



Hi Drama Kids Families,

We hope that you have seen our prior announcements reporting that Drama Kids International has been very busy working on the launch of Drama Kids Online, our new fully interactive online class for Drama Kids students. Children, families and businesses are struggling all across our country. We understand what a challenge it is to keep kids occupied and retain some sense of normalcy, and it is our sincere desire to help you during this trying time. Classes have already started in many other locations around the world, the feedback has been fantastic, and I'm pleased to announce that Drama Kids Online will officially launch here in NWI on Monday, April 6, 2020!

Though we are experiencing challenging times, the technology we have available presents us with a unique opportunity to bring our Drama Kids and DKI Acting Academy programs directly into your home. Just as schools have been forced to switch to online learning, so have we. And we feel 100% confident that we will be able to continue the quality drama education that you depend on each week. Our teachers are fully prepared to take advantage of the Zoom teleconferencing platform in order to create a very special interactive and social experience for your child.

We have received the following feedback from parents after seeing Drama Kids Online classes held nationally:

- "There is so much going on that this...is huge for our kid's mental health."
- "It was great to see him so happy today."
- "...She loved it!"
- "He loved it...I think it's great what you guys are doing..."
- "Thank you so much for today. He was laughing and having a great time again. I know it's a lot of effort to figure this out along with everyday life and I just wanted you to know it means the world to me."

We know you have questions about how our DK Online classes will work:

1. **Who is the new DK Online program for and how does my tuition agreement change for the 2019/2020 school year?** This service is available to all currently enrolled elementary school and middle school students. Drama Kids of NWI remains sensitive

to the financial burdens families are facing and want to make sure your child remains involved. For that reason, we have reduced your monthly tuition to \$39/month for the months of April and May. Your account information remains active in our secure parent portal and billing will occur seamlessly as it has in the past.

2. **Do I need to register my child again?** No. When you registered your child previously, Drama Kids of NWI made a commitment to your family for the 2019/2020 school year. We are determined to honor our commitment to you and your enrollment is still active. Your child is already registered, which means you do not have to do anything else. Your child will automatically be placed in a class, and we will be emailing you information on how to access your class link within the next few days to explain how to get them ready for class using Zoom. We are working to keep your child's regular class day the same and we will assign a class time that is as close to their regular after school class as possible.
3. **Will my credit card still be billed on the 1st of the month?** Due to the circumstances and to make sure everyone is able to get set up for classes next week, we will delay charging your credit card until April 10th. If you have any questions about billing or need to update your billing method, please email us at contact.dramakidsnwi@gmail.com and we will send you instructions.
4. **Will we continue with end of year performance rehearsals?** Classes will be structured to be very similar to our regular action-packed Drama Kids workshops that your child has come to rely on. Due to the fact that we have no idea when we will be able to get back into the classroom, we will not be rehearsing for performances at this time. Rather, our online classes have been specifically created to include a wide range of drama activities in each class with all students fully participating. Drama Kids Online will continue to develop your child's creative thinking, public speaking, and acting skills as only Drama Kids can.
5. **How large will the classes be?** Each class will be limited to 10-12 students so that all students will enjoy a high-quality, personalized online learning experience. Classes will be 45 minutes to one hour in length with a free extra extension activity provided at the end of each lesson to continue to foster your child's creativity throughout the week at home.
6. **Will my child have the same teacher?** YES! Your child's teacher has missed their class and has been eagerly waiting to see your child again! We are working hard to try and arrange our schedules so that your child and teacher will be reunited. In the rare case of a scheduling conflict you can be assured that your teacher will be a fully

trained, fun Drama Kids Teacher. While we are doing our best to maintain consistency, please be aware that your online teacher may not be the same teacher as in your regular Drama Kids class due to schedule availability.

- 7. I have already pre-paid for the entire school year. Will I receive an adjustment based on the new rate for April and May?** If you have pre-paid for the year, we will prorate April and May with the new rate and offer a credit towards one of our summer camps OR toward enrollment for next year. While we hope that you will accept a credit for future enrollment, we will gladly offer a refund should you request. Please email us at contact.dramakidsnwi@gmail.com with any questions about pre-paid tuitions or to inquire about our future camps or classes.
- 8. My child is unavailable for the class day/time that we were assigned. Can we still participate?** I'm sure you share our goal of allowing your child to participate with their usual group of Drama Kids friends, however, if you need a different class time and date please contact us and we may be able to allow your child to attend another group. Classes will be once per week and last 45 minutes to 1 hour.

What You Need To Join the Fun:

1. Create a learning space that is quiet, and distraction-free. Please have a chair, and some open space for movement.
2. Have a computer or personal device with a webcam and a strong Internet signal. (Mobile phones are discouraged due to small screen size).
3. **Zoom - Free to download and set up — go to www.zoom.us** ** For the smoothest experience we recommend that you download the Zoom app or download the Zoom software. If you prefer to work from a web browser you must use Google Chrome.
4. Make sure your device is plugged into an outlet, as Zoom tends to drain the battery quickly.
5. For younger students: Have an adult or older sibling nearby to help with any technical details.
6. Prior to class beginning, adjust your webcam so that you are visible, with your speakers turned to a reasonable volume. Headphones are discouraged due to the necessary drama movements required.
7. Five minutes before class time, click on the Zoom link that we will provide in an upcoming email. Please make sure to watch for our email and check your spam folder if you don't receive it.

8. When logging into the Zoom meeting you will need to select "Join with Computer Audio."
9. Watch the video below for tips on how to use zoom.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=share&v=d7xXZxRDFUU>

We take great pride in our students skills and talents, and we hope that our digital lessons will allow minimal disruption and more at-home fun, as your child continues developing creative thinking, public speaking, and acting skills through our creative drama program.

We appreciate your continued support and remain dedicated to making an awesome difference in our students as we navigate these rapidly changing conditions. As with all technology, there could be few hiccups, but it will get easier with time!

Thank you so much for being a part of the Drama Kids family. We can't wait to see your child's smiling face soon! The show must go on(line)!

Dramatically yours,
Chris Fenn, Executive Director

Still have questions?
Email: contact.dramakidsnwi@gmail.com