

2011-12 Season



Instructors

The Synchronized Skating Developmental Program is under the direction of Marsha Snyder, head coach of the RMU Island Sports Center Steel City Blades as well as the RMU collegiate synchronized skating team. Snyder is a three-time U.S. National Synchronized Skating gold medalist and a 2003 graduate of Miami University of Ohio, where she was a four-year member of the varsity synchronized skating team. She has competed at the international level, finishing ninth at the ISU World Championships in 2003. In addition, Marsha is a 2008 US National Championship Ice Dance competitor.

Along with Marsha, the Little Blades program will be coached by members of the Steel City Blades coaching staff.

Dress Code

- All skaters must have their own skates.
- Tennis shoes must be worn during the off-ice portion of class.
- Proper skating attire is required – skating dress and tights or sweat suit; no jeans.
- Team practice outfit will be discussed at first practice.
- Hair must be pulled back in a ponytail or bun.
- Jewelry is not permitted (necklaces, rings or bracelets).
- Gloves are not permitted.



For More Information

Beth Sutton, Skating Director

412-397-4469 • sutton@rmuislandsports.org

Schedule and Fees

Class Time

Sundays, 4:15–5:30 p.m.

4:15–4:45 p.m. Off-Ice Warm-up and Training

5–5:30 p.m. On-Ice Instructional Class

Fall Semester ~ 11 weeks

October 2, 9*, 16, 23, 30 (Oct. 9: Parent Meeting @ 1:15 p.m.)

November 6, 13, 20, 27

December 3**, 4***, 11, 18

*Oct Time Change: 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.

** Saturday, Dec. 3 – Holiday Show Dress Rehearsal 8:30 –10:30 a.m.

*** Sunday, Dec. 4 – Holiday Spectacular Ice Show 1–3 p.m.

Fall Semester Fee: \$220

Winter Semester ~ 10 weeks

January 8, 22, 29 (No Class Jan. 15)

February 5, 12, 29 (No Class Feb. 19)

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Winter Semester Fee: \$200

Fee includes practice ice and coaching fees as listed above.

Additional fees will be incurred for extra practices called by the coach in preparation of competitions and shows. Fees incurred at competitions: practice ice, coaching fees, coaching travel expenses and event entries will also be an additional expense which is not covered in the class fee.

Exhibitions and Competitions

The Little Blades team will prepare a program to be performed at the RMU Island Sports Center Holiday Spectacular Skating Show on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011. The Team will use the same program for various ISI and U.S. Figure Skating competitions during the skating season. A tentative list of competitions are listed below, additional information will be discussed at practice.

Little Blades Exhibition & Competition Schedule

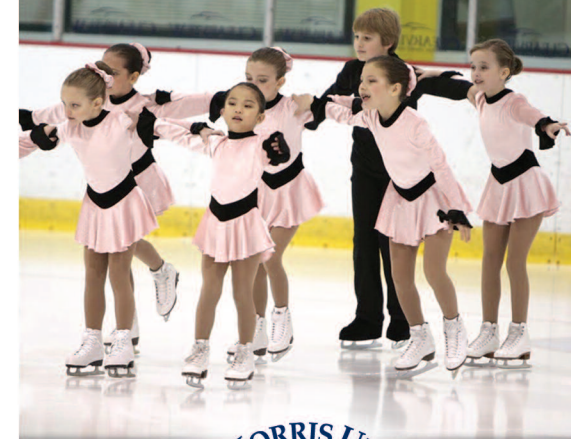
(Tentative – Events will be discussed and confirmed at parent meeting)

- Nov. 19: Mt. State Synchro Skate Competition Charleston, WV
- Dec. 3: RMU ISC Holiday Show Dress Rehearsal
Dec. 4 RMU ISC Holiday Spectacular Skating Show
- Jan. 14 & 15: Mid-America Synchronized Skating Competition: Fraser, MI
- Feb. 18: Reflections Synchronized Skating Competition: Hershey, PA
- March 17: Shamrock Skate Exhibition, RMU ISC
- April TBD: Golden Blades ISI Competition: Delmont, PA

Additional exhibition or competition may be added.

Synchronized Skating Developmental Program (Little Blades)

Ages 6–13



7600 Grand Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15225

412-397-3335

rmuislandsports.org



What Is Synchronized Skating?

Synchronized skating is a fun and rewarding experience for skaters of all ages. It is the newest and fastest growing discipline in the sport of figure skating. Team skating first appeared in the late 1950s at the University of Michigan, and synchronized skating has now become an international sport. U.S. teams now compete with teams from around the world. Synchronized skating is slated to be an Olympic sport in the 2014 Winter Games.

Synchronized skating is all about teamwork. A synchronized skating team consists of 8 to 20 members, skating various formations and steps in unison to a choreographed program set to music. The objective is for the team to skate as one unit rather than as individuals. Programs are performed in front of judges during competitions and in ice show exhibitions.

Synchronized skating also benefits figure skaters in the development of their singles skating by enhancing on-ice performance and overall skating development.

Synchronized skating offers you the opportunity to participate in a group activity and make new friends, while sharing in the experience, energy and camaraderie of a team sport.

The Synchronized Skating Developmental Program: Little Blades

The Robert Morris University Island Sports Center currently has three competitive U.S. Figure Skating synchronized skating teams: the Steel City Blades Junior Blades, Junior Competitive and Competitive Team.

The purpose of the Synchronized Skating Developmental Program is to introduce skaters ages 6–13 to synchronized skating and to familiarize them with elementary holds, formations and transitions. Emphasis is on the development of basic synchronized skating skills that are necessary to prepare for synchronized team tryouts. However, there is no obligation to try out or join the Steel City Blades synchronized skating teams.

The Synchronized Skating Developmental Program teaches a variety of hand, elbow and shoulder holds in addition to footwork, unison, straight lines and formations. You'll improve your basic skating skills while having lots of fun!

There is a place for everyone in our synchronized skating program!

Prerequisites

In order to participate in the Synchronized Skating Developmental Program, skaters must be between the ages of 6 and 13, possess strong backward skating skills and be at the ISI Gamma level or higher. Skaters must be enrolled in the Learn to Skate Level 2 program and/or be receiving weekly private lessons while participating in the Synchronized Skating Developmental Program.

Fees

Fall Semester: \$220/11 weeks • Winter Semester: \$200/10 weeks
Open enrollment applies to the Synchronized Skating Developmental Program – fee will be pro-rated accordingly. All skaters must complete the skill development portion of the class before they are permitted to participate in the event and competition program.

Additional Fees

Skaters will be responsible for the following additional fees, which are not included in the initial program fee. More information about these fees will be provided at practice.

- Team practice outfit
- Performance dress (to be worn at all exhibitions and competitions)
- Team Fleece Jacket
- Event fees (team entry fees for competitions and instructor travel expenses will be divided equally among all team members)
- Additional practice sessions which may be schedule for extra preparation for exhibitions or competitions
- Memberships (applications will be provided at practice)
 - ISI – \$15 annually
 - U.S. FS Basic Skills – \$12 annually

* Current members of the ISI or USFS Basic Skills or member club (Pittsburgh FSC) will not need to pay additional membership fees. A copy of current membership(s) and member number(s) must be provided at time of registration.

Parent Meeting

A parent meeting will be held **Sunday, October 9 @ 1:15 p.m.** to discuss the Little Blades program, potential competition and exhibition schedules, competition dresses, etc.