






HoustonBallet

2027 PRESCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM HANDBOOK

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HOUSTON BALLET MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire a lasting love and appreciation for dance through artistic excellence, exhilarating performances, innovative choreography, and superb educational programs.

In furtherance of our mission, we are committed to maintaining and improving our status as:

- A **classically trained company with a diverse repertory** whose range includes the classics as well as contemporary works.
- A company that **attracts the world's best dancers and choreographers** and provides them with an **environment where they can thrive** and further develop the art form.
- An **international company** that is accessible to broad and growing local, national, and international audiences.
- A company with a **world-class Academy** that provides first rate instruction for dancers.
- A company that offers **high-quality dance educational programming** prioritizing historically underserved communities in Houston and the surrounding area.
- A company with **state-of-the-art** facilities for performances, rehearsals, and ongoing operations.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Statement

Houston Ballet is dedicated to creating meaningful change by cultivating a space that honors what is unique in all of us. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) are instrumental in the fulfillment of our mission and values. We recognize our responsibility to be an inclusive and open organization for students, artists, staff, trustees, and volunteers of all backgrounds.

Join us, together we are Houston Ballet.

MEET THE ACADEMY



Stanton Welch
Artistic Director,
Member of the Order of Australia



Julie Kent
Artistic Director



Sonja Kostich
Executive Director



Jennifer Sommers
Academy Director



Katie Wesche
Academy Administrative Director



Beth Everitt
Associate Director of Programs and Performances



Yahudi Castañeda
Academy Artistic Operations Associate Director



Kaitlyn Louis
Associate Director of Student Life



Carla Cortez
Academy Communications Manager



Jamie Cegelski
Academy Programs Manager



Reagan Quandt
Academy Artistic Operations Coordinator



Angela Flores
Academy Administrative Support Coordinator

ACADEMY ARTISTIC STAFF



Betsy McMillan
Lower School
Principal

ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS



Lucinda Rohrer



Holda Torres



Jasmine Yoo



Jen Kim

ACADEMY CONTACT INFORMATION

Summer Program classes are held at the Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance.

Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance Address:
601 Preston Street
Houston, TX 77002



Administrative Offices Phone Number:
713-523-6300

Please send all Academy questions to:
hbacademy@houstonballet.org

Houston Ballet Summer Programs Webpage:
https://www.houstonballet.org/about/academy1/summer-intensive-program/

PRESCHOOL SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

All dates and times are subject to change.

December 18, 2026	Registration Opens for Current Students
January 9, 2027	Registration Opens for New Students
July 5, 2027	Orientation via Zoom
July 10, 2027	First Day of Saturday Classes
July 11, 2027	First Day of Sunday Classes
August 7, 2027	Last Day of Saturday Classes
August 8, 2027	Last Day of Sunday Classes

PRESCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE

July 10, 2027 - August 8, 2027

Times are subject to change.

Parent & Me Ages 2-3 - must be at least 2 years old as of 7/10/2027 Birthdate Range: 9/2/2024-7/10/2025				
Section A Saturdays 9:00-9:45	**Section B** Saturdays 10:30-11:15	**Section C** Saturdays 11:00-11:45	**Section D** Sundays 11:00-11:45	**Section E** Saturdays 8:45-9:30
Joy of Motion Ages 3-4 - must be at least 3 years old as of 9/1/2026 Birthdate Range: 9/2/2022-9/1/2023				
Section A Saturdays 9:30-10:15	**Section B** Saturdays 10:00-10:45	**Section C** Saturdays 11:30-12:15	**Section D** Sundays 11:30-12:15	**Section E** Sundays 12:00-12:45
Creative Dance Ages 4-5 - must be at least 4 years old as of 9/1/2026 Birthdate Range: 9/2/2021-9/1/2022				
Section A Saturdays 12:30-1:15			**Section B** Sundays 12:30 - 1:15	
Pre-Ballet Ages 5-6 - must be at least 5 years old as of 9/1/2026 Birthdate Range: 9/2/2020-9/1/2021				
Section A Saturdays 12:00-1:00			**Section B** Sundays 1:00-2:00	
Elementary Ballet Ages 6-7 - must be at least 6 years old as of 9/1/2026 Birthdate Range: 9/2/2019-9/1/2020				
Section A Saturdays 1:30-2:30				

