

Karen Stark

Karen's love for dance started at the age of 6, and her passion for the art grew stronger and stronger each year. At the age of 13, Karen came to Performance Plus and knew this was where she was meant to be. As a dancer, Karen competed in many pageants, regional and National competitions winning various titles and high score awards. She continued her dance education at SUNY Brockport graduating with her bachelors in Arts for Children with a minor in dance, and was certified to teach Kindergarten through Sixth grade. Karen went right to grad school and received her masters in Elementary Education.

This will be her 25th year teaching at Performance Plus Dance. Her dancing years and instructing years overlapped for a bit but she ultimately chose to work with children and share her love for dance as an instructor and choreographer. Karen has taught competitive and recreational classes, ages 2 through adult, beginner through advanced. Her dances have won many top score awards over the years. She has received choreography awards, top teacher awards, best in category, best of the best and a variety of special awards.

Karen loves to work with students and see them grow, Develop, work hard and strive to be the best dancers they can be. She enjoys being a role model and making connections with her students that last long after they graduate and move on to college.

Karen enjoys teaching all styles of dance but has always had a natural talent and true love for tap. Karen says that as a tap dancer you are a dancer and a musician. "I love seeing my movement and rhythms brought to life. My other love is creating my musical theatre production numbers. From selecting music, editing, choreography, lyrics, to costumes, props, etc., I love every part of putting my production dances together and to see everything come together on stage."

"I am so glad that I get to work at a dance studio that provides a positive atmosphere is welcoming, organized and family orientated. It is so inspiring to work with our variety of students all sharing the same passion and love for dance whether it is just a hobby, after-school activity or having the desire to pursue as a career. It is so nice to be a part of a team of teachers that support each other and work so well together. We always encourage team spirit and include all dancers to be a part of our Performance Plus Family. "

Karen lives in Hilton with her husband Chuck and two children, Tyler (9) and Emily (6). In his spare time, Chuck has made many props for PPD dances including a bridge, jail cells, and life sized Barbie boxes. This will be Emily's 5th year in dance and Karen says she is so glad that she gets to share her love for dance with her daughter. Tyler plays baseball and also loves to play golf. Outside of dance, Karen and her family like to go on family bike rides, travel, go to sporting events and go camping.