



Guardian/Student Handbook

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Welcome to the School of Ballet RI

Letter from the Principal

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to a new year at the School of Ballet RI, a year filled with promise, growth, and artistic discovery. We hope your break was both restful and rejuvenating. As we begin this exciting new chapter, our dedicated faculty looks forward to the journey ahead. They have been thoughtfully preparing meaningful challenges, enriching opportunities, and inspiring experiences designed to support each student's development both in the studio and beyond. We remain committed to providing a high-quality, supportive learning environment where every student can refine their technique, grow artistically, and thrive.

To our students: approach this year with passion, discipline, and curiosity. Progress is built through consistent effort, a love of learning, and the willingness to embrace new challenges. Every class offers an opportunity to grow, whether by strengthening your technique, deepening your artistry, or building confidence. Embrace the process, learn from setbacks, and support one another as members of a vibrant artistic community.

To our parents: thank you for the trust you place in us and for the invaluable support you provide your children throughout their dance education. Your partnership is an essential part of our community, and we welcome open communication as we work together to guide, encourage, and support each student's journey.

This year, we will continue to emphasize not only technical excellence but also the qualities that help shape thoughtful and well-rounded artists: musicality, artistry, resilience, discipline, and a deep appreciation for the beauty and tradition of classical ballet. Becoming a dancer is as much about personal growth and dedication as it is about performance.

Together, we will foster an environment where students feel challenged, inspired, supported, and celebrated. We are confident that the year ahead will be filled with meaningful growth, creativity, and achievement, and we look forward to sharing every step of that journey with you.

With warmest regards and best wishes for a wonderful year,

~Christopher Anderson
Principal CORE Program
School of Ballet RI

WHO WE ARE

Our History

Ballet RI, formerly Festival Ballet of RI and then Festival Ballet Providence, was founded in 1978 by Christine Hennessey and Winthrop Corey, formerly principal dancers with The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada. The non-profit Festival Ballet Providence started its own school. Ms. Hennessey led the company artistically until her death in 1997. Since Ms. Hennessey's passing, leadership of the Company passed to Mr. Mihailo Djuric. After Mr. Djuric retired, Kathleen Breen Combes took over as Director of Festival Ballet Providence. In 2023, Festival Ballet Providence officially became Ballet RI.

The School of BALLET RI currently boasts a distinguished international faculty offering training through a variety of access points:

- Children's Program (ages 3-8) | an excellent introduction to dance for young children
- Core Program (ages 8-22) | a progressive curriculum aimed at developing ballet technique in a focused training environment
- Trainee Program | an audition and/or invitation-based program for young adults seeking a professional career in ballet
- Open Program | (ages 8-Adult) high quality dance education experiences for the community, including people with disabilities
 - Adaptive Dance | classes for dancers with disabilities
- Summer and Camp Programs | dance education opportunities outside of the traditional academic year

At The School of Ballet RI, students grow as individuals, learn the joy of movement through dance, and train pre-professionally in a serious and nurturing environment. The close association with the Professional Company provides opportunities for talented dance students to emulate experienced professionals and to appear on stage with company dancers in major productions.

Our Philosophy

The School of Ballet RI offers a community where students can focus on dancing in an environment that is joyful, supportive, and full of integrity without compromise. We believe in a positive student-centered approach in our teaching practice. As educators, we aim to provide an exceptional dance education in a variety of styles by emphasizing the joy and satisfaction that it brings our students.

The School of Ballet RI is composed of a world class faculty of professional teachers providing the highest standard of dance instruction. Each teacher has completed many years of educational training, degrees in Dance Pedagogy or significant performance experience. Our teachers are current and former international performers and engage in continued education throughout the year thus they provide the most relevant education in dance today. Art is constantly evolving, and our approach to dance education remains open to ensure our students receive the most up to date education in the field.

Our Curriculum

As a classical ballet school, Ballet RI offers its students a comprehensive dance education. The syllabus is designed to meet the needs of students striving for a professional career in ballet, while providing class options that support excellence in various dance forms, as well as dance for pure enjoyment. The curriculum fosters a strong technical foundation in ballet and the transferrable skills of discipline, commitment, and creativity.

School Structure

Children's Program (Ages 3-8)

Meant to magnify students' imaginations and explore their moving bodies

- Creative Movement (ages 3-4) is an introduction to the structure of dance class through play-based activities.
- Pre-ballet 1 – 3 (Ages 5-8) is focused on coordination, motor development, listening skills, musical awareness, spatial skills, and introduces a more formal study of classical ballet through an age-appropriate approach.

Core Program (Ages 8–22)

The Core Program is designed to nurture dancers on a journey that combines technical rigor with artistry and dedication. Training scaffolds students into the intensity required to embody the technique of classical ballet, while fostering creativity, musicality, and versatility through diverse movement experiences.

