

Grand Blanc Living

An exclusive magazine serving the fine neighborhoods of Grand Blanc



*The Harrisons present:
Studio 11*



Best Version Media

Cover photo by Lori Buda



Nate and Sarah Harrison Seize the Day

So often in life people search endlessly for that which they are truly passionate. You know that comforting feeling when going to work every day ceases to feel like work. I am speaking of the critical life intersection where there is alignment between your purpose, passion, and profession. Sarah Harrison has managed to find this place and the great thing is everyone can take advantage of it!

By Jason Rogers

Photos by Lori Buda and the Harrisons

of the studio's instruction is the Cecchetti method, a well-known and respected curriculum for learning classical ballet technique used all over the world. Studio 11 is fortunate to have Bethany Lenhart as a teacher; she is the current President of the Cecchetti Council of America, part of Cecchetti International. Under the guidance of Bethany, several of the teachers are currently working on their Cecchetti teacher certification as well. Beyond ballet, the teachers have a diverse skill set across the various disciplines and are driven to share their love for dance with the students.

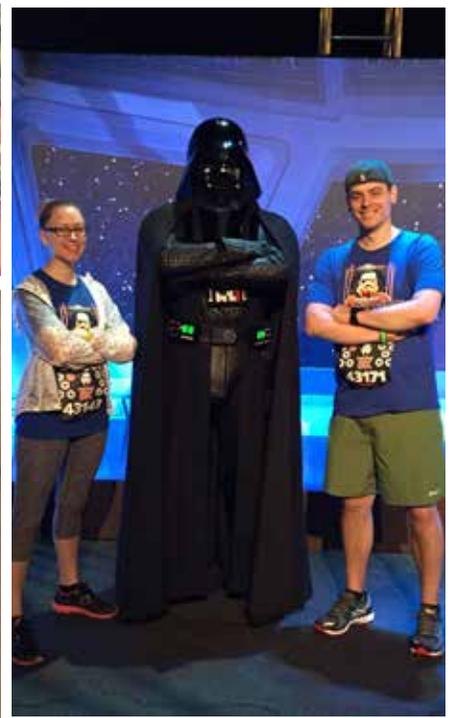
How many of you knew that we have a hidden gem for all things dance in Grand Blanc? Studio 11 was founded in 2015, by Sarah Harrison as the result of her passion for dance. She had been dancing at Pelio School of Dance since age 3, and when the owner moved out of state, she wanted a way of keeping its students and its teachers together. When the perfect space next to Little Joe's became available, right in the heart of downtown, Sarah knew she had found the perfect home for her vision.

As Studio 11 continues to grow they look forward to introducing other forms of dance such as ballroom, private lessons for couples, and lyrical. Studio 11 also hopes to expand fitness offerings by adding Barre Intensity classes starting in July in addition to the current offerings of Zumba and Zumba Kids. At the heart of what the studio is trying to accomplish is the creation of a family atmosphere and becoming a cornerstone of the Grand Blanc dance, fitness, and arts community.

Studio 11 class offerings focus on classical dance training including: ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop. An integral part

Sarah could not do this all alone though, besides her wonderful teachers, her husband Nate provides great support as well. He wears many "hats" at the studio including greeter, webmaster, chief financial officer, marketing, and many other roles. Nate and Sarah have truly been a team since they met at freshman orientation at Michigan State University. Both graduated in 2002, Sarah from Flint Powers Catholic High School and Nate from Haslett High School near Lansing. At Michigan State, Sarah earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Bachelor of Science in Zoology. Nate





earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Applied Engineering Sciences and Packaging, followed by the completion of an MBA from UM-Flint in 2014. Shortly after Sarah's graduation from MSU, they got engaged in Traverse City and wed in June of 2008, at St. John Vianney in Flint. In addition to supporting the studio, Nate currently works in IT at the General Motors Customer Care and Aftersales World Headquarters in Grand Blanc.

Although Sarah and Nate both love Studio 11, they pursue other hobbies as well. For example, Sarah enjoys selling Thirty-One Gifts and Nate loves to run. They both share a passion for MSU athletics, travel, movies, TV shows, Disney, and animals. Sometimes all of these passions align, especially when they go to Disney so Nate can run a race. In fact, the Harrison's will be descending upon Disney World in January of 2018 when Nate competes in the Goofy Challenge. The race is anything but Goofy as runners compete in a half marathon (13.1 miles) on Saturday and a full marathon (26.2 miles) on Sunday. Nate recently completed his fourth marathon. He broke the 4 hour barrier at the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon in May 2017, a hard earned personal record. Nate wanted to thank the Grand Blanc Running Peeps and the honorary members from Fenton and Lapeer for helping him reach this goal.

Beyond their hobbies, Nate and Sarah enjoy spending time with their immediate family and their newly found family at Studio 11. Sarah offered, "It's been a fun adventure so far with two successful recitals and countless wonderful families joining us for the journey. We couldn't do it without them and our wonderful teachers! The studio keeps us busy with classes year round and we are excited for the future as we continue to grow and become a bigger part of the Grand Blanc dance and fitness community."

The Harrison's also count 2 cats: Jack, a domestic short hair and Lucie, a domestic long hair, and 2 dogs, Indiana, a rat terrier and Georgia, a pug mix, as members of their immediate family. The Harrison clan resides in the Woodfield Farms subdivision. Regarding the sub Nate noted that he, "Fell in love with the neighborhood, the big lots,

and backing up to farm land. Grand Blanc was convenient as I worked in Detroit in the past and Sarah's family is from Clio." Sarah described her neighbors and community as, "Great, all of the neighbors are really friendly and welcoming. In the summer the neighborhood comes to life with kids playing, bonfires, and the community pool." Studio 11 is the product of the Harrison's collective hard work and passion. Both Nate and Sarah are driven by the pursuit of competitive excellence, the importance of doing things the right way, and having fun in the process. The family motto is the Latin phrase Carpe Diem, which means seize the day. Nate's mother lived by that motto and, "...ever since she passed, we've just embraced it."

Grand Blanc is lucky to have them and they are grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community. The Harrison's love their neighborhood and value the relationships they have built through the years. Grand Blanc Living salutes the Harrison's for bringing the world of dance to Grand Blanc and we look forward to what the future holds!