Withdrawal Policy

If a student wishes to withdraw from the Preschool Summer Classes, the Registrar's Office must receive a completed Withdrawal Form available in your PowerSchool Parent Portal. Verbal notification of withdrawal will not be accepted. Please refer to the refund policy on the next page.

TUITION & REGISTRATION FEES

Registration and payment (tuition and fees) are due at the time of registration to secure their enrollment. Registration will close once level/section caps are reached.

Program Registration Fee	$75	Required for all students
Tuition	$170	Required for Summer Preschool students in Parent & Me, Joy of Motion, and Creative Dance
Tuition	$200	Required for Summer Preschool students in Pre-Ballet and Elementary Ballet

Payment Schedule			
Installment	Due Date	Summer Preschool	Fees
#1	At the time of registration	$170/$200	$75 Registration Fee
TOTAL		*$245/$275*	

Houston Ballet accepts checks*, cashier's checks, cash, ACH[+], or credit cards[+]. Payments may be mailed, hand-delivered, completed online, or phoned into the Academy office.

*If a check is returned for any reason, a $25 fee will be charged. The fee must be paid in cash within one week from the time the owner of the account is notified.

[+]ACH payments incur a processing fee of $1.50 per transaction. Credit card payments incur a processing fee of $2.75 per $99.99.

Refund Policy

All fees and 1/4 of tuition are non-refundable and non-transferable. The remaining tuition is refundable before May 1, 2027. Formal withdrawal must be received before May 1, 2027, to be eligible for any refund. All fees and tuition are non-refundable and non-transferable after May 1, 2027. The Academy is not liable or obligated in any way to process any refunds or issue any tuition credits after May 1, 2027.

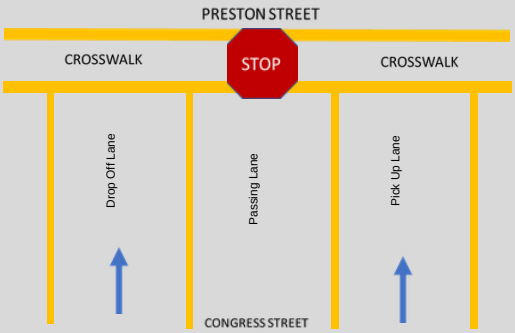
ACADEMY PROCEDURES

Houston Ballet Academy Rules & Policies

Houston Ballet Academy rules and policies can be found **HERE**. We recommend reviewing this document in addition to the Summer Program Handbook. This document includes overall rules for the Center for Dance, proper student/employee engagement, non-discrimination/non-harassment policy, anti-bullying policy, media & social media policies, health policies, and releases included in the registration form.

Arrival & Departure

- Parking options are listed HERE.
- Families may use the driveway, entering from Congress Street.
  - Students being dropped off should use the far-left lane
  - Students being picked up should use the far-right lane
  - Middle lane should be clear for those to pass



Driveway Policies

- Students will not be allowed into the building until 15 minutes before the start of class.
- Please do not arrive to pick up your student until the end of the student's class. For example, if your student's class ends at 10:00AM, please do not enter the driveway until 10:00 AM.
- Do not drop off or pick up students on the roads next to the Center for Dance.
- Families cannot park in the driveway.
- If you are in the driveway, do not drop off your student near the underground garage entrance or make the student walk up the ramp. They must be dropped off near the Preston Street entrance.

Always follow instructions provided by HPD officers, security guards, and class monitors at the Center for Dance and all City of Houston driving/parking regulations.

