FESTIVAL BALLET PROVIDENCE

Student & Guardian Handbook
2020-2021

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Welcome to Festival Ballet Providence School

Our Philosophy
At FBP School, we have created a variety of learning opportunities through our diverse programs. Our philosophy is to nurture, develop, and support each student’s individual goals as they progress through our program.

FBP School provides inspiration and growth in a professional and nurturing atmosphere. Students are motivated to strive for excellence in technique, grace, and poise. A faculty of professional teachers attributes to the quality of a dance school, and FBP meets the highest standard of dance instruction. Each teacher has completed many years of educational training or performance experience.

Our Curriculum
As a classical ballet school, FBP School offers its students a traditional and comprehensive education that has been influenced by the Vaganova technique. We have designed a syllabus that meets the needs of those students striving for a professional career in ballet, while maintaining class options appropriate for students studying ballet to support other dance forms, as well as those taking class for pure enjoyment. Whatever a student desires from their dance education, our curriculum fosters a strong technical foundation and a high level of discipline and commitment. Students who graduate from our school receive a full understanding of the art of ballet, a strong technical base, fluidity, and grace.

Our students begin their early training in the Young Children’s Program. This program has been created to magnify students’ imagination and explore moving their bodies. As students move through the school, they will be afforded the opportunity to progress into the Core Ballet Program or to continue their studies in our Open Program, depending on their desired level of commitment. Our curriculum includes classes in several dance disciplines to support the training of a well-rounded dancer.

As the course of study concludes, talented students selected from the Advanced Level are given the opportunity to audition for acceptance into the Trainee Program. This program offers a bridge between the School and FBP’s professional company. The Trainee Program provides these talented dancers with the additional training needed to prepare for a career in professional ballet.

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.
General Policies

Payment
All school registration and quarterly tuition payments are due one week prior to the start of each quarter, unless an alternate payment plan has been established. All late tuition payments will incur a late fee of 5% of the quarterly tuition. See our registration information for payment methods and payment plans.

Class Change
All class changes must be made within the first week of each quarter and must be submitted to the front desk on an Add/Drop form.

Refund/Withdraw Policy
If a student withdraws within the first week of the quarter, 75% of the quarterly tuition will be refunded. Withdrawals in the second week will receive a 50% refund. No refunds or credits will be issued for withdrawals that occur after the second week of the quarter. Registration fees are non-refundable. A Refund/Credit form must be completed and returned to the registrar as soon as possible. Any refunds will take 4-6 weeks (from the time of submission) to process.

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.festivalballetprovidence.org. All paperwork must be completed and returned before the student attends any classes.

Missed Classes and Make Up Classes
All students are required to call the front desk to report an absence. We ask that students not attend class if they are sick. If a student must miss a class, we recommend the student attend the same level or lower level class within the same quarter.

Observation
Visitors are only allowed in studios during scheduled observation days, which will be held during the last week of classes in Quarter 2.

Bathroom
Guardians of children age 4 and under are asked to remain in the lobby during your child’s class. Children age 4 and under must be accompanied by a guardian when going to the bathroom. Front desk staff members are not allowed to take children to the bathroom, or clean up after them.

Lobby
All students and visitors are asked to be respectful of the administrative staff and studio classes by keeping noise to a minimum.
**Class Cancellations**
If classes are cancelled due to inclement weather, we will post announcements on local television stations 6, 10 and 12 as well as local radio stations. An announcement will be on our phone and website. We send emails and post on our Facebook page when possible.

**Volunteering**
We love our family and community volunteers! If you would like to help out with our many ongoing projects and join our FBP Volunteer Organization (Friends of Festival Ballet), please give your information to the front desk.

**Gifts to Faculty and Staff**
Staff and faculty at FBP School are asked 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.

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

**Sign-In**
Students must enter through the lobby, not through the 4th Street entrance, and sign-in and sign-out of the building at the front desk.

**Facilities**
Students should maintain cleanliness in the studios, dressing rooms, hallways, and bathrooms by removing all water bottles, clothes, bandage wrappers, shoes, etc. when leaving.

