



Dance Expressions owners Brittany Patterson (left) and her mother Elaine Nickoli will move their business to a new studio location in Holland.

MIRROR PHOTO BY NANCY GAGNET



Students in Dance Expressions beginning ballet class include (from left) back row, Catherine Carr, Madison Bell, Mary Sophia Barone and Madi Russell; middle row, Elora Scamardo, Aubrey Miles, Kelly Buerk, Anna Wehrmeister, Taylor Britt and Meredith Williamson; and first row, Samanth Merkel, Cassandra Spears, Hannah Kania and Annie Al-Hammoudi. They performed a dance to the song "Think of Me" from the musical *Phantom of the Opera* at their dance recital on June 6.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANCE EXPRESSIONS STUDIO

## Dance Expressions Studio Steps Up To Larger Facility In Holland

BY NANCY GAGNET  
MIRROR REPORTER

When next year's dance season begins, students from one Maumee studio will find themselves in a newer and larger space five miles away.

Dance Expressions Studio, which boasts 250 students, has outgrown its facility at 406 Illinois Ave. in Maumee. Its new site, located at 7343 International Dr. in Holland, was the former Hot Shots Dance Studio.

The new building offers 8,000 square feet of space, almost double the size of the studio's current location.

"The move is bittersweet," said Elaine Nickoli, who owns the business with her daughter Brittany Patterson.

"We've enjoyed our business opportunity here and still look forward to supporting and being a part of Maumee, but we're also looking forward to getting involved in the Holland community," Nickoli said.

The owners weren't look-

ing to move and said it happened by chance when an ad caught their eye.

"I almost threw the ad out, because I thought it was junk mail, and then I looked at it, and thought at least we could look at the space," Nickoli said.

Patterson agreed.

"It has a nice layout and it's set up well," she said.

It just so happened that the lease on their current space was also up for renewal when the Holland location became available.

"Everything kind of fell into place," Nickoli said.

Dance Expressions Studio, which started in 2005 with 130 students, has grown quickly in three years and the owners opted to sign an extended lease at the new location.

Along with a larger dance area, the new facility has more parking, viewing windows, larger bathroom facilities and locker rooms.

New classes the mother-



The former Hot Shots dance company studio, 7343 International Dr., Holland, will be the new home of Dance Expressions.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANCE EXPRESSIONS STUDIO

daughter team plans to implement include Latin dance fitness called Zumba as well as exercise, cheerleading and tumbling classes. They also plan to make space available to rent for birthday parties.

Ballroom dance classes for couples and individuals will continue to be offered with

dance instructor Alberto Acosta.

Patterson serves as owner, dance instructor and dance coach, and Nickoli serves as owner, office manager and photographer. Other dance instructors include Lindsey Nickoli, Jessica Priehs, Nicole Elton, Amanda Lawrence, Jessica Longenberger and

Kim Glase.

Patterson says the staff works well together.

"It's such a fun job. I love working with the other teachers. We all help each other," she said.

She's well aware of the number of dance studios in the area and the way the dance industry has grown,

especially with the recent popularity of reality dance shows.

"I'm excited that kids want to dance and continue to be interested in the art, no matter where they dance," she said.

Students come from the surrounding areas including Swanton, Whitehouse, Waterville, Monclova, Holland, Maumee and Perrysburg.

The owners say that although the new space is larger, they want to maintain a feeling of warmth and comfort.

"We want to create the warm and friendly atmosphere that we have now in Maumee," Nickoli said.

It will be a busy summer as the move proceeds. In July the owners plan to paint, clean and move, and classes will begin at the new location in August.

For additional information, call Dance Expressions Studio at (419) 893-6000.