

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome back! As we start a new school year I want to take this opportunity to update you on what is going on at Jackson School of the Arts!

First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Carolyn Moser and I have been serving as the Interim Executive Director since March and now am pleased to serve as the full-time Executive Director for JSA.

I have lived most of my life in Jackson and have a business background with a degree in Accounting from Michigan State and an MBA from Baker College. I have two children, Dustin and Savannah Anderson. Dustin is a student at Eastern Michigan, studying Special Education and Savannah is a junior at Northwest HS. My husband, Andy is the quality manager at Synchronous Manufacturing.

I spent almost 20 years as a local business owner of Anderson Printing in downtown Jackson until I sold the business in 2017. I love this community and I am excited for this new adventure. If I haven't met you, please reach out! I would love to say hi and get to know our JSA families!

During these interesting times, the team at JSA worked tirelessly to make it possible to open the school in mid-July for a short summer session. I am excited to say that it was a success! The class sizes were small and I am happy to report we were able to keep everyone safe and healthy all summer. We have increased our regular cleaning, purchased air filtration systems for all of our studios, and invested in a lot of hand sanitizer and face masks.

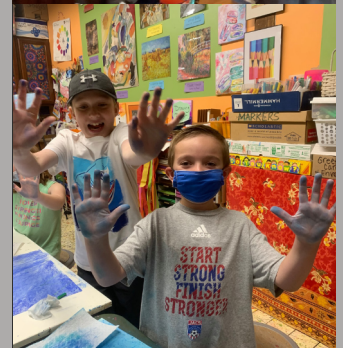
We are working hard to develop and enhance partnerships in our community. In July, we partnered with the YMCA and we hosted kids from the day camp on site at JSA where they were able to experience art and dance classes. We are also working with Ella Sharp museum on co-hosting an exhibit of world-renowned artist, Frida Kahlo, set for January 2021. Additionally, we are working on strengthening our partnership with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

In August (the 5th and 6th), we were able to hold our Fairy Festival virtually on Facebook. If you missed it, you can scroll through our Facebook page and see all of the exciting events that happened over the two days. We had fairy readings, magical dances, and even a couple of fairy crafts. We look forward to being able to have our 2021 Fairy Festival the weekend of April 24 & 25 in person. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

Finally, I know that everyone is anxiously awaiting updates on the Capital Campaign and our plans for a potential new space. Rest assured, this is the top priority for the JSA Board of Directors and we certainly appreciate your patience as we continue to work diligently on a final decision and plan for JSA's future. We want to assure you that all Capital Campaign funds continue to be safe and secure and are housed and managed separately from operating funds. We promise we will make the best decision that supports our mission, provides a safe learning environment for our families and can serve our future growth.

I am really excited about the future of JSA and want you to know that we have retained a majority of our staff and instructors. So, while things may seem different, they are also very much the same! The school is focused on getting back to the basics of providing art, theater and dance to everyone in Jackson! If you have any questions, concerns or just want to say hi let me know! I look forward to a time when you can just wander into the building to see me, but for now, please email carolyn@jacksonarts.org or call me at 517-784-2389 and we can set up a time to talk!

Stay safe and I hope to see you soon!



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FALL CLASSES HAVE BEGUN

BUT YOU CAN STILL JOIN US!



A New Season In More Ways Than One

The Fall season is always filled with its own set of emotions: a new start for students, a new breeze in the air, and the anticipation of the holiday seasons that are on their way.

This year is, of course, new territory, but we want to make sure that we at Jackson School of the Arts can remain a beacon of consistency for our students by continuing to provide quality dance, art, and theater classes and experiences to those that need them most.

New Opportunities & Building on Favorites

Even with the challenges that face us this year, we are excited to bring a handful of new classes this Fall.

Our Art program adds a new Sculpture and Design class that has already created some excitement. Our class for age 9 to 13 is already booked up, but we still have room in our younger class for ages 4 to 8. But other newer favorites such as our Cartooning and Illustration and Paint, Pour & Explore also have more room for now.

Our Theater program has expanded this Fall, featuring two classes each for two different age groups. You can read more about those below.

The Dance lineup has stayed rather consistent, but there are many different styles to experience for a variety of ages – including adults!

For those wanting to have a multi-day pre-school experience, we also have our Kids Create program for ages 3 ½ to 5.

All of our classes are officially underway now, but we still have registration and anyone will be able to join any classes that are not at capacity at any time. (However, some dance classes with recital performance will have cut-off dates)

Small Class Sizes: Safer & More Focused

Of course, we also want to make sure our facilities and classes are still safe and promote community health. We have a number of precautions that we are implementing, but (in addition to masks, hand sanitizer, and distancing) one of the simplest measures we are taking is reduced class sizes.

This Fall, we are only having maximum class sizes of 9 students (or in the case of our early childhood classes, 5 students plus a caretaker for each student). Not only does this help us with social distancing, but it also lets our instructors give more individualized attention to each student. We are hoping this has a great benefit that can serve as a silver lining in this challenging time.

Extra Precautions & Safety Investments

In terms of other precautions we are taking at JSA, We have invested in additional air filtration systems to help cleanse the air and keep our space as safe as possible. We also take student temperatures with a touch-less thermometer upon entry and clean our entire space every night and have wipes and sanitizer for the day.

