



2027 2-WEEK SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

HoustonBallet

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03
Mission Statement & IDEA Statement

04-06
Academy Staff

07
Summer Calendar Events

08
Registration Information

09
Tuition & Fees

10-12
Academy Procedures
- Academy Rules & Policies
- Arrival & Departure
- Attendance
- Injury Policy
- Lunch
- Evaluations/Private Lessons
- Performances & Observations

13-15
Class Attire

16
Health & Wellness Program

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



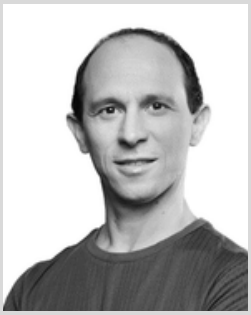
Beth Everitt
Associate Director of Programs and Performances



Betsy McMillan
Lower School Principal



Cheryne Busch
Upper School Principal



Orlando Molina
Boys Program Coordinator



Dalirys Valladares
Academy Instructor

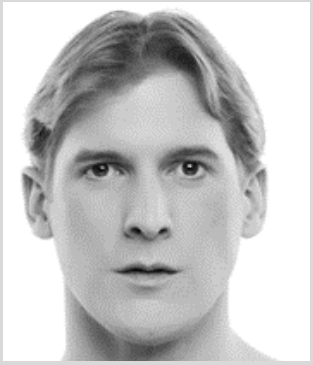


Susan Bryant
Principal Instructor

ACADEMY BALLET INSTRUCTORS



Carla Flores



Christopher Coomer



Paola Murga



Bria Greenwood



Jasmine Yoo



Ana Moreira



Jordan Brasfield

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/



SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

All dates and times are subject to change.

December 16, 2026	Registration Opens for Current Students
January 9, 2027	Summer Audition Tour Begins
January 31, 2027	Summer Audition Tour Ends
February 26, 2027	Summer 2027 Registration Closes
March 15, 2027	Payment Due (Late Fees Added on 03/16/2027)
April 15, 2027	Payment Due (Late Fees Added on 04/16/2027)
May 15, 2027	Payment Due (Late Fees Added on 05/17/2027)
June 5, 2027	Session A Orientation
June 7, 2027	First Day of Session A
June 15, 2027	Payment Due (Late Fees Added on 06/16/2027)
June 18, 2027	Last Day of Session A
June 19, 2027	Juneteenth Holiday (Center for Dance Closed)
July 24, 2027	Session B Orientation
July 26, 2027	First Day of Session B
August 6, 2027	Last Day of Session B

REGISTRATION

Schedule

Session A: June 7, 2027 - June 18, 2027
Session B: July 26, 2027 - August 6, 2027

**Times are subject to change. The weekly schedule will be available online prior to the start of each session.*

Level 1	Monday-Friday 4:00PM-6:30PM
Level 2	Monday-Friday 4:30PM-7:00PM
Level 3/Level 4/Intermediate/Advanced	Monday-Friday 9:00AM-3:15PM

Registration and payment are due by the deadline shown on the student's acceptance email to secure enrollment. Registration will close once level/section caps are reached.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Merit scholarships are awarded at the time of placement by the Academy Artistic Staff. Scholarships are based on the student's physical and artistic abilities. You cannot apply for a scholarship.

Financial aid is awarded via an application process. The application review process may take up to a month. Decisions are sent via email. Financial aid only covers a portion of costs and is typically no more than 25% of tuition. The application is available on the **PowerSchool Parent Portal** beginning January 1st.

Payments made by individuals or organizations on behalf of a 2-Week Summer Intensive Program student are accepted but cannot be considered tax-deductible donations.

Withdrawal Policy

If a student wishes to withdraw from the Summer Intensive Program, the Academy Office must receive a completed Withdrawal Form available in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Verbal or email withdrawal notifications will not be accepted.

Refund Policy

All fees and 1/4 of tuition are non-refundable and non-transferable. The remaining tuition is refundable before May 1, 2027. To be eligible for any refund, we must receive a formal withdrawal before May 1, 2027. *All fees and tuition are non-refundable and non-transferable after May 1, 2027.* The Academy is not responsible for, and is not obligated to, process refunds or issue tuition credits after May 1, 2027.

It is recommended to purchase tuition insurance from a third party, such as **TravMark Activity Insurance**.

