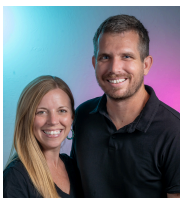




IN STEP

studio news from maranatha



New Year Brings New Recital Season

We are so excited for the second half of our dance, music and theater season and look forward to all God has in store for each student in 2026.

Our Spring Ballet Performance, **Hope Rising**, is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, April 25 at The Breeze Church in North Fort Myers for all Leveled and Teen Ballet classes. Our **Elevate Ballet Dancers** will have the honor of performing alongside Ballet Magnificat in their production of Ruth at 6 p.m. that evening. To learn more, view our [YouTube trailer](#)

--Andrew & Amy



Discipleship Corner

MS. JAMI B.

This January, we're encouraging kids to keep their **Eyes Up to See What Matters!** Our focus is on learning to fix our thoughts on the things that last forever. Our memory verse is **Philippians 4:8** – "*Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right...*" We believe that God's kingdom comes first, and when we focus on what matters to Him, it shapes how we live. Through scriptures like **Colossians 3:2** and **Matthew 6:33**, kids will be challenged to think about what truly matters and to care about the things that are close to God's heart.

Our big idea is: "*I want to care about what God cares about.*" Let's help our kids start the new year with hearts and minds focused on God's priorities.

Meet Our Staff



**Amira C.
Dance Teacher**

Ms. Amira has been studying multiple dance genres for over ten years, including six years at Maranatha. As a Children's and Leveled Program teacher, she feels blessed to minister to her students through the fine arts, providing a space where they can grow both technically and spiritually. With three years of teaching experience and four years of training through Maranatha's Student Teacher Education Program (S.T.E.P), she continues to develop a strong foundation in dance education. Throughout this time, the art of dance has deepened her relationship with Christ and has provided opportunities to share her faith. Outside of the studio, you'll find her either reading, enjoying the beach, or spending time with friends and family. Amira first dreamed of becoming a teacher in kindergarten, and throughout her life, she has been continually inspired by the many dedicated teachers who invested in her growth.



**Jilan M.
Graphic Design Coord.**

This is Ms. Jilan's 17th season with Maranatha. She was born in China and raised in Cape Coral, where she danced at Maranatha for 14 years and later taught for four. She assists with graphic design and our annual filming for Momentum Company and MCrew. She is currently a student at the University of Florida, majoring in Industrial and Systems Engineering with a minor in History. Jilan is passionate about missions among unreached people groups and enjoys leading a microchurch in her community. She brings strong skills in communication, leadership, project management, and "seeing the gold" in others. Outside of school and ministry, she loves CrossFit, flag football, and staying active with friends. Fun fact: Jilan helped found MCrew in 2020.

Studio Calendar

Jan. 19 - MLK Jr. Day (Studio Open)
Jan. 19-22 - Fun Week, "Jammies in January"
Jan. 23 - Kids Night Out
Jan. 26-29 - Sneak Peek Week, Children's Program
Feb. 7 - ArtFest (Momentum Company & MCrew)
Feb. 16 - Presidents' Day (Studio Open)
Feb. 26 - Recital Fee Charged
March 16-20 - Spring Break*
April 6 - Easter Monday (Studio Open)
April 25 - Spring Ballet Production, "Hope Rising"
April 25 - Ballet Magnificat Production, "Ruth"
(featuring Maranatha's Elevate Ballet Dancers)

***STUDIO CLOSED, NO CLASSES**

Contact us: info@maranathadance.com | 239-772-3309



Preschool & Children's Dance Program

MS. ALICIA W.

We're kicking off the new year with our sixth dance concept: *Speed*.

As dancers explore the contrast between fast and slow movements (tempo), they strengthen important foundational skills like body control and self-regulation. We'll also continue expanding the movement vocabulary introduced in previous concepts, now discovering how fast or slow those movements can be. This exploration encourages creative thinking, problem-solving, and deeper awareness of how the body moves!

Fun Week

It's "Jammies in January" time! During the **week of Jan. 19**, dancers are invited to come to class in their coziest, comfiest pajamas. (Dancers, please remember to wear a leotard underneath and bring proper dance shoes. Thank you!)

