



## **Dance Training Guidelines**

The Kentucky Ballet Theatre does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or national or ethnic background.

Successful students have a willingness for dedicated work in a disciplined learning environment. Self-discipline is the only practice that will guide a student to personal satisfaction and continued progress. Students are encouraged to approach classes with joy rather than a sense of obligation. Put your time and energy to the best use by allowing yourself to be inspired by your love of dance in each & every class or rehearsal.

Students follow a structured curriculum that is designed to increase skill, endurance, and discipline in accordance with age, maturity, physical development, as well as technical and artistic progress. The frequent and consistent repetition of steps during class is elemental to the study of ballet and cannot be replaced by individual study. Notes and corrections are an essential part of ballet instruction; therefore, teachers will verbally and physically guide the students to ensure proper body placement and execution of movement. Students may not receive individual corrections in every class, but should assume that every correction given (whether to the class or to an individual) applies to each and every student. Students in both the Classical and Pre-Professional tracks are encouraged to keep a notebook in class in order to record and review corrections, study ballet terminology, and set goals. Proper implementation and retention of corrections in class supports continued progress.

Dancers are a work in progress. Gracefully learning from frustrations as well as achievements will guide students toward personal, technical, and artistic growth. Focused and dedicated effort is expected each day to make each student's experience positive and successful. It is extremely important that students are self-motivated and enthusiastic in their approach to class work. Teachers are a constant source of information and guidance, but should not have to repeatedly ask students to take a proactive approach to learning. Students who push themselves to meet their goals in each class or rehearsal can feel proud of themselves, knowing that they have done their best.

### **Student Evaluation**

Tremendous care and attention are devoted to the evaluation process in order to provide clear goals for our students as they develop their technique and love of dance. Evaluation forms and conferences will be done once per semester. In addition to comments given by each student's instructor(s), all students enrolled in The School's Academy Division will be formally evaluated to help determine student advancements for the next school season. At the end of each school year, all students will receive a diploma indicating their placement for the following school year. Initial entry into the pre-professional program will be determined during the Beginning C level.

A student's level placement is a benchmark which indicates a student's attainment of the skills set forth in the syllabus. Placement is a complex process, and may not necessarily be based on a student's years of study or age

(with the exception of the placement of new students in the Children's Division). Accordingly, we rely heavily on the expertise of our faculty and Academy Director to observe each student's understanding and application of class material, physical strength, and development, as well as intellectual and artistic maturity observed throughout the school season. Additionally, the level of technical achievement within the general student population can and does change, affecting overall placement standards throughout the levels of The School. **In the Intermediate levels, students should generally expect to spend a minimum of one to two years at each level before being promoted to the next level.**

It is important to note that advancement is a unique process for each individual student. Above all, students will be placed in a level that will allow for challenging study without putting at risk the physical health and emotional well-being of the child. Unlike academic programs, it is not uncommon for students to be asked to repeat a level of training, and this practice is in no way designed to be a punishment. It is of the utmost importance that students are not only able to execute class material safely in order to avoid injuries caused by improper technique, but also to excel in their mastery of the skills required at each level. It is with these criteria in mind that The Kentucky Ballet Theatre Academy supports each student's fulfillment of his or her potential as a dancer, while learning and growing as young artists.

## **Class Placement**

The School reserves the right to determine the class level for every student, regardless of prior training. Students are required to attend all assigned classes according to level and placement. Level placement is for the entire school year and can only be adjusted by the academy director.

- Returning students can register for the class level recommended in the evaluation process at the end of the prior school year.
- Class selection for new Children's Division students should be made according to the student's age as of the first day of classes of each academy year.
- New students in the Academy Division and the Pre-Professional Program will be evaluated by the Academy Director via a private placement class prior to enrollment.

Occasionally, changes in placement will be made when a new semester begins and The School reserves the right to make placement changes that it deems necessary for the safety and well-being of the student.

## **Training between Sessions**

- The School offers bridge classes during extended breaks. These classes are open to students in any division for participation.
- Continuing your dancing training during the summer is essential for every dancer. The School offers summer dance programs and classes for all ages. Summer study is strongly suggested for any serious dance student with professional aspirations, to maintain the momentum that is essential for continued progress.

## **Outside Training**

The Kentucky Ballet Theatre Academy's curriculum is comprehensive and demanding. In order to maintain a commitment to each dancer's artistic and technical growth, students in the pre-professional track are not permitted to take classes with or perform with any other ballet studio, school, or company without permission from the Academy Director.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is imperative for consistent progress. Students are expected to attend all classes unless formally excused due to illness or other extenuating circumstances. The School must be notified if an absence is anticipated. Please contact us via email at [kbtooffice736@gmail.com](mailto:kbtooffice736@gmail.com) or call 859-252-5245. Instructors take attendance at the beginning of each class In order to ensure proper attendance records.

Students are welcome to make up any excused absences, which include those missed due to illness, injury, weather cancellation, or tardiness. All make-up classes should be completed by the end of each semester. Make-up classes may be taken in an alternate section of the student's registered class or in a lower level class. As a courtesy to our families, we offer a special make-up week during Spring Semester in case of weather related cancellations. Please check the online calendar for dates. Parents need to check in with the office to schedule all make-up classes to ensure that the student receives credit for the classes they make up. If the parent or student does not sign-in to record the make-up class, it will not be recorded on their attendance record, which could affect the student's evaluation at the end of the school year.

Tardiness is unacceptable. To prevent physical injury to our young dancers, when attempting to dance without proper warm up, students entering a ballet class after pliés will remain in the studio and observe class. Students arriving to any Elective dance classes more than 10 minutes late will remain in the studio and observe class. Although observing class is quite useful, if you realize that you will arrive after the designated grace period, it is advised that the student elect to take a make-up class in place of observing.