- Primary Levels (ages 8–13) - The entry point into formal ballet training, where students strengthen their love of dance while laying a strong foundation. The classes build on previous introductory experience and gradually increase in frequency and commitment level. Increasingly challenging exercises begin to include turning and jumping, with an emphasis on building the foundation of strength and flexibility required for pointe work and more complex movements.
 - Primary A (Levels 1–3): Designed for first-year students beginning their primary education. These classes focus on building foundational skills appropriate to each level.
 - Primary B (Levels 1–3): For students who have completed Primary A or have already developed foundational skills at this level. These classes offer a more advanced pace and deeper training opportunities.
 - Placement: Students are placed in Primary A or Primary B based on the results of a placement class and the Principal's recommendation, ensuring the class aligns with their current abilities and learning needs.
- Upper Levels (ages 12–22) - Dancers refine foundational alignment and gain stamina and strength while cultivating artistry and musicality. Pointe work and men's technique are emphasized alongside expressive port de bras, pirouettes, and batterie. At the highest level, dancers focus on both technical precision and the expressive, individual artistry that brings ballet to life.
- Pre-Professional (ages 15–22) - Dancers that are committed to pursuing a professional career in ballet, and who are identified as ready by the Principal and Artistic Executive Director, will be selected for this program which includes a hybrid morning and evening option to begin preparing them for the more intensive experience of being a full-time Trainee.
- Flex (ages 12–22) - A reduced schedule option for dancers seeking strong ballet training with more flexibility. FLEX students still engage with character and contemporary classes, cultivating versatility and expressivity. (Please note: FLEX students are not eligible for Ensemble, Pas de Deux, or Scholarships.)
- Trainee Program - An immersive company experience program with a focus on individual rigorous technical training. Admission is by audition at our Company Rep Workshop or by invitation from the Artistic Executive Director. Trainees commit to a limited number of School classes while fully immersing themselves in the company schedule. The trainee program offers mentorship, industry specific workshops, audition preparation, and professional performance opportunities.

Open Program (Ages 8+)

Classes in the Open Program provide access to excellent dance education in an environment that centers joy.

- Ballet Fundamentals classes - age 8 to 18 are designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore dance as an enriching activity in a supportive and professional setting.
- Open classes for Adults are designed to promote an understanding of the technique and artistry of movement in dance while developing a strong and flexible body. Taught in a welcoming and non-competitive environment, these classes are offered at a variety of levels
- Adaptive Dance enables dancers with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities to explore movement in an encouraging, safe environment where professional teachers are trained to deliver class through a joy-centered lens.

Performance Opportunities

Students are given multiple performance opportunities throughout the year including Culmination, Next Generation Choreographic Project for Core students, Performance Ensemble by invitation by the directors and our audition-based children's cast of The Nutcracker.

Our students are inspired by the opportunity to work side by side with the professional company both in the studio, as well as on the stage during many company productions; including The Nutcracker and other ballet classics.

Student Advancement

Throughout the School year, teachers carefully monitor the progress of each student.

Recommendations for a student's advancement are based on age, technical development, and physical development.

Advancement from one class level to the next is not automatic and is carefully assessed by the faculty. The faculty take into account changes in the child's body as well as any changes that may have occurred in the child's attitude towards attendance and aptitude for the progressively exacting curriculum.

Because children develop individually and unpredictably as they mature, it often becomes apparent that one or more of the characteristics essential for the exacting profession of classical ballet have not developed as anticipated.

Therefore, parents should prepare their children for the possibility that School of Ballet RI's faculty might determine that it is in the best interest of the child to repeat their level.

Repeating a level does not guarantee the student will progress the following year; it also does not mean that they will not move up. A repeated level is an opportunity for the child to spend an extra year working to master the curriculum; the outcome is not predetermined.

Students and families will receive their end of the year evaluation within 2 to 4 weeks after the end of the academic year (June), prior to the opening of registration for the following year.

Students continuing with their dance education throughout the summer at School of Ballet RI will be placed in levels during that summer based on their current level during the previous

school year. Any further evaluation of the student's placement will be at the discretion of the faculty and Principal of the School.

Summer Programs

Chances for the community to continue dancing with Ballet RI the whole year round.

- Summer Dance Intensive offers students the opportunity to study in a professional training environment. Our exceptional roster of teachers includes BALLET RI faculty and international guest teachers who are committed to providing individualized attention to maximize success!
- Summer Camps are fun day camps filled with engaging, creative activities to give your summer training a boost.
- Summer Dance Classes offer CORE-level classes for students in Primary 1 and Primary 2 to support skill development and strengthen their technique in preparation for the fall semester.

General Policies

We wish to provide a welcoming environment and safe learning space for all. Please reach out to the Principal if you have any questions or concerns regarding any of our policies.

