Studio Rehearsal

Saturday, December 9 4:00pm – 6:00pm
All Performers!

Dress Rehearsal (at Glacier Peak High School)

Friday, December 15 5:30pm – 8:00pm
All Performers!

Additionally, PBT dancers and Level III, IV, V and Upper Level dancers have multiple rehearsals scheduled as Mandatory. Please read the rehearsal schedule carefully and make sure you understand the requirements of the pieces you are cast in.

- Each student is allowed to miss **ONE** non-mandatory rehearsal.
- MANDATORY rehearsals must not be missed for any reason. There are no exceptions to this policy.
- All performers must attend the Dress Rehearsal and all assigned Performances.
- Dancers stay backstage during the performances, and must be present for the entirety of the show.

What happens if a dancer misses a rehearsal?

Dancers who miss a mandatory rehearsal, or who miss more than one non-mandatory rehearsal will be dismissed from the production. **There are no exceptions to this policy.** This is not intended to be punitive, but is merely the reality of staging a production of this size with limited rehearsal time. Dancers need to be present to learn the choreography and to feel confident for performance.

What is the financial commitment for performers and their families?

Each participant will be assessed a non-refundable \$95.00 performance fee, due with their signed contract. This fee will cover studio rental, instructor payroll, and costuming from the WSD collection. Dancers will need to provide their own black tank style leotard, pink tights and pink ballet shoes.

While dancers will not need tickets to the performances, friends and family who wish to be in the audience will need to purchase a ticket for the show. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Each person attending the performance will need a ticket of their own for that particular show. Tickets will go on sale November 15th, and more information will be available as that date approaches.

Who can audition for the role of Clara?

Dancers currently enrolled in a Ballet I class can audition for the role of Clara. Clara auditions will be held at WSD on Saturday, September 30th from 4:00pm – 5:00pm.

What is the rehearsal schedule?

A draft rehearsal schedule has been provided. Adjustments to the schedule may be necessary depending on the size of the cast, and if a particular group needs extra studio time. We will do our best to keep to the draft schedule so our dancers can plan far in advance.

If you have questions about the WSD Nutcracker, please call us at 425-481-7899 or email info@washingtonschoolofdance.com