

2019-20 BALLET PROGRAM HANDBOOK

GRBS Ballet Program

From beginner to advanced, students at Grand Rapids Ballet School will receive the nurturing instruction of our professional teaching faculty to develop a thorough knowledge of technique, the invaluable skill of self-discipline, and a lasting love of dance. Elements from the French, Italian, and Russian ballet techniques are incorporated into the GRBS curriculum, providing students with a versatile and extensive dance education.

Tuition

GRBS students enroll in two 18-week semesters. Tuition can be paid in full for the year (receiving an 8% discount), by the semester, or on a monthly payment plan (incurring an 8% charge per month). Monthly payment plans are automatically deducted the first Monday of each month from the credit card information provided. Grand Rapids Ballet School maintains a policy of offering no refunds. Once the program in question has begun, tuition is non-refundable and if unused will be received as a donation. Tuition will not be reduced or refunded due to common illness or family vacation. Students who wish to may schedule a make-up class through the School Office.

Scholarships/ Financial Aid

Each year GRBS awards over \$68,000 in scholarships to students who demonstrate financial need. Families are invited to apply for financial aid each July for the upcoming School Year and each April for the Summer Programs.

Level Progression

Advancement from one class level to the next is done through the evaluation process. Progression is determined by the student's physical and mental preparedness for the challenges of the next level. Our curriculum is based on students spending an average of two years (or four semesters) in each level. Due to our class curriculum structure spanning the entire year, students should not expect to advance a level mid-year.

In anticipation of entering Ballet 6, students completing a second year of Ballet 5 will be required to pass an in-class evaluation conducted by the School Director before advancing. The evaluation will test whether the student can properly execute all Ballet 5 syllabus requirements, both in ballet shoes and en pointe.

Evaluations

Evaluations will be sent to full-time enrolled students in Ballet 1 through Ballet 7 and Boys 2 at the end of each semester. Parents wishing to discuss their child's evaluation further may request a meeting through the School Office.

Performance Opportunities

End of the Year Program

Each year, full-time enrolled students in Ballet 1 through 7 and Boys 2 showcase the skills and growth they have acquired over the past two semesters.

The Nutcracker

Each year, Grand Rapids Ballet performs *The Nutcracker* at DeVos Performance Hall for thousands of audience goers. *The Nutcracker* has many roles for children and showcases the talent of our School alongside GRB's company dancers. Casting decisions are made based upon height, musicality, technique, class attendance, and overall presence. Auditions for *The Nutcracker* are held each September for full-time enrolled students ages 8 – 19.

Junior Company

Students between the ages of 10 and 19 (as of the audition date) are invited to audition for the GRBS Junior Company. Auditions are held twice a year. Being part of Junior Company is a wonderful opportunity for young dancers to flourish and explore new performance opportunities. Junior Company dancers participate in a number of performances throughout the year. Students must be enrolled full-time and maintain a 90% attendance record in order to be a part of Junior Company.

Grand Rapids Ballet School Lobby

The Meijer Royce Center for Dance houses both the Grand Rapids Ballet and Grand Rapids Ballet School. With respect to those who work and attend classes here, we ask that if you will be waiting in our lobby that you kindly do so in a quiet manner.

Below are policies for students and families of GRBS while in attendance:

- Food and drinks are restricted to the café area
- Only plain water is allowed in the studios and theatre
- Cell phones are not allowed in the studios, except during Parent Observation Day
- Students/parents/siblings are responsible for picking up after themselves
- All pianos are for faculty use only
- Students are expected to wait quietly in the lobby for the start of class, **no running or yelling is allowed**
- GRBS is not responsible for lost or stolen items
- Animals (other than working service dogs) are not permitted in the building
- While waiting in the lobby, any sibling of a GRBS student must be accompanied by a parent/guardian
- **No filming or photography is allowed in the dressing rooms, studios, or stage.**

Student Conduct

All students share equal responsibility for the vitality and well-being of the community and learning environment at GRBS. Grand Rapids Ballet School reserves the right to impose disciplinary measures for any student in violation of a GRBS rule or who exhibits consistent inappropriate/distracting behavior. Failure by a student to correct unacceptable conduct as requested by GRBS staff will result in parental notification. In serious or repetitive cases of misbehavior, GRBS may dismiss a student from the program. The following are forbidden at Grand Rapids Ballet School:

- Physical intimidation or injury
- Theft
- Verbal abuse
- Sexual Harassment
- Inappropriate display of affection
- Possession of drugs and/or alcohol:
- Smoking: The Meijer Royce Center for Dance and Peter Martin Wege Theatre are smoke free facilities.
- Firearms or weapons of any kind
- Self-destructive behavior
- Intentional destruction or misuse of GRBS (or another person's) property
- Filming or photographing in the Dressing Rooms or bathrooms
- Inappropriate use of the internet
- Improper use of cell phones
- Slanderous or defaming comments about other students or faculty

Dress Code

Listed below are the guidelines regarding GRBS Dress Code:

- If a student is not in proper Dress Code attire, he/she may be asked to sit and observe class.
- No warmers in class.
- Jewelry should be minimal (no bracelets or watches in classes or rehearsals).
- Shoes should be neatly sewn (no safety pins or tied elastics).

Ladies

All leotards must be solid colored tank, camisole, or short sleeve styles. Hair neatly secured in a bun; short hair fastened away from the face.

