



Handbook for Students & Parents

2023-24

Canton Ballet
1001 Market Ave N
Canton, Ohio 44702
330.455.7220

Last Updated 9/5/23

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I. MISSION / GOALS / POLICIES

Mission Statement

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 achieve 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
 - 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.

Point 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 long-term welfare of the child. Our students begin preparing for pointe work from the very first class. Carefully developed exercises that grow-up with the dancer, ensures that the dancers are ready when the time comes for them to go *en pointe*. (See section on *Pointe Work* 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 Harassment

Canton Ballet will not tolerate any unlawful harassment of 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 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 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.

II. ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, & STAFF

Artistic Staff

Jennifer Catazaro Hayward, Artistic Director
jcatazaro@cantonballet.com

Faculty

Angelo Lemmo, Director of Repertoire
Julie Mizer Grasse, Early Childhood Specialist
Kristen Mulligan-Exposito, Artistic Assistant
Anna Lescallet, Rehearsal Assistant
Zachary Catazaro, Master Teacher, Ballet
Madison Campbell, Ballet
Caitlyn Scott, Ballet
Chelsea Mae Shumpp, Jazz & Tap
Matthew Roberts, Contemporary
Caroline Kappel, Pilates
Jason Exposito, Strength & Conditioning

Guest Master Teacher

Laura Alonso

Accompanists

Sharon Walsh, Principal Pianist
Helen Kohler, Pianist

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

Administrative Staff

Joy L. Raub, Executive Director
jraub@cantonballet.com

Deby Sherrod Barath, Business Manager
Office Manager (TBD)

Marketing

Michael Ritzert, Consultant

III. DIVISIONS OF THE SCHOOL

Children's Division (early childhood – ages 1 to 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. They exercise their minds and imaginations under the guidance of instructors who specialize in early childhood education.

Toddler Time, 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.

Pre-dance, 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. May attend additional classes at no charge.

Creative Movement, age 4

Creative Dance focuses on coordination, motor skill development, listening skills and the development of a child's natural creativity. Stretching on the floor is explored and coordination skills are developed through movement across the floor. This program is a prelude to formal ballet instruction and stresses creativity and group interaction. Taught once a week for 45 minutes. Dancer eligible to perform in School Showcase Performance at end of year. May attend additional classes at no charge.

Pre-ballet, age 5

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. May attend additional classes at no charge.

Preparatory A, age 6

Students are learning exercises to develop flexibility, strength, alignment, and turn-out. Dancers begin to learn correct placement of body, head, arms, and feet. These dancers may attend additional classes at no charge.

Student Division (ages 7 and up)

Students are taught fundamental ballet technique and develop the self-discipline necessary to begin the study of classical ballet. These classes solidly prepare students to advance to the next level of study. They accommodate each dancer's developing technique by increasing the ballet schedule and encouraging students in the summer to extend their knowledge of other dance forms. 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.

Preprofessional Division (Advanced, Company)

Students are admitted to the preprofessional program by audition, the recommendation of their teacher, 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.

Recreational Division

Dancers of all ages and interests are invited to participate in classes with quality dance instruction but with less commitment. We offer a range of classes in a variety of disciplines.

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.

Criteria for Pointe Work

The student must:

- be a minimum of 10 years old or older
- have at least 2 years of training
- be taking at least 3 classes per week consistently
- have sufficient strength to:
 - have a strong, straight lower back while dancing
 - do pique passe with straight legs and 8 releves in the center
 - be able to hold a passe balance on half-pointe
 - consistently take a whole class.

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.

Guidelines to Advance in Company

Apprentice (2 to 3 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 learning 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 (1 to 2 year course)

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 founder of RDA in 1988, artistic director emeritus Cassandra Crowley serves on its national board of directors and as vice president of the northeast region.

IV. ROUTINES/PROCEDURES

Attendance

Regular, punctual attendance is important to a child's progress. Please email your instructor 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 five 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.

Weather Policy

- The homepage of the website will give information regarding class schedule changes.
- If Canton City Schools declare a snow day, all classes will be cancelled.

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 any time 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 by the Canton Museum of Art and drive around the building. 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.**

Pick Up

Students should be picked up promptly at the end of class. 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.

V. 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.

VI. CLASSROOM/BEHAVIORAL MATTERS

Home/School Communication & 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 Business Manager at debybarath@cantonballet.com.

Evaluation Reports and Classroom 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.

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 Methods 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.

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.

VII. 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 ensure that all items are ready for class.

- Nothing should be worn except the uniform as 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 (including apple watches and fitbits) 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. 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**. 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.

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.

The 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.

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.

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 at cantonballet@cantonballet.com

Children are selected for specific roles such as Party child or Polichinelle 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.

Video Recording and Photography of Performances

As a service to parents, all performances are recorded and made available for a small fee. Theatre dress rehearsals may be filmed 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 record it for you.** Lighted screens are a distraction and disturb audience members behind you so we **do not permit them at the performances.**

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.**

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.)

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.

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. cantonballet@cantonballet.com.

Private Parties

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 website for details or check with the office at cantonballet@cantonballet.com.

Summer School

The summer school requirement for serious students in C division, 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 online @ *Pointe Magazine* in December and early January.

Dance Camp

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*.

Preballet, A Division, B Division, C Division, and Preprofessional Division

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 workshops.

VIII. 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. Options offered each year are:

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

School 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 or cantonballet@cantonballet.com 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 or cantonballet@cantonballet.com if you are an interested educator.

IX. SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

Nutcracker Participant Information

Information listed on website under School Performance Participants.

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.
- 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

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 rubber bands, bobby pins, and hairnets to the theatre in their dance bag.

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 (A-2 Girls: black ballet slippers, black tights, Boys: black ballet slippers, black tights

Package Children (B-1) Girls: pink ballet slippers, pink tights Boys: black ballet slippers, black tights

Party Girls, Angels, Polichinelle Girls, Cherubs, All Mice pink tights, pink ballet shoes

Party Boys, Polichinelle 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 small 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.

School Showcase Performance (held in May)

Please check and read this entire document. Your \$150 participation fee includes 5 complimentary tickets, additional tickets may be purchased for \$25.

Final Rehearsals

Rehearsals are essential for a smooth performance. **The theatre rehearsal is VITAL.** We

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

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.

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 in order 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.
- 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 additional 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. **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 , Preballet, & Prep A

DURING THE FIRST INTERMISSION, pick your dancer up in Sections B,C,D, Rows A & B

All Dancers in Divisions A1 and up

Your dancer should be picked up **AT THE END OF THE PERFORMANCE DOWNSTAIRS at their DRESSING ROOM**

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

X. FRIENDS OF CANTON BALLET

Garment Sales

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 items!

Boutique

A special Boutique Shoppe is available at some performance and at holiday times at the studio.

Performance Videos

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

Nutcracker Photo Shoot

Dancers may have their photos taken in their Nutcracker costume(s).

Fundraiser

Volunteers are always needed to help with the Canton Ballet board of trustees' annual fundraiser and other activities.

Senior Recognition Ceremony

A special event for our graduating seniors in May. We come together to remember all the years together and to celebrate their graduations. Parents gather mementos such as program books, ticket stubs, photos, etc, compile them into a scrapbook.

Education Programs

Special speakers, programs and informational emails on topics of interest specific to dancers and their families as well as general parenting or health issues are presented.

