

June 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Murray Ridge School is extremely pleased to continue its collaboration with North Pointe Ballet. Though due to school protocol we have not been able to partner in ways we could pre-pandemic, NPB has done a wonderful job maintaining connection via live-streamed workshop performances and provision of their Virtual Ballet Experience classroom resources. Again this year, we will be able to feature students with disabilities from our school onstage during their Sensory-Friendly performance of "The Nutcracker" performed at the Lorain Palace Theater.

The program, entitled "A Chance to Dance," gives Murray Ridge students an opportunity to work with the trained staff at North Pointe Ballet to learn dance fundamentals and perform in a full-length theatrical production, which they would otherwise not have been able to enjoy given their disabilities.

Perhaps one of the most beneficial parts of the experience was the peer modeling provided by North Pointe Ballet student dancers. As part of the experience, each of the performers is paired with a typically-developing dance student not only to the benefit of the student with special needs, but also provided insights and new friendships for the typical dancers.

I personally witnessed parents cry tears of joy and an entire cast of a beautiful production embrace the Murray Ridge students during this special performance. We are looking forward to the return to our typical partnership with North Pointe Ballet.

Sincerely,



Stacie Starr

Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Classroom Supervisor

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