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*Special thanks to Canton Country Day
Pamela Shaw Head of School*

I. MISSION / GOALS / POLICIES

Canton Ballet is a nonprofit organization committed to fostering an appreciation of the art of dance within the local community and dedicated to providing the highest artistic quality of instruction by operating a school for all age and skill levels and a preprofessional company with performance opportunities for the serious or career oriented student at the advanced level.

Goals of School of Canton Ballet

Since 1965 School of Canton Ballet has been teaching children to understand and enjoy movement. The outstanding reputation of our instructors coupled with our teaching philosophy has contributed to the School's significant growth over the years. Dance instills confidence and self-awareness that will help anyone achieves his/her goals. The comprehensive curriculum provides students with a strong classical technique and instills a life-long love of movement and dance.

To implement its goals School of Canton Ballet:

- offers a rigorous curriculum that combines sound movement technique with musicality and artistic appreciation to students ages toddler through adult
- selects gifted professional instructors who teach proper ballet technique while remaining highly aware of the special emotional needs and physical limitations of young children
- provides each student with the individual attention required for maximum artistic growth
- fosters an environment of positive guidance and mutual respect
- features live piano accompaniment in all classes
- conducts year end evaluations to provide helpful feedback and to assess student placement in the program
- provides performance opportunities
- provides state-of-the-art studios with sprung floors and mirrors

Students also receive the special benefit of being able to rehearse with and observe the preprofessional company and learn the ins-and-outs of being a preprofessional dancer.

Ballet Technique

The ballet technique taught at the School is based on the outstanding elements of the Russian, Italian and French schools. All stem from the five absolute positions of the feet which oblige the dancer to turn the legs outward from the hip, greatly increasing the mobility and extension, and from definite positions of the arms, torso and head. Like the alphabet every movement is learned separately then woven into combinations of movements and finally into the choreographic poems we call ballets. This system forms the basis for all the courses given at the school.

Pointe Shoe policy

Pointe work is an exciting and essential part of a ballet student's training. Receiving one's pointe shoes indicates the training is proceeding appropriately. As always our primary concern is for the longterm welfare of the child. Our students begin preparing for pointe work during Elementary 3, when they add 15 minutes to their normal class time to take Pre-Pointe. During this time they work in flat shoes to learn pointe technique and combinations and to develop the strength they will need to dance *en pointe*. (see section on [Pointe](#) in Divisions of the School)

Statement Against Discrimination

School of Canton Ballet admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, scholarship and other school administered activities.

Statement Against Sexual Harassment

School of Canton Ballet will not tolerate any unlawful harassment of ballet students or employees. Such prohibited harassment includes verbal or physical conduct which is based upon an individual's race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability and which

- 1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment;
- 2) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance; or
- 3) otherwise adversely affects an individual's opportunity.
 - Such prohibited conduct may include, but is not limited to, verbal slurs, negative stereotyping, hostile or demeaning acts (including purported "jokes"), and written or graphic material which shows animosity, aversion or denigration toward an individual or group based upon race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age or disability
 - Sexual harassment (as distinguished from gender harassment) deserves special mention.

Unlawful sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature:

- 1) When submission to such conduct is made, explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of instruction, participation in School activities or employment;
- 2) When submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for casting, promotion, evaluations, or employment benefits; or
- 3) When such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's performance in the classroom or in roles in which they have been case, in work performance, or in creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive School environment or working environment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, sexually suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as grabbing, patting, pinching, or brushing against another's body.

Any student or employee who feels that he/she has been subjected to harassment by anyone, based on race, color, religion, gender, sex, national origin, age, or disability, either in the classroom, on the job or in connection with Ballet employment, and who is unable to resolve such matter promptly and satisfactorily, should submit a detailed written report of the offensive behavior to the Artistic and Executive Director or to the chairperson of the Personnel Committee of the Board of Trustees. The Ballet forbids retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, has reported such unlawful harassment, or has assisted in the investigation of such matters.

It is the policy of the Ballet to investigate all harassment complaints thoroughly and promptly. To the extent reasonably practicable, the Ballet will keep such complaints, and the terms of their resolution, confidential. If an investigation confirms that prohibited harassment against any employee, a Ballet customer, contractor, student, volunteer or visitor, the Ballet will take appropriate disciplinary action, up to dismissal from employment, dismissal from the School and/or appropriate intervention by legal authorities. Appropriate disciplinary actions also will be taken against any employee found to have willfully falsified any such claim of harassment.

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II. FACULTY / ADMINISTRATION

Faculty

Cassandra Crowley, artistic and executive director
Jennifer Catazaro Hayward, assistant to the artistic director
Angelo Lemmo, choreographer in residence
Julie Mizer Grasse, early childhood specialist
Meghan Seemann, jazz and tap
Kelli Sanford, modern dance

Guest Master Teachers

Laura Alonso
Rochelle Zide-Booth

Accompanists

Elinor Knop, principal pianist emeritus
Natasha Fridman, pianist
Sharon Walsh, pianist
Keiko Sato, pianist
Bret Cowden, pianist
Sebastian Birch, pianist

Administration

Deby Sherrod Barath, manager
Michael Rizert, marketing/development coordinator
Cyndi Halter, office coordinator
Meghan Voina, receptionist and office assistant

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III. WHO IS IN CHARGE? A Guide for Parents

Artistic and Executive Director *Cassandra Crowley*

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Educational program | Classroom issues/concerns | Class placement |
| Classroom policies/procedures | Behavior/discipline | School policies |
| Schedules | Class placement | Promotions |
| School productions | Casting | Canton Ballet |
| Company | | |
| Artistic issues | Costumes | Scenery |
| Web site development | Regional Dance America | Personnel |
| Alumni relations | Outside performances | |

