

CLEVELAND BALLET

CLEVELAND BALLET RECEIVES GRANT FOR VERMILION STUDENT EDUCATION AND APPRECIATION OF SLEEPING BEAUTY

By Lily Sargent, Additional Programs Coordinator

The Erie County Community Foundation and Estelle Dorn Foundation have awarded Cleveland Ballet and Harbourtown Fine Arts Center (HFAC) a grant to teach middle school students about the spring production of *Sleeping Beauty*. Students will parlay this education and learn an excerpt which will be performed at Sailorway Middle School along with dancers from Cleveland Ballet.

Sailorway Middle School is opening their doors for a special four-week after-school dance program so students can experience creative activities and ballet lessons. The program is centered around Cleveland Ballet's upcoming production of *Sleeping Beauty*, where students will get a behind the scenes look at how such productions come together.

At the end of the session, the young artists will perform alongside some of Cleveland Ballet's professional dancers in front of their peers, giving the school an exclusive sneak peek of the upcoming April production.

Molly Baber, the teacher working with these fantastic students speaks on her own excitement of the program, "After asking these kids why they chose to sign up for this program, every one of them said because dance sounds fun! It's been a privilege to be able to teach these kids the basics of dance and watch as they experience the same joy I felt as a child."

Cleveland Ballet and HFAC hope this collaboration will not only build a lifetime of memories, but also inspire the students to pursue their own artistic path and dreams in life. "HFAC is proud to be the connection between Sailorway Middle School and Cleveland Ballet," said Dr. Jim Chapple, President of HFAC. "It is our hope to open the minds of young adolescents to the beauty and artistry of dance and to have them develop a love and appreciation for ballet as an art form. We want them to experience the hard work and skill that goes into conveying a story through dance."