



Marla Ruano

Dance Instructor

Marla Ruano, originally from Ocala, Florida , has called Gainesville her home for the past 14 years. She has had most of her dance training under the direction of Mary Ellen Vowinkel at the Mary Ellen School of Dance since the age of 2. At the age of 16 she taught the very first acro class for MESD and a couple years later began a competitive team of all genres for ages 5-18. She was the Director for Ocala Dance Force Company for 2 years and has recently passed that role on to her sister Maycee Stromwall. Under Marla's direction she has choreographed and trained many students and teams who have earned overall top scores and are currently professional dancers. The most rewarding part of teaching dance has been to train her sister and to have the opportunity to choreograph award winning routines together. When they team up they are known as the Stromsters! When Marla is not in the studio she runs her own cleaning business and is a full time mom to 3 beautiful boys. Some of her hobbies include dancing (duh!), golf, reading and spending time with friends and family. Marla says "I look forward to being back at Independence and sharing with all the talented dancers a passion that will help build confidence and exponential growth on and off the dance floor!" #ShineYourLight