THEATER CLASSES

NEW CLASSES FOR BOTH YOUNG KIDS & TEENS



Expanded Lineup

Our Theater classes are returning in full force this Fall! We now have two sets of classes for both younger kids and for teens! You can learn about them in detail at jacksonarts.org/theater

Teen Theater Classes

In our new teen classes, we get dive more into not only how to develop theatrical skills and communicate effectively, but also how to handle things like auditions and other behind-the-scenes elements!

Classes for Younger Kids

For ages 6 to 11, we have two different opportunities to explore storytelling, developing characters, and conveying emotions – all while having a great time!

Talented Instructors

We are also excited to have two amazing theater instructors on staff now! Miss Erin was with us this last year and did a great job making our kids feel at home. Miss Taylor will also be joining us and also brings her background of experience and passion for storytelling to our organization.

A LOOK BACK

EARLY CHILDHOOD ART CLASSES

MAKE MEMORIES WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE MESS



Our Annual Fairy Festival is one of our most exciting events of each year and has attracted thousands of visits from not only Mid-Michigan, but also from neighboring states and regions. Of course, much of what makes Fairy Festival special depends greatly on an in-person experience and being around lots of different people sharing interests. As you can imagine, the COVID-19 situation created quite a challenge for our Fairy Festival experience in 2020.

Virtual 2020 Fairy Festival

However, we commend our staff at Jackson School of the Arts and our community volunteers and sponsors for helping us create a magical online experience on relatively short notice. We had a handful of video components that were shared on Facebook which included beautiful crafts, dance demonstrations, story reading and our traditional fairy garden contest. In the end, it was great to hear from so many of our families and have our Virtual Fairy Festival as a medium to connect with them during this challenging time.

Looking Forward to 2021 Fairy Festival

It may go without saying, but we are looking forward to sharing the next chapter of Fairy Festival with you all in 2021.

Save the weekend of April 24 & 25, 2021 on your calendars!

Thanks to Fairy Festival Sponsors

Henry Ford Allegiance Health, Comerica Bank, Jackson Magazine, JTV, ALLEGRA Marketing & Print, Mail of Jackson, Wal-Mart, American 1 Credit Union, Heather Hendon Team at Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, and Experience Jackson



The teams at the YMCA, Jackson Symphony Orchestra, and Jackson School of the Arts have already been increasing their efforts to reach the children of the Jackson community over the last few years, but the COVID-19 era has motivated us to work even stronger together to keep our kids active, educated, and foster their creativity.

This summer, as we knew kids needed a chance to get out of their homes and expand their experiences, our organizations collaborated on a summer camp program that would provide an amazing variety of fun learning experiences. At the same time, we made sure everyone kept safe distances, stayed cool in the shade, and masked-up, when appropriate.

Our campers enjoyed making music at the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, creating all sorts of masterpieces plus learning dance moves at the Jackson School of the Arts, and hitting a bullseye at YMCA Storer Camps. Not only did the kids learn a lot, but our staff continued to learn more about adapting to our new world while still providing creative education.



The early years are a key point in cognitive development, a time to nurture curiosity and develop self-confidence. Along the way, our instructor, Miss Jode works in a number of color, shape, and composition concepts along the way, laying down a solid foundation of artistic concepts for these young minds.

Not only are these Early Childhood classes an excellent education experience, but they are also a priceless bonding experience between the children and their parents or caretakers. With both "My First Art Class" and "Fun & Fabulous Pre-School Art", one caretaker sits in with the student during class. It's a wonderful opportunity for the kids to share their revelations and accomplishments in the moment and for parents to soak it in (without having to worry about the mess!) and create and capture memories along the way.

While we are taking more precautions during this COVID-19 era, we are still allowing parents/caretakers to join in on the fun in our Early Childhood classes. We are limiting only 5 students into each class session so these caregivers can still continue to make memories together and make our little artists extra comfortable in the classroom.

We also have our Kids Create Pre-School experience for children ages 3 1/2 to 5 and is ideal for a child's first class away from home or as a supplement or substitute to traditional preschool programs. Our instructors engage students through a variety of creative experiences including sculpture, painting, drawing, creative movement and music. This program provides social, motor, and creative experiences that excite love for learning through the arts.

PRE-BALLET

OUR LITTLEST DANCERS NEED A BUDDY IN THEIR CORNER



Even though we focus a lot on movement and developing physical skills in our dance classes, a significant component of our dance classes is about building confidence in our students. In fact, many of our former students, staff and community members cite their youth dance classes as a major contributor to building the confidence that benefited them later in their lives and careers.

We also realize that it is important for each of our little dancers to have somebody to give them a hug right before class and welcome them back with open arms after a fun-filled lesson. Because of that, even with our COVID-19 precautions, we are allowing one parent/caretaker to accompany each Pre-Ballet I through Pre-Ballet III student.

However, to keep everyone safe, only one adult is allowed to come into the building and observe class. To keep numbers low, we cannot allow siblings to join - Even if school is cancelled, etc... And adults need to wear a mask at all times. We appreciate your cooperation in this time! You can find our full listing of COVID-19 rules and procedures on our website, jacksonarts.org

If you have any questions or concerns about the classes, registration, or about our procedures, please feel free to call us at (517) 784-2389.

WHEN YOU GIVE, YOU SUPPORT KIDS. FAMILIES. COMMUNITY. THE ARTS.



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Big or small, we can securely accept payments via Credit Cards and PayPal.

If you have any questions along the way, just email us at info@jacksonarts.org or call us at (517) 784-2389 and we will be glad to help.

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