Manager *Deby Barath*

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Finance | Ticketing | Board fundraiser |
| Publications | Special events | Facility rental |
| Office personnel | Payroll processing | Billing |
| Building and grounds | Graphic design/layout | |

Marketing/Development Director *Michael Ritzart*

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Publicity/promotion | Media relations |
| Grant research/writing/reporting | Copy writing/editing |

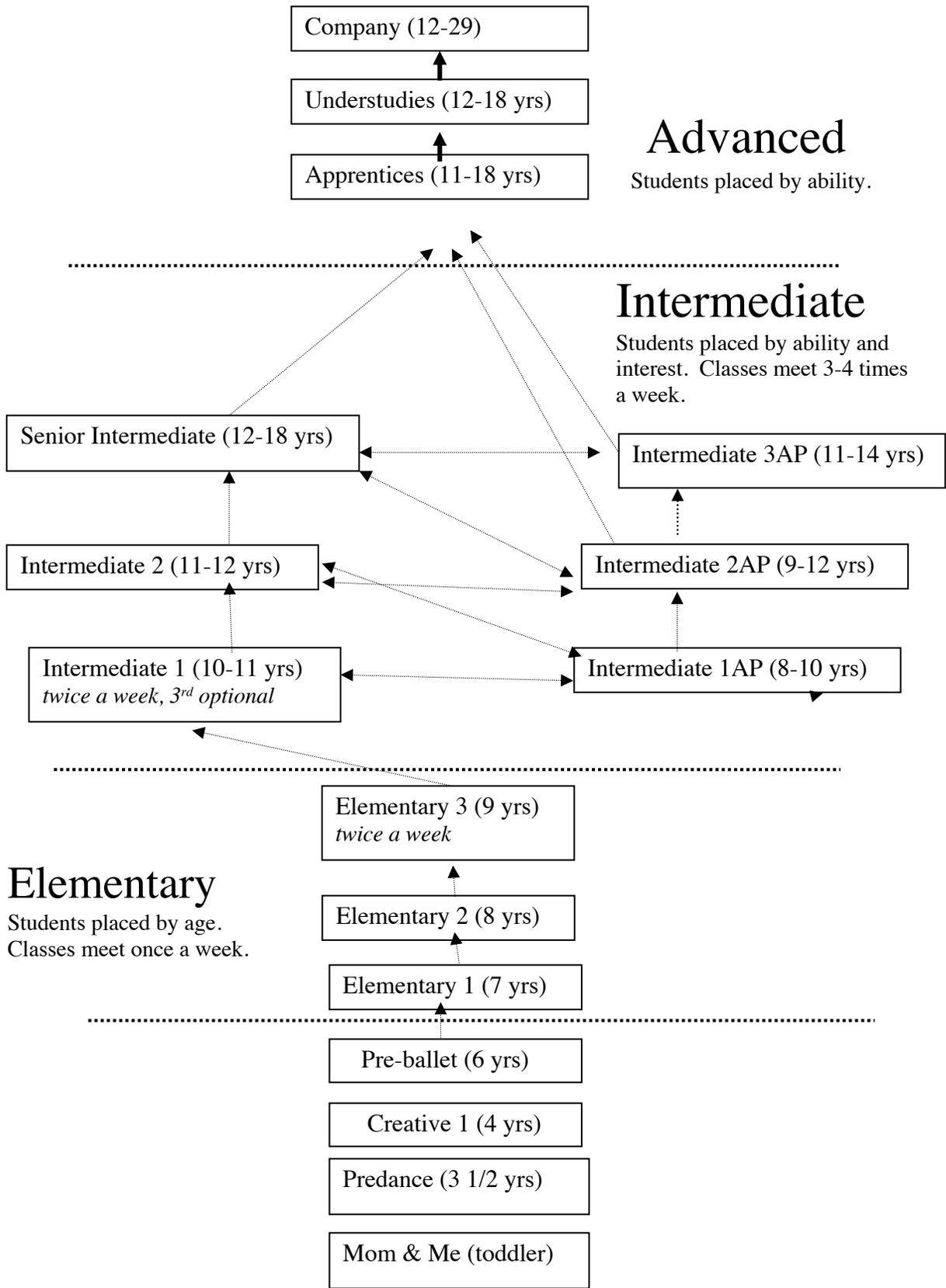
Office Coordinator *Cyndi Halter*

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Financial aid | Payments | Admissions |
| Attendance questions/concerns | Database systems | Teacher conferences |
| Ticketing | Nutcracker information | Electronic mail |
| School performance info | Parent association liaison | |

IV. Whom do you call? A quick reference guide for parents

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Absences | Notify office of your child's absence BEFORE class | Office |
| Billing | Questions regarding tuition and all other charges | Deby Barath |
| Classroom issues and conferences | Academic, social, or emotional concerns questions or suggestions | Office schedules teacher/director **See note |
| School closings | Check Web site, answering machine message after 6 am or WHBC radio station for school closings. | Office |
| Lost items | Check lost and found in lounge or notify office if something has been lost or misplaced. | Office |
| Outside performances | Booking, information, scheduling | Jennifer Hayward |
| Contributions | In-kind or financial | Deby Barath |
| Fundraising | Volunteers for annual Nutcracker Ball or other projects. | Deby Barath |
| Rehearsal schedule | Questions | Office or teachers |

**The teacher is the first person to call with any questions related to your child's education. For unresolved issues contact the Artistic and Executive Director.



V. DIVISIONS OF THE SCHOOL

Early Childhood, ages 1-6

Exposure to dance at a young age helps children develop good posture, strength, balance and coordination. Early Childhood features a progression of five levels of achievement based on age. Students enrolling in Early Childhood and Elementary must meet the appropriate age requirement by the beginning of the current school year.

Mommy (Dad, Grandparent) and Me, ages toddler to 3

Designed to begin movement and body awareness starting with the toddler's first steps, this class uses the adult's assistance in bringing listening skills and initiating movement coordination of body parts through dance, games and songs. Taught once a week for 30 minutes.