Registration

Registration will Open and Close each semester on specific dates. The dates are as follows:

- Semester 1: Opens July 13th, 2026. Closes September 27th, 2026
- Semester 2: Opens: November 2, 2026. Closes December 13th, 2026
- Semester 3: Opens: Opens February 22nd, 2026. Closes April 4th, 2026
- Summer Registration: Opens February 22nd, 2026. Closes June 13th, 2026*

We encourage students to register as early as possible to ensure there is space available in the respective programs in which they are interested. We do not offer priority registration in The School.

Students may not take class until they are enrolled in a program. All questions related to registration should be directed to the School Office Manager at lisam@balletri.org.

*Please note that partial enrollment in Summer Dance Intensive is not available.

Processes

We encourage students to enroll via our online platform, Mindbody. We **do not** recommend using the MindBody app to families. MindBody accounts can be most easily accessed via the "Current Student" page on the Ballet RI website.

Trial and Placement Classes

Students who are new to The School of Ballet RI and are interested in the Children's Program, Ballet Fundamentals classes, and/or Core Program may take a trial or placement class at any time throughout the academic year. Trial and placement classes are not available for the Adult Program as these classes can be registered for on a drop-in basis.

For those interested in the Children's Program or the Ballet Fundamentals classes, a trial class can be taken for the cost of \$15. Please schedule a trial class by contacting the Front Desk (info@balletri.org).

For those interested in the Core Program, a placement class can be taken for the cost of \$25. Please schedule a trial class by contacting the Front Desk.

Wait Lists

Wait lists are managed automatically via our registration software, MindBody. If a class is full, you will automatically be given the option to register for the wait list.

Cancellation due to Low Enrollment

From time to time, a class may be cancelled due to low enrollment. Families are notified via email. Decisions regarding whether a class runs for the entirety of the session will be made by the end of the registration period. Classes must have at least five students enrolled to run.

Communication

Families can expect to receive communication from Lisam@balletri.org or info@balletri.org

Tuition

Tuition in The School is collected in the following ways:

- Enrollment per trimester (Children's Program, Open Program, Adaptive Dance, Core Program, and the Trainee Program)
- Drop-in classes or Monthly Pass Memberships (Adult Open Program)
- Summer Programs – one lump sum

For details on how tuition in The Children's and Core Programs is broken down, please see the tuition addendum at the end of this handbook.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Scholarships and Financial Aid are available only to those students enrolled in the Children's and Core Programs.

- Christine Hennessey Scholarship Fund - The Christine Hennessey Scholarship Fund honors the legacy and values of our co-founder, who believed education was central to our mission and the broad success of the arts in the community. Applications are accepted once a year, prior to the academic term in the fall and require pertinent tax information. If interested, please email info@balletri.org and put "Scholarship Application" in the subject line. Please note this scholarship is available only to those students enrolled in the Core Program.
- The family of Derrick Jerrell Davis are honored to offer a transformative scholarship program in Derrick's memory, which funds tuition assistance for promising dance students of color ages 5 – 20 who demonstrate financial need. This scholarship covers tuition and/or additional costs associated with dance needs (such as uniforms, fees, etc.). This application does not require financial documentation.

For more information about additional scholarship and financial aid opportunities, please visit: <https://balletri.org/student-studio/#financial-aid>

Contributions

As a non-profit organization which highly subsidizes its tuition, provides scholarships, and regularly offers programs for no cost to the community, Ballet RI accepts tax-deductible contributions from those community members who feel moved to give. An option to add a contribution to your registration is available each time you purchase a class. Additionally, if you are interested in getting involved further, we encourage you to reach out to info@balletri.org

Payment

All school registration and trimester tuition payments are due prior to a student taking class, unless an alternate payment plan has been established. **All late tuition payments will incur a**

late fee of 5% of the session's tuition. If a family is in need of a payment plan, they can reach out to the School Office Manager at lisam@ballettri.org.

Class Change

All class changes must be made within the first week of each session and must be submitted to the front desk on an Add/Drop form. Students enrolled in the levels of Pre-Ballet and above must receive approval from the Principal to change classes.

Refund/Withdraw Policy

Tuition is refundable within the indicated registration periods of each respective program, less a \$30 processing fee per child, registration fee, the pro-rated cost of weeks that have taken place (whether attended or not), and any applied discounts. Please note that schedule and/or teachers are subject to change. Once a registration period has closed, tuition is not refundable.

Paperwork/Emails

Most correspondence is now done via email. ***Please make sure we have your correct email address to ensure a smooth process.*** School information can also be found on our website at www.ballettri.org. All paperwork must be completed and returned before the student attends any classes.