Sneak Peek Week

During the **week of Jan. 26**, families in our **Children's Program** are invited to join the **last five minutes of class** to watch their dancer showcase a new skill they've learned for the New Year and hear about our Student Teacher Education Program (S.T.E.P.)!

Kids Night Out

We're so excited to invite dancers to our third **Kids Night Out** event hosted by Maranatha Dance on **Friday, January 23rd!** Dancers will enjoy "snow" much fun with friends, pizza, games, and plenty of time to move and dance. It's the perfect way to shake off the winter chill and have a cozy, energetic night at the studio! **To reserve your spot visit www.calendly.com/maranathadance**



Leveled & Teen Dance Program

MS. AMY P.

Fuel Up with Proper Nutrition

Your body is your instrument, and it needs the right fuel. Instead of skipping meals, aim for balanced snacks that combine protein, carbs, and healthy fats—like apple slices with peanut butter or yogurt with granola. Good nutrition keeps your energy steady and helps your muscles recover, so you can dance your best every day!



January Birthdays

Gabriella M.	Hayden G.
Abigail P.	Alaina B.
Carolina H.	Moselle D.
Josiah P.	Amelia Z.
Chloë G.	Grace Z.
Teagan W.	Carly M.
Bridget S.	Alaia R.
Angie R.	Grace S.
Brooklyn F.	Audrey S.
Connor B.	Emma M.
Kinsley W.	Halle V.
Gabriella E.	Adelyn T.
Madison F.	Mia C.
Giavanna G.	Ella G.
Caleb P.	Ava C.
Amber S.	Lara G.
Bailey H.	Megan Rose R.
Octavia P.	Isla S.

STAFF:

Ms. Chloé, Ms. Abigail, Ms. Maddy

Special thanks to Perkins for their donation of cookies and donuts for Maranatha's Family Appreciation & Christmas Week at the studio in December!



A look back at Christmas! **How is Christmas celebrated in Burkina Faso?**



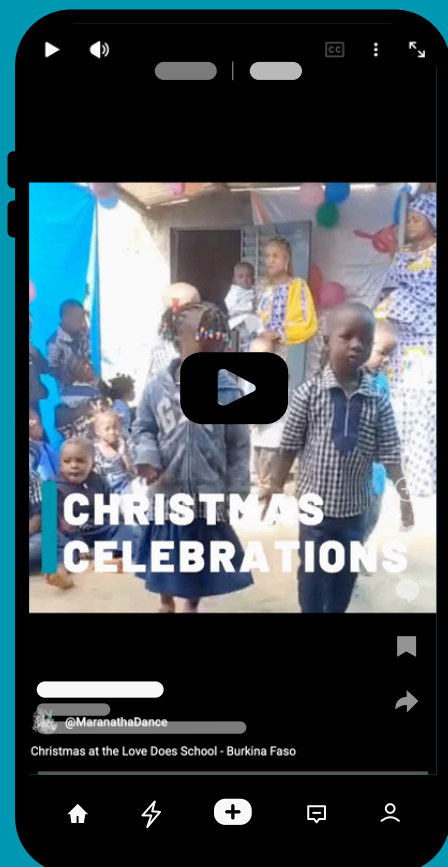
I asked Pastor Deme's son the following question.

What does Christmas look like for your family in Burkina Faso?

"Here in Burkina Faso, Christmas holds great significance. This is an opportunity to demonstrate our love for others. Especially in this situation of crisis and insecurity. Generally Christian families invite other religious communities as well as neighbors and friends to share a meal. These other religious communities usually accept our invitation for this sharing. In our family, my dad and uncles are pastors. They prepare a community meal that we share at the church and in the surrounding area. At the school there is a Christmas tree and an opportunity to distribute gifts to the students as well as a meal for their families. On this occasion, the students from the school organize dance recitals which they present to their parents. Children from the church recite Bible verses, sing, and perform skits."

Merry Christmas and greetings to all, please convey our best Christmas wishes!!

Celebrating Christmas with dance recitals, shared meals, community, and even a visit from Santa in Burkina Faso.



Check out this video!

For more information about the Burkina Faso school, visit www.maranathadance.com/burkinafaso