Predance, age 3

Designed for the youngest students, this class stresses coordination, large motor skill development, musical awareness, spatial awareness and listening skills. Musical instruments such as bells, rhythm sticks, shakers and tambourines along with age appropriate activity resources and special music help engage the students' attention and imagination. Taught once a week for 30 minutes.

Creative Dance, ages 4 and 5

Creative Dance focuses on coordination, motor skill development, listening skills and the development of a child's natural creativity. Musical awareness is enhanced with the help of a pianist. This program is a prelude to formal ballet instruction and stresses creativity and group interaction. Taught once a week for 45 minutes

Preballet, age 6

Students begin a more formal study of classical ballet through age appropriate skill development, creative expression, music appreciation and the relationship between music and dance. This year they wear ballet shoes for the first time. Taught once a week for 45 minutes.

Elementary, ages 7-10

Students are taught fundamental ballet technique and develop the self-discipline necessary to begin the study of classical ballet. Elementary is made up of three levels carefully graded by age, physical strength and development. Classes meet once a week for one hour. (Elementary 3 meets twice a week for 1 hour and 15 minutes.)

Intermediate

Students in Intermediate range from those experiencing a fun way to exercise to those considering dance as a career. As in most pre professional programs, advancement through the program is based on a student's level of skill and accomplishment, not on his or her age. *The School of Canton Ballet nurtures both career-track and vocational students.*

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement students demonstrate an aptitude for ballet and the ability to progress more rapidly in strength, line, artistry and technique. The students are judged solely by their drive, ability and work in class and rehearsal. Understanding and development of "line" is key to advanced placement work as is a willingness to accept, implement and retain corrections. Advanced Placement students are selected by their teachers at the end of the school year.

Advanced (Preprofessional) Canton Ballet Company

Students are admitted to the preprofessional program by audition, the recommendation of their teacher, the results of final exams and upon the recommendation of the Artistic Director. It is in this division that the young student has the greatest potential for securing technical strengths, musical sensitivity and artistic awareness.

Advanced/Preprofessional blends rigorous preprofessional ballet classes with additional enrichment activities that enhance the student experience. The teacher works meticulously on each student's individual dance needs while closely coaching each student in technique and performance skills. Classes and performances promote the success of dancers both technically and artistically through high quality ballet instruction. Good, healthy eating practices and injury prevention are promoted. Dancers in CBC range in age from 11-19 years old with an occasional exception up to the age of 29.

Teen/Adult

Many students begin while others continue their study and enjoyment of ballet and other dance forms through participation in Teen/Adult classes in Ballet and other movement forms. Emphasis is on enjoyment of movement and appreciation of dance.

Pointe Work

At School of Canton Ballet classical ballet is our specialty.

Each student responds to the demands of pointe preparation differently and some will need longer than others to be ready. Children are given their pointe shoes at 10-14 years old and proceed to grow up with them as a natural part of their ballet training. The decision of when to place a child on pointe is an important one that has physical ramifications for life. When children grow very tall or large for their age, we prefer to wait a little longer so that muscular strength can keep up with size.

Criteria for Pointe Work

The student must:

- be a minimum of 10 years old and in Intermediate 1AP or Intermediate 2 levels in our school (or come to us from another school with the equivalent preparation and qualifications) consistently taking a minimum of 3 ballet classes a week.
- be of normal weight for his/her size.
- have sufficient strength to:
 - have a strong, straight lower back while dancing
 - do pique passe with straight legs and 8 relevés in the center
 - be able to hold a passe balance on half-pointe
 - consistently take a whole class.

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Guidelines for Advancement in Canton Ballet Company

Taking daily class and working hard each day to improve technique is assumed and is not considered in and of itself a means for advancement within the company structure.

Apprentice (2 year course)

Apprentices are the youngest, newest dancers. They may dance with the corps de ballet but usually in the most inconspicuous places. They spend most of their time understudying corps de ballet and demi-soloist roles.

The position of apprentice offers a special learning opportunity to Canton Ballet students. A dancer is invited to be an apprentice when his or her technique reaches an advanced level, when there is a certain standard of emotional maturity and concentration. During the first year, apprentices learn what it means to attend rehearsals and how to understudy a part. By the second year of apprenticeship, dancers know rehearsal behavior and are developing an understanding of the necessary performance quality and knowledge of how to learn choreography - an art in itself.

Understudy

Understudies dance the main group parts. They learn demi-soloist and soloist roles. They perform in group dances and in certain other roles.

Dancer must:

- show improvement in technique and performance quality
- attend rehearsals in addition to those assigned and be prepared to perform many roles
- take corrections quickly, remember and implement them
- show a willingness and eagerness to learn all kinds of choreography
- be flexible mentally as well as physically to "go with the flow."

Company

It generally takes one or two years of work at the understudy level and extensive technical and performance progress to reach Company level.

Company membership comprises three categories of dancers:

- principals dance the main roles*
- soloists dance the next most important roles*
- demi-soloists dance small group roles.*

Regional Dance America was founded by Dorothy Alexander in 1956 as National Association for Regional Ballet (NARB) to promote the artistic development of dance companies and to decentralize dance in the United States.

Each year RDA member companies across the country attend a regional festival to share three days of classes, lectures, seminars, social events and performances showcasing the member companies. The interchange among dancers, directors, choreographers and world-class teachers over the intensive festival period is one of the greatest benefits of Regional Dance America.

Canton Ballet has been a member company since 1965 and an honor company since 1984. A founding director of RDA in 1988, artistic director Cassandra Crowley served on its national board of directors for 15 years and is now a director emeritus and serves as vice president of the northeast region.