Missed Classes and Make Up Classes

- Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes.
- All students/ parents/ guardians are required to call the front desk to report an absence.
- We ask that students not attend class if they are sick.
- Because classes follow a progressive curriculum and enrollment is limited, make-up classes are not guaranteed. Students who miss class due to illness or an excused absence may request one make-up class per month, subject to space availability and approval by the School Principal. Make-up classes must be completed within 30 days of the absence, in the student's assigned level or another level designated by the school. Missed classes due to holidays, performances, weather closures, or voluntary absences are not eligible for make-up classes.
- For students participating in Culmination, attendance is mandatory. During the third semester, when class time is also used for rehearsals, students are permitted up to two excused absences. If a student exceeds two absences, their eligibility to participate in Culmination will be reviewed by the Faculty and the School Principal.

Observation

Visitors are only allowed in studios during scheduled observation days. Observation Days are held twice over the course of the academic year. These dates are indicated on the school calendar, which is located on the website and at the end of this handbook.

Photo/Media Policy

Our marketing department will periodically visit classes over the course of the academic year to capture content. Families can opt out of having their child's likeness captured by photo or video during the registration process. To protect the privacy of our entire student body, families are not permitted to video or photograph classes. This policy is relaxed during Observation Days. Additionally, we strongly discourage students from connecting with faculty on social media until they have been out of The School for at least a 12-month time period.

Bathroom

Guardians of children age 4 and under are asked to remain in the lobby during your child's class or provide a cell phone number so they can be called to return for bathroom breaks.

Children age 4 and under must be accompanied by a guardian when going to the bathroom. Front desk staff members and/or faculty are never allowed to take children to the bathroom or clean up after them. If your child has specific needs, please contact the Registrar.

Lobby

All students and visitors are asked to be respectful of the administrative staff and studio classes by keeping noise to a minimum.

Class Locations

- o Ballet RI Studios – 825 Hope Street

Inclement Weather

The School of Ballet RI follows the inclement weather cancellations as announced by Providence Public Schools. If classes are cancelled due to inclement weather, announcements will be posted on local television stations 6, 10, and 12 as well as local radio stations. An announcement will be on our phone and website. Families in The School will receive text messages from MindBody if there is a cancellation. The School also sends emails and posts on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Volunteering

We love our family and community volunteers! If you would like to help out with our many ongoing projects please give your information to the front desk. All volunteer hours must be kept by the individual. Ballet RI is not responsible for logging volunteer hours.

Gifts to Faculty and Staff

Staff and faculty at Ballet RI School are encouraged not to accept gifts from individual students or their parents. While the School appreciates the spirit behind individual gifts, families are asked to comply with this policy. Faculty will not be permitted to give individual gifts to students.

Families who wish to show their appreciation to staff are encouraged to make a donation in their teacher's name to the Ballet RI Annual Fund Appeal, which supports our entire organization. The teacher's name will appear in our annual playbill.

Procedures | Youth Programs

Arrival and Departure

In general, parents/guardians will drop off their students at the front doors of Ballet RI up to 30 minutes prior to their first scheduled class of the day. Students must be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of the last class or seminar of the day. A parent/ caregiver must pick-up their student at the designated time each day. Parents/ caregivers may waive the in-person parent/caregiver pick-up requirement by signing a waiver at check-in on the first day of the program.

Arrival (Drop-Off)

- Students may arrive **no more than 15–30 minutes before** their first scheduled class unless enrolled in supervised programs.
- Parents should use the **designated drop-off zone/ parking lot** only.
- Drivers when dropping off should::

- Pull all the way forward before stopping.
- Remain in the vehicle.
- Keep unloading under one minute.
- Exit promptly after students have safely reached the sidewalk.
- Students should exit on the **curb side only**, never into traffic.
- Parking or waiting in the loading lane is prohibited.
- Families needing extra time (young children, injuries, costumes, wheelchairs) should park in a designated parking space instead of using the active loading lane.
- Parking is available in our parking lot, limited to first come, first serve.

Dismissal (Pick-Up)

For students under approximately age 12:

- Students remain inside until their authorized adult arrives.
- Staff release students only to individuals listed on the student's authorized pickup list.
- Photo identification may be requested when the adult is unfamiliar.
- Changes to pickup arrangements should be submitted in writing before class whenever possible.

For students ages 12-17:

- Parents may authorize independent dismissal via the form sent out during registration.
- Students may leave on foot, public transit, rideshare (if permitted by school policy), or drive themselves if age-eligible.

Authorized Pick-Up

- Parents designate authorized adults at registration.
- Emergency pickups may be arranged through the Front Desk.
- Staff will not release minors to unauthorized individuals.

Late Pick-Up

- Students remain supervised for a defined grace period (for example, 15 minutes).
- After that:
 - Staff attempt to contact parents and emergency contacts.
 - Repeated late pickups may incur a supervision fee or require a meeting with administration.
- Chronic late pickups may affect enrollment if they create staffing or safety concerns. Performing arts schools often establish pickup windows and late fees because supervision is limited outside scheduled programming.

Student Safety

- Students should not wait outside without supervision unless parents have provided written permission.