Ballet 1: Lavender leotard (**no attached skirt**), soft pink tights, pink ballet shoes

Ballet 2: Light blue leotard, soft pink tights, pink ballet shoes

Ballet 3: Royal blue leotard, soft pink tights, pink ballet shoes

Ballet 4: Burgundy leotard, soft pink, pink ballet shoes, and pointe shoes

Ballet 5: Navy blue leotard, soft pink tights, pink ballet shoes, and pointe shoes

Ballet 6: Dark purple leotard, soft pink tights, pink ballet shoes, and pointe shoes

Ballet 7: Black leotard, soft pink tights, pink ballet shoes, and pointe shoes

New this year, GRBS will require all female students enrolled in Ballet 1-7 full-time and performing in the *End of the Year Program* to purchase one of three approved leotards to ensure a uniform and professional look for the performances. These approved leotard options will be available for purchase/order from Kick's Dancewear in Grand Rapids. The specific brands and style numbers will be released at a later date.

Gentlemen, Ballet 2 – Ballet 7 and Boys 2 / Young Men's

White fitted athletic shirt (no big logos or writing), black footed tights, and black ballet shoes. Hair neatly combed; long hair secured away from the face.

Gentlemen, Ballet 1

White fitted t-shirt, black leggings, black socks, and black ballet shoes. Hair neatly combed; long hair secured away from the face.

Class Etiquette

The following are basic ballet class etiquette components expected of all GRBS students:

Respectfulness (speaking politely, trusting the teacher's corrections or advice, addressing the instructor as "Ms." or "Mr.").

Punctuality and Dress (arrive to every class on time in the correct attire).

Focus (quiet, attentive listening in class).

Student Bulletin board

Every student is responsible for checking the bulletin board when he/she comes in each day. General announcements, weekly schedules, rehearsal schedules, and costume fittings are all posted there as well as any important notices or immediate schedule changes. It is important for students themselves to check the board daily to keep track of their own schedule and important information.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. If a student is ill, they need to be fever free or on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to class. Attendance is critical to a student's consistent improvement and advancement. It is also essential that students arrive a few minutes prior to class. Arriving early allows the student to properly warm up and prepare themselves mentally and physically for class. If a student is more than 15 minutes late to class, they will be asked to sit and observe. If a student is consistently tardy for class, the School Office will notify the parents via email. Please notify the School Office with all cases of absence, so that we can properly notate the absence in our records. Call (616) 454-4771 ext. 17 or email school@grballet.com.

Injuries

Please report all injuries sustained in or outside of ballet class to the School Office. The School Office will document the incident and any medical guidelines given by the student's physician. If an injury occurs, please do the following:

- Provide the School Office with a signed physician's report regarding the student's injury.
- For an injury requiring limited participation in class or a significant leave of absence, contact the School to discuss the recovery plan.
- Any student returning to class following recovery from an injury will need to provide a signed note of permission from their physician.

Lockers

Lockers are the property of Grand Rapids Ballet School. Lockers are assigned to upper level students, beginning with Ballet 7 and moving to Ballet 4, given availability. Students are encouraged to place a lock on their personal locker.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found is located in the lobby hallway next to Studio D. The bin is emptied at the end of each month. Any items not claimed will be donated to the Armoire Sale or Goodwill.

Communication

Families receive weekly updates from the School Office via email. **Please contact the School as soon as possible if you are not receiving the weekly email, as these newsletters contain important information for all students.**

Questions or Concerns

All questions and concerns should be directed to the School Administrator who will direct the information to the appropriate person(s). Appointments with the School Director/Junior Company Director, and/or faculty members are to be made through the School Office.

Parent Watch Week

Parents are invited to observe class during designated observation weeks. This is an opportunity to experience your child's ballet class. This observation is NOT open to the public but is for parents/guardians to observe their child's progress. Observation weeks and parent sign-up will be posted on the Parent Board in the School Lobby. **Please note, there is no filming or photography during this parent watch class.** The opportunity to take photographs will be after the class finishes.

School Closing/Cancelled Classes

When GRBS will be closed and/or have classes cancelled due to the weather, it will be posted in three locations:

- The Grand Rapids Ballet School Facebook Page / WZZM13 / Email

Student Drop Off/ Pick Up

Students should be dropped off and picked up in a timely manner. Preferably, students should not be dropped off more than a half hour before class and be picked up within 15 minutes of their scheduled class time/rehearsal ending. If the student is not picked up within 20 minutes of the scheduled class time/rehearsal, their account is subject to a \$20.00 fee.

GRBS Student Ticket Discount

All students enrolled full time at GRBS have the opportunity to purchase one ticket per GRB Company show at the starting discounted price of \$20.00. This ticket may be purchased at the Ballet Box Office, using your name and GRBS level, up to 48 hours prior to the scheduled performance. Please note, this student discount ticket is not available when purchasing tickets online through Ticketmaster. Offer is available for the student only. Offer is subject to availability.

Meijer Royce Center for Dance Parking Lot

Families should only park only in legal parking spaces and drive slowly to avoid accidents. Vehicles need to enter from the Grandville entrance and exit onto Ellsworth to keep the flow of traffic moving. If you are dropping off /picking up a student, **please do not park your vehicle in front of the building's main entrance.** On busy evenings, please also consider the available parking in the Amtrak lot, located directly across the street from GRBS on Ellsworth Ave.

Armoire

The GRBS Armoire is a sale made up of gently used donated dance apparel. All proceeds directly benefit the Grand Rapids Ballet School. Armoire Sale dates will be posted in the monthly email newsletters.

Parent Meetings

Meetings will be held at the beginning of each Fall Semester. Join our School Director and/or other members of GRBS faculty as they highlight our handbook and policies, and discuss the exciting opportunities each School Year brings for our students.