**Personal Property**
Students should be respectful of other students’ personal property.

**Cell Phones**
Students are not allowed to use their cell phones during classes or rehearsals.

**Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco**
The use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate termination from the program. Tuition will not be refunded.

**Anti-Discrimination Policy**
Festival Ballet Providence has been and will continue to be committed to providing an environment free from discrimination for all students, staff members, and applicants for employment.

**Harassment**
Festival Ballet Providence is committed to building a positive environment throughout its operations. FBP 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 Director of Dance Education and/or the Executive Director.

**Student Discount for Festival Ballet 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 15% discount off selected seating areas for all FBP performances at PPAC and The Vets. Discount information can be found below:

**PPAC**
The Nutcracker
Code: FBPSCHOOLPPAC
$68 (full) - $58.25 (with discount)
$55 (full) - $47.25 (with discount)
$38 (full) - $32.75 (with discount)
(Valid for actively enrolled FBP School students and families, limit 4 tickets per household. $3 facility fee cannot be discounted)
Call 401-421-ARTS or go to PPACRI.org

The Vets
Code: FBPSCHOOL
$58 (full) - $50.75 (with discount)
$48 (full) - $42.25 (with discount)
$38 (full) - $33.75 (with discount)
(Valid for actively enrolled FBP School students and families, limit 4 tickets per household. $4 facility fee cannot be discounted)
Call 401-421-ARTS or go to TheVetsRI.com
Ballet Studio Etiquette

Ballet Etiquette is important for our students not only because of the self-discipline it instills, but also because it is a mechanism for growth and improvement. It creates an atmosphere in which learning and respect for self and others are of the utmost importance.

It is very important to be on time. Ballet class starts at the barre and if the student is late, not only will he/she have missed vital exercises, but he/she will have to place himself/herself into a space at the barre, causing those in front or behind to have to shift their positions. If the student is late, he/she should stand quietly at the entrance of the studio until everyone finishes the exercise and wait until the teacher will allow the student to join at the next combination.

There is no talking in ballet classes, whether the student is a child starting out, or a student in the Advanced Level unless the teacher opens up the conversation. Class is a time to concentrate on the learning done in a group setting and too much distracting conversation can take away from learning.

Asking questions is welcomed if a student is asking a question about the combination or something that is pertinent to the moment. If a student has a question, he/she should raise their hand and wait for the teacher – students should refrain from interrupting the teacher when they are in the middle of giving a combination or correction – unless it is an absolute emergency.

Take corrections with a positive mindset. All our teachers want to see their students thrive and improve. It can be confusing for young dancers to understand that the only way to improve in ballet is to apply 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.

Gum is not allowed during class or rehearsals!

Bracelets, watches, jewelry on the neck or large earrings are not allowed during classes or rehearsals!

Good etiquette demands that students observe the 'rules' of the environment. 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. We suggest that if your dancer has multiple classes each week, that students have more than one leotard in the class color. Students are only required to have one uniform leotard, but if students are in Intermediate 1 Level and up, it is recommended that they have at least two leotards in the class color to alternate between washings.
Hair must be neatly pulled back and adequately secured. The appearance is not the only issue. Hair can also impact the dancer’s technique. Dancers who do not have their hair pulled back appropriately run the risk of creating bad habits, like unknowingly flicking their head to get their bangs out of their eyes, or not spotting because their hair hits them in the face when turning. If you have questions about how to secure your hair, please ask your teacher before or after class.

All students are expected to listen to their instructor and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. A meeting will be called between the School Director and guardian if a child is disruptive in the classroom.
FBPS 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 LaBrie Dance store. Leotards ordered through Festival Ballet Providence will be embroidered with FBP logo. (Applies only for the following school year and must be ordered by July 30th)

Young Children’s Program

Dance with Me, Creative Movement 1, Creative Movement 2, Creative Movement 3, Pre-Ballet 1, Pre-Ballet 2, Pre-Ballet 3
Girls: Pink leotard, white ankle socks, and pink ballet shoes.
Hair: Pulled back in a ponytail, braid, puff, pigtails or bun.
Boys: fitted white t-shirt, black dance shorts, white ankle socks and white ballet shoes.