- Younger students should be escorted between the building and vehicle by an authorized adult.
- During inclement weather, staff may modify pickup procedures to keep students indoors until vehicles arrive.

Attendance and Sign-Out

- Students leaving before the end of their scheduled day must be signed out by an authorized adult.
- The school should verify identity before releasing a minor.
- Once signed out, responsibility transfers to the parent or guardian.

Student safety is our highest priority. Families are expected to use designated drop-off and pick-up areas, follow staff directions, and adhere to traffic regulations. Students will only be released to authorized individuals unless written permission for independent dismissal is on file. The loading zone is for active loading and unloading only; unattended vehicles are not permitted. Repeated late pickups may result in additional supervision fees.

Facilities

Students should respect the studios, dressing rooms, hallways, and bathrooms by removing all water bottles, clothes, bandage wrappers, shoes, etc. when leaving. All equipment and learning materials must be put back in their proper storage place once a student has finished using them. Because of the facility's open environment, keeping noise to a minimum is essential to create the best learning and working environment. This is a shared space and we should all take care of our dancing environment. Please report any damaged Ballet RI property immediately to a staff member.

Safe Environment

The School of Ballet RI is committed to providing and promoting a safe and joyful environment for its student body. Please note that The School's classes are regularly observed by the Principal to ensure consistency in curriculum and approach. It is likely that your child will have an observer present in their class at least once throughout the course of the academic year. Faculty should not be contacted for information about the School of Ballet of RI; please direct all inquiries to info@balletri.org.

Personal Property

Students are expected to be respectful of other people's personal property. Do not bring valuables to the studio. Ballet RI is not responsible for any lost or stolen property.

Cell Phones

Students are not allowed to use their cell phones during classes or rehearsals unless granted permission by the teacher. Cell phone use should be limited to common areas.

Private Lessons

Private Lessons are offered for dancers who wish for one-on-one work with a Ballet RI faculty member. For more information, visit <https://balletri.org/privatelessons/>

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

The use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco (including vaping) is strictly prohibited on site and will result in immediate termination from the program. Tuition will not be refunded.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Ballet RI is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination for all students, staff members, and applicants for employment. If a student feels that they have been a victim of discrimination, they should bring it to the attention of the School Director or Director. If a student participates in discrimination, a phone call to guardians and possible classroom discussion will take place for a first offense; a meeting with the guardian, student and director will take place for a second offense; and a third offense will be reason for dismissal.

Harassment

Ballet RI is committed to building a positive environment throughout its operations. Ballet RI will not tolerate any form of harassment of its students or employees. If any student feels they are the victim of harassment, they should bring this to the attention of the Head of Children, Open, Adaptive, and Adult Programs (HOAA), Principal, and/or the Director. If a student engages in harassment of another student or teacher, a phone call to guardians and possible classroom discussion will take place for a first offense; a meeting with the guardian, student and director will take place for a second offense; and a third offense will be reason for dismissal. If a guardian engages in harassment of a student or teacher, a meeting with the guardian, HOAA and/or Principal, and Artistic Executive Director will take place.

Mental Health and Emotional Support

Students who are experiencing discomfort, anxiety, or need to leave their studio to find a safe place must report to the Principal's office connected to the front lobby or the Artistic Executive Director's office connected to the Grand Studio. They may also go to the front desk for support. Students may take leave in a bathroom for fifteen minutes but if they require a break longer than fifteen minutes, they must report to one of the safe places. A student's family will be notified in any instance where the student has taken an extended break (15 minutes or more) from class. If a student is away for an extended period of time due to mental health issues, a doctor's note will need to be provided.

Eating Disorder Policy

For the health and safety of our students, Ballet RI has a zero-tolerance eating disorder policy. If symptoms of an eating disorder are observed, the Principal and the Director will reach out to the student's family. Should a student be diagnosed with an eating disorder, they will not be allowed to perform until a physician has been consulted. Participation in classes will be at the discretion of the Principal and Director, in consultation with the guardian and the student's physician.

Emergencies

Faculty and Staff are trained in how to respond to an onsite emergency. In the case of an evacuation of The School of Ballet RI studios, students and families will be reunited at the Rochambeau Library at 708 Hope Street. If a non-emergent incident takes place while a student is in class, a family may be asked to assist the staff in filing an incident report. Families who need Epi-pens or other medical support to be kept onsite should reach out to info@balletri.org.

A First Aid kit and AED are kept at the Front Desk for use in an emergency and select staff are trained in their use.

Student Discounts for Ballet RI Providence Performances

Experiencing live professional dance is an important component of a well-rounded arts education. We are pleased to offer our students and their families a 10% discount off selected seating areas for select Ballet RI performances at The Vets, and Woodman Center. Discount information can be found below:

The Vets

Code: BALLETRISCHOOL
Call 401-421-ARTS or go to TheVetsRI.com

Woodman Center
Code: BALLETRISCHOOL
Call 401-432-6064 or use online at balletri.org

(Valid for actively enrolled School of Ballet RI students and families. Limit 4 tickets per household per production; selected performances and seating areas only. Facility and convenience fees cannot be discounted.)