VI. ROUTINES / PROCEDURES

Attendance

Regular, punctual attendance is important to a child's progress. Please call if you plan to be absent from class. If a child is unable to dance that day, you are urged to bring him/her to observe the class as a great deal can be learned through observation. Students who wish to strengthen their technique should attend additional classes one level lower than their assigned level.

Arrival

Students should always wear some sort of street clothes (shorts, skirt, pants, etc.) and street shoes over their dance attire when arriving and leaving from class. Dance shoes are ruined if they are worn on sidewalks or streets. Dancers should arrive no less than ten minutes before their class to have enough time to dress, prepare their hair and stretch.

Tardiness

Please schedule sufficient travel time to avoid arriving late for class. Children who arrive late are frequently "out of step" for half of the class and they disrupt the class and the teacher. If a student is more than 10 minutes late, he/she will be asked to observe the remainder of the class.

Weather Policy

In cases of inclement weather:

- The homepage of the Web site will give information regarding class schedule changes.
- The school telephone message (330-455-7220) will be changed to reflect any changes in class schedules due to weather. WHBC will be notified and will include it in their closings.
- If Canton City Schools declare a snow day, all classes prior to 2 p.m. will be cancelled.
- Cancellation for classes starting after 3 p.m. will be made by 1 p.m. that same day.

Parents driving in from suburban and rural areas are asked to use their own judgment regarding the safety of driving through their area to reach Canton Ballet. Make-up classes can be scheduled for any classes missed due to a weather emergency.

Make Up Classes

No credit or refund is provided for missed classes. If the student misses classes due to illness or other unavoidable reasons, class may be made up anytime within the same semester.

Security

A security guard is provided during evening classes

- *Drop off*-watch your children enter the building.
- *Pick up*-instruct your child to stay within the facility until they see you and your vehicle.
- *Waiting*-children remain in the Ballet wing until picked up by parents.

Parking

Enter the parking lot on the Market Avenue entrance across from Nationwide Insurance.

During Cultural Center events display your Canton Ballet PARKING PASS to notify the parking attendant that you are going to Canton Ballet and you will not be charged. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE IN THE CIRCLE.**

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Waiting Area

Parents are invited to wait for their child in Canton Ballet's lobby. There are vending machines available for your convenience. Bring your cell phone, your laptop or a really good book and make our home your home. The password to our wireless network is posted on the bulletin board. If you have brought other children with you while waiting, please be sure to supervise them. We strive to make this a safe and comfortable environment for you and your children. With this in mind, we ask you to:

- be considerate of those around you. At no time should someone be throwing objects, running through the lobby or roughhousing within the lobby and dressing room areas.
- Be sure that all children clean up any snacks or crafts and behave appropriately at all times.

Picking up your dancer

Students must be picked up within 15 minutes of class end. We care deeply about our students but our very limited staff cannot be responsible for childcare duties that take them beyond their job descriptions and normal working hours. **Should there be repeated tardiness (more than 1 occurrence) from the same family, the School will charge the family \$20 for every 15 minutes or portion thereof**, in order to retain security and personnel past their regularly scheduled hours.

VII. HEALTH

Injury Procedure / Infectious Diseases / Medical Absences

- A student with an injury or illness is to arrive for class at the regular time and observe the class unless they are contagious or in bed.
- To protect both the individual and his classmates, parents must keep a child at home during the highly infectious first stages of a cold or other communicable ailment.
- Should a student injure themselves in class-they are to notify their teacher immediately so the proper procedures may be followed.
- Children who must miss classes due to illness or injury should present a doctor's excuse to the office for a tuition credit to be issued.

VIII. CLASSROOM / BEHAVIORAL MATTERS

Home/School Communication and Conferences

Teachers are always happy to discuss and answer questions about a student's progress. Please be sure that the teachers hear about problems directly and before they become overwhelming. If your child has any physical or emotional problems or if you notice a drastic change in the student's reaction to class, either positive or negative, please advise the teacher.

Conferences may be scheduled at any time during the year by contacting the office coordinator.

Progress Reports and Class Observation

Takes place during the last class of each semester unless there is a school performance. Written progress reports are distributed at the end of the year for levels Intermediate and above.

Visitors

Arrangements may be made for special visitors to observe a class from time to time. Please contact the classroom teacher or call the Office Coordinator before class to arrange a visit.

Sitting or Standing in the Studio Doorways

Please do not stand or sit (either in a chair or on the floor) in or near the doorways of the studios during classes and rehearsals where the children can see you.

Children do not give their full attention to their instructor when there is another “audience” to perform for. **For you to receive full value for your dancer's class time, he/she needs absolute concentration.**

Exams (held on alternate years from the school performance)

The exams consist of a series of classroom exercises memorized by the students. This is a test for their memory, their progress and their desire for advancement.

Ballet Etiquette and Discipline

In today’s world of instant informality and less than perfect manners, ballet class provides an oasis of true courtesy and dignity, a remnant of the royal decorum of the Baroque age. In ballet we create an environment conducive to learning and physically demonstrate the esteem in which we hold our art, our teacher and our fellow students. Considerate, respectful behavior is expected.

It is our ultimate aim to have each student respond to an inner-directed sense of right and wrong rather than be motivated by the fear of externally imposed consequences. The School expects that all teachers, students and parents will model acceptance and kindness toward all people and will insist that the highest standard of behavior will be upheld in their presence.

*Respect for the teacher and for one another is essential to a successful classroom environment.

*Behavior in the halls and the dressing room should be polite and quiet.

Teaching Method and Corrections

Proper ballet training happens only when the student feels the correct body position and in most cases the teacher is required to physically touch the students to place the body into position. It is not unusual for a dancer to come home with sore muscles just as participants in any sport or physical activity might do. Communication and education for both dancers and parents is very much a part of our program. Parents are welcome to observe class and speak to the teacher regarding any special concerns.

As a part of their training, students will receive frequent constructive criticism (called corrections) throughout the year. Corrections are given to assist and teach. The student should understand that a correction is a gift and should be received as such.