Attendance

- Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late to class may not be permitted to participate in class. This is at the teacher's discretion and for the safety of the student.
- If a student will be absent, complete the absence notification form found in your PowerSchool Parent Portal. Please note that we are unable to accommodate make-up classes during the summer.
- Tuition will not be prorated for missed classes.

Injury & Illness

The Houston Ballet Academy employs thoroughly trained instructors and utmost care is given to all students; however, the Academy cannot be responsible for any injuries sustained by a student. If a student becomes ill or injured, the student or instructor should notify an Academy staff member immediately. If a student is ill or injured, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student for the remainder of the day.

Evaluations & Private Lessons

There are no formal evaluations/assessments given during the summer program.

Private lessons or studio use for private use during the summer program are not allowed.

Observations

Observations will be held during the final class for all Summer Preschool classes except Parent & Me. Students may have up to two (2) guests attend in person.

Click on links for more information

CLASS ATTIRE

Parent & Me	Joy of Motion Creative Dance	Pre-Ballet Elementary Ballet
Student: Comfortable clothing to move in freely. **Parent/Guardian:** Comfortable clothing to move in freely.	**Leotard:** Wear Moi style Coralie - cap sleeve leotard **Tights:** FOOTLESS TIGHTS Bloch T0985g Color: Pink **Shoes:** None	**Leotard:** Wear Moi style Coralie - cap sleeve leotard **Tights:** CONVERTIBLE TIGHTS Bloch T0982G| T0982L Color: Pink or Skin Tone **Shoes:** S0205g/S0205L Full Sole Leather Ballet Shoe Color: Pink or Skin Tone
OR	**OR**	**OR**
Student: Comfortable clothing to move in freely. **Parent/Guardian:** Comfortable clothing to move in freely.	**Shirt:** Wear Moi style Conrad - white **Shorts:** Eurotard 33440C/33440 Unisex Long Legged Dance Short Color: Black **Shoes:** none	**Shirt:** Wear Moi style Conrad - white **Shorts**: Eurotard 33440C/33440 Unisex Long Legged Dance Short Color: Black **Shoes:** Bloch S0205g/S0205L Full Sole Leather Ballet Shoe Color: Black **Socks:** White

Sample Skin Tone-Inclusive Shoes & Tights Matching Guide



CLASS ATTIRE

Attire Procedures

- Students should have their hair pulled back away from the face and secured neatly in a ballet bun. Students with short hair should wear a headband and secure their hair at the back. For more information on Houston Ballet Academy's hair requirements for most students, please see our bun tutorial **HERE**.
- Students should have their hair neatly groomed and pulled back away from the face.
- Students with hair that is in braids, twists, or locks should secure their hair back, without loose ends, and off the nape of the neck.
- Leg warmers and sweatpants are not allowed to be worn in class.
- Students may wear one pair of earring studs. No other jewelry may be worn.
- Students should not wear dance clothes as street wear outside the Houston Ballet Center for Dance
- Students should not apply lotion in the studios or apply lotion to the skin on days when they will be doing floor work. Lotion and oils can create slick spots on the studio floor.

Purchasing Attire

Houston Ballet does not have an on-site dance supply store. Students should arrive at the start of the program with all required attire and shoes.

Uniform leotards and shirts can be purchased through our online site and in person at Dance Trends. Leotards and shirts purchased via our website before May 15th will be shipped to the student, except for students with international addresses. Leotards and shirts purchased on or after May 15th will be held at the Center for Dance for pick-up.

For questions and concerns about HB Academy uniform online orders, contact Leslie Goodrum at lgoodrum@houstonballet.org.

For additional supplies, including tights and shoes, items may be purchased via online stores or one of the dance store options in the Houston area listed below. We recommend calling any store before arriving to ensure they have the needed items in stock.

Dance Trends
14520 Memorial Drive Houston, TX
77079
(281) 558-1400