Dance Classroom Culture and Etiquette

The culture that we create in the classroom demands that all participants recognize that they have something to learn and something to give while they are in the dance space. Important boundaries are set up to protect our learning environment and the people in it. These expectations are important for all to follow because they create an atmosphere in which learning and respect for self and others are of the utmost importance.

Punctuality

It is very important to **be on time**. Dance class starts with warming-up the body and if the student is late, they will have missed vital exercises and possible important announcements from their teacher. If the student is late, they should stand quietly at the entrance of the studio until the teacher signals that they may join at the next combination. It is the teacher's discretion whether a student will participate or be asked to observe.

Talking During Class

All conversations in dance class are led by the teacher and are focused on the learning in the classroom. It is expected that all students will engage in classroom conversation only when the teacher has signaled that it is appropriate to do so. Class is a time to concentrate on the learning done in a group setting.

Questions

Asking questions about classroom topics is welcomed and shows that a student is engaged. If a student has a question, they should raise their hand and wait for the teacher – students should refrain from interrupting the teacher when they are in the middle of giving an instruction or feedback– unless it is an absolute emergency. Students should refrain from asking teachers personal questions unrelated to the content matter of the classroom.

Receiving Feedback

A major part of dance education is receiving regular feedback for improvement. We are all in this together, therefore we encourage students to take instruction and feedback with a positive mindset. Our teachers want to see their students thrive and improve. It is important for young dancers to understand that progress is made by applying the guidance given by the instructor. Remember that the teacher sees potential in the student and is asking the student to work towards that potential. If a student feels that they are being singled out or harassed by a teacher, the student should come to the Principal with their concerns.

For the purposes of safety and to keep our spaces looking beautiful, gum is not allowed during class or rehearsals.

Attire

Details are important. In ballet class, that includes ensuring that students come to class **wearing the correct dancewear/uniform**. Please mend ripped tights and leotards. Please make sure

dancewear is clean. Students are only required to have one uniform leotard, but if students are in Primary 1 and up, it is recommended that they have at least two leotards in the class color to alternate between washings.

Bracelets, watches, large rings, large jewelry on the neck or drop earrings are not allowed during classes or rehearsals. Girls are allowed to wear black bike shorts over their leotard once a month. If a teacher feels that policy is being taken advantage of, the director will be consulted, and a conversation will be had with the student. Students not wearing the proper uniform may not be able to participate in class. For more details, please see dress code requirements.

Hair

Hair must be pulled back and adequately secured out of the eyes and so that it does not fly around while turning. Hair can impact the dancer's ability to execute movement with the correct technique. For more details, please see dress code requirements.

Classroom Disturbances

All students are expected to listen to instructors respectfully and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Students who repeatedly disrupt the learning environment may be asked to speak with the Principal with their guardian present.

Classroom Breaks

Water breaks are a regular occurrence in ballet class granted by the teacher. Students dancing for more the 2.5 hours will be given time for a snack and bathroom break. All students are expected to go to the bathroom before class starts. If students have an emergency and must use the bathroom during class time, they must raise their hand to be excused and wait at the door upon reentry.

Accessibility

The School of Ballet RI offers instruction for both the disabled and non-disabled dancer. Intellectually and cognitively disabled students are encouraged to enroll in our Adaptive Dance program. Adaptive Dance faculty have access to regular training in providing adaptive and inclusive learning environments and strategies for teaching a diverse set of learners. Additionally, families have the option to share information related to specific student needs during the online registration process in the accommodations section of the registration form. All information shared at registration by families is shared with faculty during the registration period. Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing can reach out for support.

Please reach out with any questions about these and any other accessibility needs to info@balletri.org. There is no deadline by which to reach out.

Studio Assistant Program

What is the Studio Assistant Program?

The School of Ballet RI Studio Assistant Program is open to Upper 1 and Upper 2 students interested in assisting with our adaptive, inclusive and/or young student classes. Assistants are a vital component of class. They help with the flow of dance class by modeling and proper studio etiquette as well as handling logistics (moving props, setting dots, etc.) to ensure a smooth running class. Assistants will be a consistent presence in class, should enjoy working with kids and must love dance.

What are SA Responsibilities?

1. Assist with class setup which may include placing dots, making sure props are accessible, or setting up ballet barres, etc..
2. Assist students entering and exiting the class.
3. Bringing students to the bathroom.
4. Demonstrating combinations fully and to the best of your ability.
5. You may be asked to lead a portion of the class if a student needs the teacher's individual attention.
6. Correcting or redirecting student behavior. This needs to be done kindly and quietly and is much easier if you know the students' names.
7. Knowing the overall class structure and all performance choreography.
8. Assisting substitute teachers with class format when requested.
9. Assisting at Culmination or during in-studio performances.

