

To: My Ballet School of Vermont Students  
From: Ruth Vickery, Ballet Instructor



I have taught ballet for over 35 years. I began dancing at age two at my aunt's ballet studio. I remember my first classes dancing with a little piece of chiffon. Next I remember at age 7 having my first solo in my first recital and getting a reward for "most improved." I loved ballet. As a student I performed at the Governor's Inauguration Ball, on television, in Boston and at several dance conventions. My parents took me to many ballets where I saw the stars of the time.

As much as I wanted to be a professional dancer, as a Catholic I thought that I had to become a nun and live in a monastery. Also, at age fourteen my teacher moved from my small town, leaving me with no options in which to study ballet.

I did not become a nun; instead I married and had six children! For dancers, the need to dance is always in your heart; ballet never really left my heart or body. Even with my busy young family, I felt God was calling me to teach ballet. I opened a ballet school and began teaching. The results: children that would not have had dance training options in my small town went on to be accepted in prestigious ballet companies and schools throughout the country.

**My philosophy of ballet:** Ballet is the refined technique of movement.

**My philosophy as a teacher:** You don't simply teach class, but you teach by giving your whole being & all of your love to the students that are in front of you.

**My philosophy for a person with talent:** Talent is nothing but a small seed that needs nurturing and tender loving care. With work, the talent will grow and become fruitful; it will last a life time. When a God-given talent is given back it becomes an eternal gift of love.

**To The Ballet School of Vermont:** Be fruitful.

Ruth Vickery  
The Ballet School of Vermont  
Instructor, Ballet  
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