Citizenship

Responsible citizenship, combined with consistent effort, is the basis for success in life. It is essential that students understand the School’s expectations concerning citizenship and student recognize that each individual is accountable for his or her actions. We believe that the citizenship of our students is as important as success in dance.

All members of the Canton Ballet community must demonstrate the ability and the willingness to conduct themselves with courtesy and self-control, to respect the rights and property of the individual and the School and to demonstrate a seriousness of purpose and a spirit of cooperation and trust.

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Code of Ethics

- Dancers of Canton Ballet represent the highest standards of morals, ethics, honesty and responsible behavior. They set a good example for their peers and for the younger children in the school.
- Dancers will be truthful, straightforward and honest having integrity in their dealings with each other, other dancers, their teachers and other adults
- All dancers will treat each other with respect, consideration and courtesy.

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IX. INFORMATION / REGISTRATION

Classroom Attire

Dancers are participating in a disciplined art form that requires disciplined preparation. The dress code encourages improved concentration. Clothes (washed after every class) and shoes should be marked INSIDE with the student's name and kept in a dance bag to insure that all items are ready for class.

- Nothing should be worn except the uniform as the it is several layers.
- Ballet slippers must have elastic SEWN across the instep and tights must cover the feet.
- New shoes should be checked by the teacher before they are worn, as they cannot be returned once dirty. Parents should not cut strings or ribbons but ask the teacher to do it. Shoes will be checked, ties adjusted and cut by the teacher on the first day of class for the younger children.
- **Only the teacher** should cut the ribbons and ties on *pointe* shoes.
- Jewelry and watches should not be worn. Tiny earrings are acceptable.
- Legwarmers and shorts may not be worn in class.
- No pins should be used anywhere in the uniform.
- Boys aged 11 and up must wear a specialized athletic supporter for male dancers. They must have tights that meet the top of their thin white socks or slip into their shoes at all times.

Hair

One of the cardinal rules of being a dancer is having the hair groomed so that it is immobile and not distracting. Hair must be fixed in place, close to the head without exception. There are to be no hanging braids of any kind or beads. If there is no possible way for a dancer's hair to be fixed this way, please see the teacher for instructions. Girls must wear their hair in a bun with **no bangs** and their class flower headpiece. Buns must have rubber band, hairnet and hairpins. **No scrunchies**. Please use long hairpins with long hair. Hair that is too short for ponytail and other options listed above can be held in place with a headband.

Students should learn how to fix their own hair as soon as possible. All students will be expected to meet hair requirements.

Valuables

Please guard your valuables. If necessary, bring them into the studio with you. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Class Assignments

Students may not change class day or time within the semester. In emergency situations the office may be consulted for alternate class openings.

Nutcracker

Each year Canton Ballet includes all students Creative 2 and over in the production of *The Nutcracker*. Schedules and further information will be posted on the website and passed out in late October. Website username: cantonballet Password: snowflake

School Performance

Takes place in alternate years during the month of May. All students above 4 years of age take part. Schedules and further information will be posted on the website and distributed in January of the performance year. Username: cantonballet Password: snowflake

Casting

Casting decisions are made by the Artistic Director in conjunction with the classroom teacher. As a rule, casting decisions are not considered a topic for conversation with the artistic staff. If you feel strongly that you must discuss it with someone, please make an appointment with the Artistic Director by contacting the office.

Children are selected for specific roles such as Party child or Polinchenelles based upon a number of criteria. The child must be the right size for the costume and role, they must have a bubbling personality and be outgoing, easily working with strangers and in new situations. They must learn quickly and retain what they have learned. The classroom teacher observes these things during the current year and preceding years. All children are given the opportunity to dance in the Party Scene before they graduate from high school. Adult students may occasionally be utilized in roles meant for adults.

Videotaping and Photography of Performances

As a service to parents, the Barre Association videotapes all performances and makes them available for a small fee. Theatre dress rehearsals may be videotaped and photographed by parents. Flash photography may not be used at any time that there are dancers onstage because it can startle and disorient dancers with the potential to cause accidents. As a courtesy to all attending the **performances, please enjoy the event and let us tape it for you.**

Electronic Devices

No electronic devices may be used inside the studio. Cell phones must be kept out of sight and **TURNED OFF** during class. **IF A CELL PHONE RINGS DURING CLASS IT WILL NOT BE ANSWERED.** Please call the office at 330.455.7220 ext. 202 to leave a message for your dancer.

Email notices

To join our emailing list for information and updates, sign up by emailing us at: cantonballet@cantonballet.com

Lockers

We regret that our limited number of lockers belong to members of Canton Ballet Company who are here six days a week. They are not available for use by the students of the school.

Costume Dress Up Week

During the year certain times are designated dress up weeks, dancers are invited to arrive for their class in costume. Wear your most beautiful costume! (Please choose something that you can dance in.)

Parent Participation Week

One week during the year, parents are invited to join their dancers below the Intermediate 1 level in class to get a true taste of what the dancers go through. Please wear something that you can move in comfortably and leave your other children at home so that you can devote yourself solely to bonding with your dancer.

Bring a Friend to Class

One week during the year, dancers are invited to bring a friend to class with them to experience what the dancer experiences every class day. The friend should wear something that allows them to move comfortably and to sit on the floor.

Parties

Class Parties

Dancers may bring a treat for their entire class if they wish to celebrate their birthday. Parents should coordinate with the teacher in advance of the date.

Private Parties for all ages

School of Canton Ballet provides parties for birthdays or other occasions taught by early childhood specialist Julie Mizer Grasse and other faculty members upon request. A typical party would include a dance class for all attendees followed by cake and beverages and present opening. Please see our Web site for details or check with the office.

