

It's definitely harder to tap dance on carpet.

By Jack Mulford

A freshman at Wayland-Cohocton High School, Ariana Obrochta is turning towards the arts to help maintain her sanity during these unprecedented times. Distanced learning has taken the place of school, and Ariana has been taking advantage of all the extra free time.

Making sure students maintain a healthy balance of school and free time is very important when away from the actual, physical school for such a long time.

“At home, I have more time to get assignments done. I have more family time,” said Ariana. “Me and my mom will take the dogs for a walk, we'll play board games.” Two of her favorite extracurricular activities include dance and art.

At the Dansville Dance Academy, Ariana is a juniorette, the oldest age group at the studio. Unfortunately, performances have been pushed back at least until quarantine is over. She has classes twice a week over a video call with the rest of the class. Being in a living room though, is a very different practice scene than a typical dance studio.

“It's definitely harder to tap dance on carpet,” said Obrochta.

The practice scene has also changed as a result of this distanced dancing.

“It's a lot different because you don't get the same in person support through a phone from your friends,” said Ariana.

A typical rehearsal involves practicing their routines - tap, jazz, and lyrical ballet. On the bright side though, she said, “We haven't had to change our routines. It's basically the same, we're just at home now.”

Art has been another hobby that Ariana has been able to delve into with this surplus of leisure time. One project she has worked on is a board painting.

“You take cups of paint and pour them on the canvas, and you don’t have a set goal of what it’s going to turn out to be, so you won’t know what it is until you’re done,” said Obrochta. “I think this one looks like a map.”

“Overall, I feel really good.”

