

# 2019-20 YOUNG DANCER / BOYS 1 PROGRAM HANDBOOK

## Young Dancer Program

Young Dancer classes introduce children to the joy of movement and music. These classes concentrate on creativity, group interaction, and classroom etiquette. Students in the Young Dancer Program participate in our winter and spring performances, *Petite Nutcracker* and *Petite Finale*.

- **Creative Dance**  
Creative Dance is a class offered for students ages 3-4 and focuses on rhythm, coordination, music and creativity. This is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for two 18-week semesters.
- **Pre-Ballet**  
Pre Ballet is designed for students ages 5-6. These classes encourage children to use their imaginations, work as a group, learn basic ballet movement, and proper classroom etiquette. This is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for two 18-week semesters.
- **Elementary Ballet**  
Elementary Ballet is an introduction to formal ballet training for 6-7 year-olds. In this class students are introduced to ballet vocabulary and barre work while building flexibility of movement, dance exploration, and classroom etiquette. This class meets twice a week for 45 minutes for two 18-week semesters.
- **Boys 1 Program**  
Goal-setting, cooperation, and self-discipline are just a few of the many advantages of the Boys 1 introductory ballet class. Students in Boys 1 will also learn about musicality, flexibility, strength, and coordination. Boys 1 students will participate in performances twice per school year.

## 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. Scheduled holidays, breaks, and weather-related school closings do not alter tuition.

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 an evaluation process. Progression is determined by the student's age, as well as their physical and mental preparedness for the challenges of the next level. Parents and students should not anticipate annual level advancement; students often spend two years in each level. Students will be notified in the summer months regarding their class placement for the next school year.

## Performance Opportunities

Students enrolled in Creative Dance, Pre-Ballet, Elementary Ballet, and Boys 1 have the opportunity to perform for their family and friends twice per year. The performances will showcase the skills the dancers have learned throughout the year.

## 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**

Students should follow the guidelines below regarding the Dress Code:

- No warmers in class (i.e. sweaters, leg warmers)
- Jewelry should be minimal (no bracelets or watches in class, please).

## **Ladies -**

Soft pink leotard (attached skirt is approved, no separate tutu), soft pink tights, pink ballet shoes. 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.

## **Gentlemen -**

White fitted t-shirt (no big logos or writing), 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 directions, 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).

## **Attendance/ Illness or Injury**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. If a student is injured, they are instructed to observe class. When a child is sick (running a fever and/or contagious) they are asked to stay home to prevent exposing others to illness. If a student is ill but still able to attend class, we encourage them to come and observe as long as they are not contagious. All injuries sustained in or outside of the ballet class must be reported to the School Office promptly. The School Office will document the incident and any medical instructions. Please notify the School Office with all cases of absence.

## **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. GRBS also has a Facebook page that remains updated with information regarding upcoming events. **Please contact the School Office 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).

### **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

### **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/PMW Theatre 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 staff as they highlight our handbook and policies and discuss the exciting opportunities for our students this School Year.