Summer School

The summer school requirement for serious students in Advanced Placement, incoming apprentices and company members is a minimum of 5 weeks of classes at School of Canton Ballet or another **approved** school during the summer. (The University of Akron's Dance Institute is the only local school that meets that approval.

Intermediate and advanced students with professional aspirations are encouraged to take part in the national summer school auditions held during the early months of the year. Auditioning is a valuable part of a dancer's training and the more auditions that one does, the easier they become. Even if the student is not planning to go away for the summer, the audition process is a valuable one and one that should be experienced by any serious dancer. Please ask your teacher for more information or check in *Pointe Magazine* in December and early January.

DanceCamp

A week long summer adventure for 3-6 year olds. Led by early childhood specialist Julie Mizer Grasse, children will experience a dance class utilizing various props to enhance their movements. Healthy snacks are discussed and enjoyed each day. Weeklong activities include live performances, games, music and activities center around a classical ballet such as *The Nutcracker*.

Intensive Workshops

Open to serious students of dance, an exciting program of activities is planned to enhance the daily training necessary for aspiring dancers. A placement class may be held on the first day of [\(return to top\)](#)

workshops. Students attending all five weeks will take part in a special performance at the end of the workshop.

X. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The vision of the Outreach division is an expression of Canton Ballet's spirit of artistry and passion. It creates dynamic, multi-sensory learning experiences through dance activities, fostering an appreciation of ballet as a vital cultural art form to all ages and backgrounds. The mission is to educate and uplift individuals of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Theatre performances

For over 30 years Canton Ballet has offered *Peter and the Wolf* annually to area schools as one of its community outreach programs. Over 5000 children a year have witnessed the magic of ballet through this program.

School children have also been mesmerized by such Canton Ballet programs as *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *Don Quixote* and *Cinderella*. All performances are complete with costumes, sound, lighting, make-up and stage sets. These matinee performances are open only to student groups. There is a modest admission charge. Three options offered each year are:

- *Peter and the Wolf* which is performed the first week in October for preschool through third grade students
- *Nutcracker* during mid December for students from elementary school and up.

Inschool lecture-demonstrations

50 minute performance and interactive workshops for students and community groups. It is fun, educational and just might make you think twice about ballet. 55 minute, lecture demonstration. A modest fee is charged.

In school and after school dance classes

Our teacher will come to your school to offer a series of movement classes or children may be bussed to our studios for classes. Please call 330.455.7220 for more information.

Joy of Movement

Canton Ballet will send its Early Childhood Specialist to your preschool or daycare to offer a series of movement classes. Sessions run for 8 weeks and have a nominal fee attached.

Backstage tours

Tours of the backstage area of the Palace Theatre may be arranged upon request. Please call 330.455.7220 to set up a tour for your group.

Educators Night at the Ballet

This is Canton Ballet's way of saying thanks to teachers across the county for all of their incredible work in the classroom! Teachers are invited to watch the first half of the final dress rehearsal of any performance during the season at the historic Canton Palace Theatre in downtown Canton. Call 330.455.7220 if you are an interested educator.

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XI. BUSINESS MATTERS

Paying Tuition

Semester tuition deposit is due at registration. Semester or annual tuition savings discount applies to tuition paid in full by the first day of class. Installments payments through auto-pay from your checking or savings are due on the 15th of each month.

Returned Checks

If your check is returned for insufficient funds, we will call you immediately. There is a \$20 charge for all returned checks.

Discounts / Savings

Annual Tuition Savings -Paying Annually saves about \$20 compared to paying by the Semester. Paying by the Semester saves about \$20 compared to paying by the Month.

Family Savings – The first student (or highest tuition) pays the regular tuition price. Additional students in the same family receive a 15% reduction in tuition. This offer may be combined with the Annual Tuition Savings.

Membership Discount – Tuition (for one student in a family) is reduced by 10% with a membership in Canton Ballet of \$150 or more. A membership of \$100 - \$149 entitles you to a reduction of 5%. These discounts apply only to one family member (highest tuition). This discount may be combined with the Annual Tuition Savings. No more than two discounts may apply to any student's tuition.

Financial Assistance

Financial Assistance for students age 7 and up by September 1 of the current academic year is based upon need and merit and is available through the School of Canton Ballet financial assistance program, which includes the Kerri L. Hunter Memorial Minority Scholarship. Applications are available in the office and online at cantonballet.com. Students who receive financial aid in the fall will be reassessed during the month of January based upon the students' attendance, commitment level and parental timeliness of payments.

Boys' Scholarships It's no secret...we need boys! And ballet provides remarkable benefits to boys playing sports. A special scholarship program is offered for boys from age 7 through 12.

Refunds / Tuition Credits:

Registration fees and tuition are non-refundable except for medical reasons with a doctor's written explanation or due to relocation

Withdrawal

If a student withdraws from class for any reason, the office must be notified as soon as possible. [\(return to top\)](#)

XII. TUITION / FEES

See cantonballet.com for current tuition information.

To reserve a place in any class, a deposit of an amount equal to the first monthly installment plus the registration fee for new students is required. Space in some levels is at a premium. Class enrollment closes when a predetermined number for each level is reached. Waiting lists are available. Class schedule is subject to change.

Registration Fee

Payable by all students new to Canton Ballet.

Payment Options

Semester tuition deposit is due at registration. Semester or annual tuition savings discount applies to tuition paid in full by first day of class. Installment payments are due on 15th of each month thru Auto-Pay.

Nutcracker Participation Fee

Nutcracker participation fee is due by October 15.

School Performance Fee (end of alternate years)

Parents are not asked to purchase costumes or pay for extra classes for this biennial performance. However, to help offset the cost of theatre rental, each family will be responsible for 5 tickets. Additional tickets also may be purchased. Tickets will be available in the office after spring break.

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XIII. ENDOWMENTS

Endowment contributions help to assure the continuation of Canton Ballet's training and programming for many years. Canton Ballet's endowment provides a source of additional income and a reserve for unexpected needs. An investment in the endowment is an investment in the future of Canton Ballet, the future of the arts and the future of our community's children.

