

Star Kidz

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‘STAR KIDZ’ BRINGS A BIT OF BROADWAY TO WESTCHESTER STUDENTS

NEW SPACE A SUCCESS — NOW ACCEPTING FALL 2008 ENROLLMENT

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. [May 19, 2008]—Is the next Hannah Montana or a budding Troy or Gabriella living in your house? If you know those names, then you know how much of an impact music has on a child. Star Kidz, the premier performing arts program for children, offers Westchester kids a chance to put their best dancing feet, singing voices and acting abilities forward, through weekly group lessons.

While some Star Kidz students have gone on to sign with managers and perform in Broadway productions, the program accommodates a full range of goals and abilities, from Broadway hopefuls to those just looking to have fun.

“One of our core philosophies is that every child has a talent for creative expression, which may be hidden by a lack of confidence,” Star Kidz partner and Broadway veteran Suzanne Spano said. “Some kids come in with tons of confidence and want a career onstage, and others enter the classroom super shy and are looking to just enjoy themselves. We celebrate that variety.”

Star Kidz founding partner and show biz veteran Alyson Isbrandtsen emphasized the importance of maintaining a small student-to-teacher ratio. “We keep the maximum at 15 kids per two teachers; this way, we can provide our students with individualized attention,” she said.

This year, Star Kidz moved to Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains, gaining access to additional classrooms and a stage. Even after adding classes, fall 2008 is filling up fast. Parents are asked to sign up now to ensure that their children will be included in the class roster. Students can be enrolled by calling 914-921-0006 or by visiting www.starkidzonline.com.

Star Kidz has attracted hundreds of students since 2004, from preschoolers to teens. The curriculum includes weekly group lessons that combine instruction in singing, acting and hip-hop dancing all in one class. Kids learn through performing their favorite songs — from Broadway shows to radio hits to Disney shows like “Hannah Montana” and “High School Musical” — in an engaging and supportive atmosphere.

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“Whether through singing, acting or dancing, we provide the kids with ways to express themselves creatively,” Spano said. “Each session provides an opportunity for them to find at least one area that makes them feel good about themselves — and their preferences can change from week to week.”

Children who enroll in Star Kidz typically demonstrate new social confidence, and they use that to audition with ease for their school plays, to give speeches in front of their classes or just to simply feel good about themselves. Parents of younger students have noted that the in-class karaoke has improved their reading skills.

Another happy by-product of the program is how the students’ friendships have been enhanced as they develop special bonds among themselves and the teachers. “We’ve had parents tell us their children wish they could come to our classroom on a daily basis,” Isbrandtsen said. “And being parents ourselves, we know that most kids have a ton of extracurricular activities, so when we hear parents say that Star Kidz is their child’s favorite, it means a lot.”

Star Kidz now brings the performance home with custom birthday parties:

In addition to classes, Star Kidz offers birthday parties with “American Idol,” “High School Musical” or Broadway themes to suit the guest of honor.

“Many of our students love Star Kidz so much that they want to share it with their friends,” Spano said. “Throwing a birthday party with their favorite music is a great way to do that.”

Parents looking for more information about classes or birthday party planning are encouraged to visit www.starkidzonline.com.

Star Kidz is the unique smash-hit program that combines singing, acting and hip-hop dancing all in one class. Weekly group lessons for girls and boys ages 4-16 feature one-on-one training in a positive and fun group setting. Directed by two former Broadway performers, Star Kidz features a staff of New York City-trained instructors who teach technique, develop performance skills and build confidence for every experience level and age group. Star Kidz also helps kids enhance their friendships and improve their reading skills.

Press Only: For more information and photography, visit www.starkidzonline.com.

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