

## **Vicksburg Dance and Tumbling Program**

**2015-2016**

One of the corner stone programs of the Vicksburg Community Education department is the Dance and Tumbling program. This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year of providing area youth with a wonderful dance experience.

The program's humble beginnings started in 1985 at Sunset Lake Elementary school with a tumbling class and a ballet class. The second year the classes moved over to the Administration Building and in 1987 Vicki White took over the program and managed it until 1995. Each year more classes were added and the variety was expanded to include Tap and Jazz. Dawn Simpson began coordinating the program with the start of the 1996 season and eventually passed the director's baton on to Michelle Malito in 2003. Currently, Jami Beulle is the program coordinator, a former VHS student and dance student.

Over the years the dance staff has offered an extensive array of dance opportunities for the youth of the south county area. Always building on the solid foundation of tumbling, ballet, Jazz and Tap, children have also taken Hawaiian, Lyrical, Musical Theater, World Fusion and Hip Hop.

The secret to the longevity and success of the dance program lies in the staffing. The staff consists of some of the best dancers in the area who have a gift for sharing the art of dance. They are experts in instilling the joy and skill that comes with dancing and tumbling. Many of the staff have been in the Vicksburg program as a students and have come back to teach here in the program.

Over the last 30 years this Vicksburg Community Education program has put thousands of children on stage dancing to their hearts content.