For additional information about securing the future of Canton Ballet through an investment in the Endowment, please contact Manager Deby Barath at 330.455.7220 or email debybarath@cantonballet.com

Financial Assistance Endowment

Financial Assistance Contributions are restricted gifts that help us to provide special financial assistance to students. Each year Canton Ballet provides about \$10,000 in financial aid to boys and girls beginning at age 7. We provide a percentage of total tuition based upon the student's level, his/her commitment to ballet and the family's demonstrated financial need.

Kerri Hunter Minority Scholarship Program

Named after Kerri Hunter, a former Canton Ballet Company apprentice who died in a car accident, this scholarship specifically provides financial assistance to minority children.

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XIV. CANTON BALLET BARRE ASSOCIATION

The Barre is a membership organization committed to support of the dancers and families of Canton Ballet. The Barre Association is a committee of Canton Ballet Board of Trustees. The bylaws state that the purpose of the association shall be:

1. To render volunteer service and financial assistance, through fundraising, etc. to the Canton Ballet through projects, purposes and means approved in advance by the Trustees of the Canton Ballet and in keeping with the policies of the Canton Cultural Center for the Arts.
2. To provide educational opportunities for Barre Members, students, parents, and guardians, and interested community members relating to the Canton Ballet, its school and company.
3. To advance the art of dance, and support, as appropriate, the artistic, instructional and administrative staff of the Canton Ballet.

How funds are spent

The funds of the Canton Ballet Barre Association are held by the Canton Ballet and used as the Barre directs, with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Activities of the Barre Association include:

Garment Sales

Held in the fall with delivery for the holidays, the garment sale is a perfect way for students, parents, and others to show their pride in their ballet school with the Canton Ballet logo on some really great clothing and other items!

Boutique

A special Barre Boutique Shoppe is available at every performance and at specific times during the year at the studio. Members of the Barre receive a 10% discount on all STUDIO purchases.

Flower Sales

Beautiful bouquets may be ordered in advance and picked up at each performance. Cash and carry flowers will be available at each performance on a limited basis.

Video Sales

A video is a wonderful way to follow your dancer's progress and to remember each performance. The Barre makes certain all performances are videotaped. Pre-orders are taken in advance of the performance.

Summer Study Scholarships

The Barre assists company level dancers with a number of scholarships for their summer intensive study. A special scholarship audition class is held in the spring to select the recipients.

Board Fund-raiser

The Barre provides volunteers to help with the Canton Ballet board of trustees' annual fund-raiser for general operating expenses of Canton Ballet.

Performance Snacks and Meals

During theatre week for all productions, the Barre Association provides healthy snacks, water and juice for the dancers. Between matinee and evening performances, the Barre provides a meal for the dancers, crew and staff who must remain at the Canton Palace Theatre.

Senior Tea/ Senior Scrapbooks

Throughout the year, the Barre gathers mementos such as program books, ticket stubs, photos, etc, which are compiled into a scrapbook and presented to all graduating seniors at a special Senior Tea in May.

Educational Programs

The Barre Association hosts special speakers and programs on topics of interest specific to dancers and their families as well as general parenting or health issues.

Brunch with Clara

Guests enjoy light delicacies, visit and have their pictures taken with Nutcracker characters, sing Christmas carols, bid on beautiful raffle baskets and have fun.

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XV. SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

Nutcracker Participant Information

Web site username: cantonballet Password: snowflake

Please read and check each item carefully.

Please pay particular attention to your dancer's rest and nutrition during the busy holiday time.

It is VITAL that every dancer attend each rehearsal. Theater rehearsals are essential for a smooth performance. Nerves can lead to confusion and unhappiness and one person's absence will make a problem for all the others in their dance. The theater rehearsals will enable all the children to relax into the stage environment and make a happier experience for all. Please be certain that your child is present and ready at the scheduled time. Prior to evening rehearsals and all performances, children should be encouraged to eat a light but nutritious meal and to rest. Junk food should be avoided. Before the Sunday performances, all children should be fed a light meal and given some quiet time.

Theatre Rehearsals

Our security guard will be present at the stage door. Dancers should enter the theater at the 6th Street Stage Door on the side of the Palace Theater.

Final Dress Rehearsal

- Take your child to the downstairs dressing room.
- Parents welcome in balcony ONLY.
- Photos are permitted but NO flashes please, as it can frighten or disorient the children.
- Videos are permitted. Please use a battery pack
Please do not come backstage during rehearsals unless you are a chaperone as the backstage area is extremely congested.

Ticket Sales

It would be wonderful if it were possible to offer free tickets for parents to all performances. Unfortunately, there is a large amount of expense involved in mounting a production on the scale of *The Nutcracker*; theater rental, lights, crew, costumes, scenery, programs, music, etc. Tickets are available online at cantonballet.com

Stage Makeup

(cantonballet.com Performance Participant page) username: [cantonballet](http://cantonballet.com) password: snowflake
Makeup should be applied to children at home. It should consist of rouge, (small amount) and eyebrow pencil - if blonde. A little pink lipstick should be applied shortly before appearing for the girls.

Hair

Hair should be as neat as possible. Reindeer should wear a bun. Hairnets are required for all buns and hair should be slicked back with super strong hair gel and hair spray. Dancers should bring extra rubberbands, bobby pins, and hairnets to the theatre in their dance bag.

EYEGASSES MAY NOT BE WORN AT THE FINAL STUDIO REHEARSAL, THE STAGE REHEARSAL OR IN THE PERFORMANCE

Chaperones

A few parents will be asked to volunteer as chaperones. Their duties will be the following:

- Check-in children as they arrive for rehearsal or performance
- Assist them with dressing, hair and makeup
- Keep them calm and quiet until their time to dance
- Take them to their place onstage, take them back to dressing room and stay until all children in your group are picked up. There will be an extremely limited opportunity to observe the performance while chaperoning, but the hustle and bustle backstage can be equally exciting.