Important: You are NOT responsible for speaking to parents about any class issues including placement and behavior. These questions should be directed to the teacher, Principal or Program Head.

What Are SA Requirements?

1. A full year commitment: you must be present from the time of acceptance into the program until the final class of the year.
2. Be a current Upper 1 or Upper 2 School of Ballet RI student in good standing. This means you are demonstrating in your own study the behavior and dedication we are instilling in the Children's and/or Adaptive students.
3. Attend a 1-hour training class at the beginning of each semester.
4. Be punctual - arrive a minimum of 10 minutes before the scheduled class time.
5. Model what it means to *look like* a dance student, including: proper attire, shoes, and hair.
6. Model what it means to *act like* a dance student by being respectful to the teacher and kind to the students.
7. If you are going to be absent for any reason you must let your lead teacher and the Head of the program know ASAP by emailing Steph@balletri.org or calling (401) 353-1129.

Being an assistant in the past does not guarantee that you will automatically be accepted into the Studio Assistant Program for the current year.

What are the SA Perks?

1. Tuition assistance of (10% off tuition) for each class you assist from the time you are accepted into the SA program through the final class of the year.
2. School of Ballet RI Studio Assistant swag! Each assistant will receive SBRI logo apparel with your name and title of "Children's Dance Assistant" and/or "Adaptive Dance Assistant".
3. Community service credit.
4. Knowing that you are passing on your love of dance to younger students.

BALLET RI Dress Code and Hair Requirements

All Students are required to follow the dress code for their class and level. Approved leotard styles are listed on our uniform order form and are available at Competitor's Closet (www.competitorscloset.net) and LaBrie Dance by Capezio (<https://www.capezio.com/pages/labrie-by-capezio>) stores. Leotards ordered through Ballet RI will be embroidered with the BALLET RI logo. All dancers can self-select which gender uniform is appropriate for them.

Children's Program

Please note that Option 1 is traditionally worn by students identifying as female and Option 2 is traditionally worn by students identifying as male.

Option 1:

Creative Movement: Dress Code leotard**, white ankle socks, pink ballet shoes (white tutus are welcomed)

Pre-Ballet 1, 2 and 3: Dress Code leotard**, white ankle socks, pink ballet shoes

Option 2: White or level color short sleeve shirt, black bike shorts, white socks, white ballet shoes

Hair: Pulled back securely off face. If questions, please ask the instructor.

Core Ballet Program

Option 1: Pink or flesh colored tights to create a uniform line throughout the leg. Tights should be matte (not shiny or Lycra). Ballet slippers should align with the color of the tights.

Option 2: Black tights with black shoes to create a uniform line throughout the leg.

Hair: Pulled back securely off face. If questions, please ask instructor.

Pointe Shoe Requirement (Level 5 and above): Students are required to come to class with properly fitting and properly prepared shoes (i.e. ribbons and elastics must be sewn on and sufficiently broken-in). Students will not be allowed to dance on pointe if the teacher deems shoes a poor fit.

Option 1:

Primary 1A/B: Dress Code leotard**, tights, ballet shoes*

Primary 2A/B: Dress Code leotard**, tights, ballet shoes*

Primary 3A/B: Dress Code leotard**, tights, ballet shoes*

Option 2: White or level color short-sleeve shirt, black bike shorts, white socks, white ballet shoes for Primary 1 and Primary 2.

White or level color short-sleeve shirt or leotard, black tights, black ballet shoes for Primary 3.

Option 1:

Upper 1: Dress Code leotard**, tights, ballet shoes*

Upper 2: Dress Code leotard**, tights, ballet shoes*

Option 2: White or level color short-sleeve shirt or leotard, black tights, black ballet shoes.

*Ballet shoes should align with the color of the tights

**Dress Code leotards can be found on our website and uniform order form

Enrichment classes:

Character Dance - Primary 3A/B, Upper 1 and Upper 2

Option 1: Dress Code leotard**, black character skirt and black character shoes.

Option 2: White or color level fitted shirts, black tights, black character or jazz shoes

Hair: Pulled back securely off face. If questions, please ask the instructor.

Contemporary – Upper 1 and Upper 2

Option 1: Any color leotard, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights, ballet shoes

Option 2: Any color fitted t-shirt, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or back tights, black ballet shoes

Hair: Pulled back securely off face. If questions, please ask the instructor.

Jazz – Primary 2A/B, Primary 3A/B

Option 1: Any color leotard, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights and black jazz shoes

Option 2: Any color fitted t-shirt, black jazz pants and black jazz shoes

Hair: Pulled back securely off face. If questions, please ask the instructor.