Core Ballet Program

Beginner Ballet 1, Beginner Ballet 2, Beginner Ballet 3, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Intermediate 3, Advanced
Girls: All girls must wear footed or convertible 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.
Hair: Pulled back in a bun.
Pointe Shoe Requirement (Int 2 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.

Beginner Ballet 1 and 2
Light Blue leotard

Beginner Ballet 3
Light Blue leotard, light blue pull on skirt

Intermediate 1
Raspberry leotard and raspberry pull on skirt

Intermediate 2
Iris leotard and Iris pull on skirt

Intermediate 3
Navy blue leotard and navy blue pull on skirt

Advanced
Black leotard and black pull on skirt
Boys: All boys in the core ballet program are required to wear white fitted shirts, black footed tights and black ballet shoes.

Enrichment classes:
**Character Dance- Intermediate 2, Intermediate 3, Advanced**

**Girls:** Leotard in style and color required by level, black character skirt and black character shoes.
**Hair:** Pulled back in a bun
**Boys:** White fitted shirts, black footed tights and black character or jazz shoes

**Contemporary -Intermediate 3 and Advanced**

**Girls:** Any color leotard, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights, ballet shoes
**Hair:** Pulled back in a bun

**Boys:** Any color fitted t-shirt, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights, black ballet shoes

**Modern-Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2**

**Girls:** Any color leotard, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights
**Hair:** Pulled back in a ponytail, braids or puff

**Boys:** Any color fitted t-shirt, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights

**Jazz – Beginner Ballet 2, Beginner Ballet 3**

**Girls:** Any color leotard, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights and black jazz shoes
**Hair:** Pulled back in a ponytail, braids or puff

**Boys:** Any color fitted t-shirt, black jazz pants and black jazz shoes

**Open Program**

**Open Boy’s Class**
Boys are required to wear white fitted shirts, black footed tights and black ballet shoes.

**Open Beginner Ballet**
**Girls:** Burgundy Leotard (check the style at the front desk). 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.
**Hair:** Pulled back in a bun

**Boys:** White fitted shirts, black footed tights and black ballet shoes.

**Open Modern**
**Girls:** Any color leotard, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights
Hair: Pulled back in a ponytail, braids or puff

**Boys:** Any color fitted t-shirt, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights

**Open Jazz**  
**Girls:** Any color leotard, black cotton or spandex fitted shorts or black footless tights and black jazz shoes  
Hair: Pulled back in a ponytail, braids or puff

**Boys:** Any color fitted t-shirt, black jazz pants and black jazz shoes

**Adult and Adaptive Programs**  
No dress code is required, however, comfortable fitted clothing such as yoga wear is suggested.
Our History
Originally conceived by the late Lydia Pettine, Festival Ballet was founded in 1978 by Christine Hennessey and Winthrop Corey, formerly principal dancers with The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada, respectively. Both worked tirelessly to develop and grow the young company, bringing in talented international choreographers to set their works, while also working with the local community to advance dance education and appreciation. Ms. Hennessey led the company artistically until her death in 1997.

Since Ms. Hennessey’s passing, leadership of the Company was passed to Mr. Mihailo Djuric. The non-profit Festival Ballet Providence started its own school, first under Mr. Djuric (1999 - 2006), then Mary Ann Mayer (2006 -2017), Vilja Putrius (2018-2020) and currently under Marissa Parmenter. The FBP School currently boasts a distinguished international faculty, an outstanding young children’s program, a core program for the dedicated ballet student, trainee program for the serious advanced level students, performance opportunities with the professional company, an extensive financial aid program, engaging summer programs, an adaptive program designed to bring movement and expression into the lives of children with Down Syndrome, and an open enrollment that provides the community access to this art form through a variety of classes, workshops, and camps. These comprehensive educational programs are offered year round. Since its inception in 1999, the School has continued to grow and expand its offerings to provide dance experiences for students of all ages.

At FBP, 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.

Thank you for reading the School Student & Guardian handbook.
Please let us know if you have any questions.

We look forward to a wonderful year!