Shoes and Tights

Leather or split sole shoes only

Reindeer no shoes, pink tights, pink leotard, no panties

Street Urchins (Elementary 2)

Girls: black ballet slippers, black tights

Boys: black ballet slippers, black tights

Package Children (Elementary 3)

Girls: pink ballet slippers, pink tights

Boys: black ballet slippers, black tights

Party Girls, Angels, Polinchinelle Girls, Cherubs, All Mice

pink tights, pink ballet shoes

Party Boys, Polinchinelle Boys

white ballet shoes

PLEASE PUT NAMES ON **INSIDE** OF ALL EQUIPMENT. White and pink shoes and tights must be spotlessly clean and without holes, runs or pins. No writing on shoe soles.

General Information

Theater rehearsals are most important. The time scheduling is as close as possible and every effort will be made to get the children out early, but unforeseen circumstances may cause delays. Please do not plan appointments close to rehearsal time. It is important for each dancer to rehearse onstage in order to be relaxed and enjoy the performance experience.

- Please, absolutely no jewelry may be worn onstage. No pierced earrings. If they absolutely cannot be removed, please cover with thin piece of band-aid.
- Do not bring money or valuables to the theater.
- Children will need to remove their eyeglasses for stage rehearsals and performances.
- Please make a list of all items the dancer will need. For the school age child, it can be a responsibility that is most beneficial if he/she is encouraged to make his or her own list and then be double checked by the parents.
- The dancer will perform better and be more relaxed if encouraged to rest before the program. Also a light, early meal is desirable.
- Only clear nail polish is permitted on dancers.
- No flash pictures or videos are to be taken during the performance.
- Pictures (without flash) and videotaping (with battery) are permitted during theater rehearsals.
- Please put names on INSIDE of all equipment, shoes, etc.
- Absolutely NO eating or drinking in costume, except water. NO gum chewing
- No part of costume is to be taken home at any time.

Dancers will need to be picked up between performances on Saturday, taken home, given a light meal and some time to rest before returning for the evening performance. Only Canton Ballet Company dancers may remain in the theatre between performances.

The rules are numerous, but they are essential to a smooth running performance. We ask your cooperation and patience, should schedules not go quite as planned. Every effort will be made to make rehearsals and performances as smooth running as possible.

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School Showcase Performance (held in May of alternate years)

Please check and read this entire document. Remember to *purchase or sell 5 tickets at \$10 each!*

Final Rehearsals

Rehearsals are essential for a smooth performance. **The theatre rehearsal is VITAL.** We will have only one for each class. The time scheduling is as close as possible, but unforeseen circumstances may cause delays. Please do not plan appointments close to rehearsal time. It is important for each dancer to rehearse onstage in order to be relaxed and enjoy the performance experience. Plan to wait for your young children in the theatre during rehearsals. Sometimes they will finish early, other times a little bit late.

EYEGASSES MAY NOT BE WORN AT THE FINAL STUDIO REHEARSAL, THE STAGE REHEARSAL OR IN THE PERFORMANCE.

What your dancer needs for the School Performance

The dancer will perform better and be more relaxed if encouraged to rest before the program. Also a light early meal is desirable.

Grooming

- ABSOLUTELY no jewelry or colored nail polish may be worn on stage.
- Do not bring money or any valuables to the theatre, as their safety cannot be guaranteed.
- No gum chewing in the theatre at all.

Clothing

Dancers are required to wear the school uniform leotard and tights to be included in the performance

- Shoes and tights **MUST BE SPOTLESSLY CLEAN WITHOUT HOLES OR RUNS** of any kind. Leotard and tights must be the correct uniform color and fabric.
- Ballet skirts are ALWAYS tied on the natural waist above the belly button not because it makes the line of the legs long and attractive.
- Children should not wear underwear beneath their ballet clothes. It is similar to a bathing suit. A leotard and tights are already two layers of clothing and other layers simply make a bunched appearance onstage.

Makeup

Makeup may be applied to the children at home, in the case of rouge (small amount) and eyebrow pencil if they are very blond. For girls - a little pink lipstick should be applied shortly before appearing. Intermediate dancers should bring their own makeup kit with their supplies.

Hair

Hair should be as neat as possible.

- ALL GIRLS MUST HAVE THEIR HAIR IN A BUN WITH A HAIRNET and with their class flower headpiece. **Bangs are not permitted.** Hair must be thoroughly sprayed or hair gel used, without frizzies. Boys' hair should be neat and not too long.
- Intermediate female dancers should bring their own hairbrushes, pins and hairnets as well as hair spray and gels. *Backstage space is EXTREMELY limited in our lovely vintage theatre so please come completely ready.*

Arrival

Arrive at the scheduled time at the stage door of the Palace Theatre on 6th street with hair and makeup ready.

- Children below Intermediate levels should arrive dressed with their hair and makeup done wearing a skirt or pants over their leotards and tights. Intermediate and above should dress at the theatre (but do hair and makeup at home) so that their tights are not baggy.
- Leave child with backstage chaperone and exit through the stage door and enter the lobby of the Palace Theatre through the MAIN entrance to see the performance.

Pick up

Creative Movement 1 and 2, Preballet, Elementary 1 and 2

DURING THE FIRST INTERMISSION, pick your dancer up in the downstairs dressing rooms and return to your seat.

Elementary 3, Intermediate 1, 2, 3, 4, 1AP, 2AP, Intermediate 3,4,5
Your dancer will be in the balcony with chaperones after their dance and should be picked up **AT THE END OF THE PERFORMANCE IN THE BALCONY.**

Remember that no flash photography is permitted during rehearsals or performances as our little dancers can be startled or injured.

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