Open Program

Option 1:

Open Beginner Ballet: Dress Code leotard**, tights, ballet shoes*

Open Hip-Hop: any color leotard, black jazz pants, black jazz shoes

Option 2:

Open Beginner Ballet: White short sleeve shirt, black bike shorts, white socks, white ballet shoes

Open Commercial Choreography: Any color short sleeve shirt, black bike shorts, white socks, white ballet shoes, black jazz shoes

*Ballet shoes should align with the color of the tights

**Dress Code leotards can be found on our website and uniform order form

Open Adult Program

No dress code is required, however, comfortable fitted clothing such as yoga wear is suggested.

I attest that I have read the Ballet RI Student/Guardian handbook and will abide by all policies. Please return this page to the School Office Manager with your registration materials.

Student signature

date

Guardian signature

date

TUITION ADDENDUM

Please use the chart below to understand the tuition structure in The School:

Children's Program	Class Name	Full Year Pricing (split in three)
45 min/week	Creative Movement	\$480.00
60 min/week	Adaptive Dance	\$450.00
60 min/week	Pre-Ballet 1, 2, or 3	\$636.00
Open Fundamentals Program	Class Name	Full Year Pricing (split in three)
60 min/week	Level 1 or Pre-pointe/Pointe	\$636.00
90 min/week	Level 2	\$720.00
Core Program	Class Name	Full Year Pricing (split in three)
3 hrs/week	Primary 1A or Primary 1B	\$1575.00
4.5 hrs/week	Primary 2A	\$2430.00
6.5 hrs/week	Option 1: Primary 2B	\$3135.00
8 hrs/week	Option 2: Primary 2B	\$3420.00
7.5 hrs/week	Option 1: Primary 3A	\$3225.00
9 hrs/week	Option 2: Primary 3A	\$3555.00
10.5 hrs/week	Option 1: Primary 3B	\$4290.00
12 hrs/week	Option 2: Primary 3B	\$4545.00
13.5 hrs/week	Option 1: Upper 1	\$5055.00
11.5 hrs/week	Option 1: Upper 1 – FLEX	\$4425.00
15 hrs/week	Option 2: Upper 1	\$5175.00
11.5 hrs/week	Option 2: Upper 1 – FLEX	\$4425.00
17.5 hrs/week	Option 1: Upper 2	\$6300.00
14.5 hrs/week	Option 1: Upper 2 – FLEX	\$5130.00
17 hrs/week	Option 2: Upper 2	\$6180.00
12 hrs/week	Option 2: Upper 2 – FLEX	\$4725.00
20 hrs+/week	Pre-professional	\$7245.00
30 hrs+/week	Professional Trainee	\$7425.00

*Option 1 is traditionally taken by students identifying as female and includes all pointe classes

*Option 2 is traditionally taken by students identifying as male and includes men's technique classes

If you have any questions about any classes included above, please reach out to The School.

CALENDAR

Session 1	Aug. 27, 2026 – Nov. 15, 2026
Session 2	Nov. 16, 2026 – Mar. 14, 2027
Session 3	Mar. 15, 2027 – Jun. 13, 2027

REGISTRATION DATES

Jul. 13	Registration Opens – Session 1 (Options for Full Year Registration OR Session 1 Only)
Sept. 27	Registration Closes – Session 1
Nov. 2	Registration Opens – Session 2 (Options for Session 2 Only OR Session 2+3)
Dec. 13	Registration Closes – Session 2
Jan. 25	Registration Opens – Early Bird Summer Rate
Feb. 1	Registration Opens – Session 3 and All Summer Programs
Apr. 4	Registration Closes – Session 3 and Remains Open for Summer
Jun. 13	Registration Closes – Summer

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES 2026-2027

	Aug. 27	First day of Classes Session 1
Sept. 7		No Classes – Labor Day
Sept. 12		YAGP/Ensemble Information Session - invitation only
Sept. 19		Nutcracker Auditions
Sept. 26		Nutcracker Auditions, call backs
Oct. 12		No Classes – Indigenous People's Day
Oct. 26-Nov. 1		Observation Week
Nov. 16		First day of Classes Session 2
Nov. 26-29		No Classes – Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 30		Classes Resume
Dec. 14-Dec. 20		No Classes Open, Core, Adaptive, and Children – Winter Break
	Dec. 21-Jan. 3	No Classes All Programs – Winter Break
	Jan. 4	Classes Resume
Jan. 18		No Classes – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb. 13		Ensemble Performances
Feb. 15-21		No Classes Open, Core, Adaptive, and Children – Mid-Winter
Break		
Feb. 22		Classes Resume
Mar. 1-7		Observation Week
Mar. 15		First day of Classes Session 3
Mar. 28		No Classes – Easter Sunday
Apr. 19-25		No Classes Open, Core, Adaptive, and Children – Spring Break
April 26		Classes Resume
May 1		NextGen Performances
May 31		No Classes – Memorial Day
Jun. 12		Culmination Performances
Jun. 13		Last day of Classes

*** Bold indicates no classes**