TUITION & FEES

Program Registration Fee	$75	Required for all students
Tuition - Level 1 & Level 2 (per session rate)	$750 per session	Required for all Level 1 & Level 2 students registered for each bi-weekly session *Scholarships and financial aid will be applied as appropriate.*
Tuition - Level 1 & Level 2 (Session 1 AND Session 2)	$1,500	Required for all Level 1 & Level 2 students registered for each bi-weekly session *Scholarships and financial aid will be applied as appropriate.*
Tuition - Level 3, Level 4, Intermediate, & Advanced (per session rate)	$1,500 per session	Required for all Level 3, Level 4, Intermediate, & Advanced students registered for Session 1 OR Session 2 (single session) *Scholarships and financial aid will be applied as appropriate.*
Tuition - Level 3, Level 4, Intermediate, & Advanced (Session 1 AND Session 2)	$2,700	Required for all Level 3, Level 4, Intermediate, & Advanced students registered for Session 1 AND Session 2 (double session) *Scholarships and financial aid will be applied as appropriate.*
Late Fee	$25	Required on invoices that are not paid by posted due date *Applied on the next business day at 4:00pm CT.*

Level 1 & Level 2 Payment Schedule		
Payment Schedule	**One Session**	**Two Sessions**
At the time of registration	$75.00	$75.00
March 15, 2027	100% of tuition	50% of tuition
May 15, 2027		50% of tuition

Level 3, Level 4, Intermediate, & Advanced Payment Schedule		
Payment Schedule	**One Session**	**Two Sessions**
At the time of registration	$75.00	$75.00
March 15, 2027	50% of tuition	25% of tuition
April 15, 2027		25% of tuition
May 15, 2027	50% of tuition	25% of tuition
June 15, 2027		25% of tuition

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.

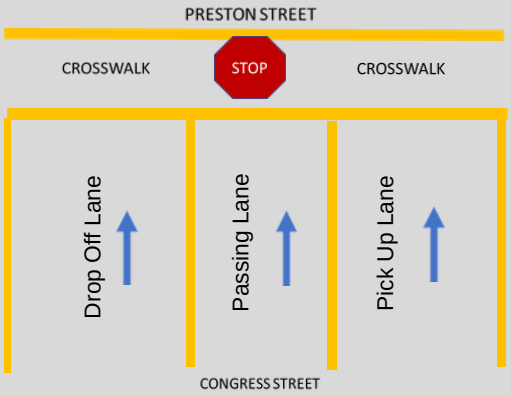
ACADEMY PROCEDURES

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.
  - The 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 last class. For example, if your student's class ends at 3:15 PM, please do not enter the driveway until 3:15 PM.
- Do not drop off or pick up students on the street in front of the Center for Dance.
- Families cannot park in the driveway for any reason.
- If you are in the driveway, do not drop off your student near the underground garage entrance or make the student walk up or down the ramp. They must be dropped off and picked up near the Preston Street side of the driveway.

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

- Attendance is mandatory in all classes.
- 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.
- Students who miss the first technique class of the day are not permitted to participate for the remainder of that day. This is for the safety of the student.
- Weekly schedules are posted on the call boards and the Houston Ballet Academy Google site.
- If a student is absent, report the absence using the School Messenger/Safe Arrival application **HERE**.
- If a student is injured and unable to participate in class, they may observe rehearsals only.

ACADEMY PROCEDURES

Injury & Illness

If a student is injured before attending the 2-Week Summer Intensive Program, they must submit a full clearance for dance by a doctor.

Cleared for dance at the Houston Ballet Academy is defined as:

1. Full participation in ballet technique class, including barre, center, turns, and small, medium, and large jumps.
2. Full participation in all pointe classes if you wear pointe shoes, including barre, center, traveling, variations, and rehearsals.
3. Full participation in contemporary, modern, jazz, and musical theater classes, including large jumps and floor work.
4. Full participation in all rehearsals and performances.

Any student who is unable to fully participate in the program may be sent home at the expense of the family. We strongly encourage families to purchase tuition insurance from a third party, such as **TravMark Activity Insurance**, to receive any type of refund in case they must leave the 2-Week Summer Intensive Program due to injury or 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 following must take place:

- Notify an Academy staff member immediately
  - If a student is ill, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student for the remainder of the day
  - If a student is injured, the following will take place
- The Academy staff member will contact the Athletic Trainer or Assistant Athletic Trainer to determine the appropriate next steps.
- The parent/guardian will be notified of the injury and recommendations for next steps.

Lunch

Students have the option to bring lunch or be signed out during their lunch break. Students will not have access to a refrigerator to store food or a microwave to heat food. Vending machines are located on the 1st floor of the CFD.

Leaving Center for Dance during Lunch

Students in Level 3, Level 4, & Intermediate may be signed out during lunch by a parent/guardian.

Students in Advanced are allowed to leave during their lunch break in groups of three or more to walk around the downtown area. A binder is available at the reception desk for students to sign in and out. They may also be signed out during lunch by a parent/guardian.

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.

ACADEMY PROCEDURES

Performances & Observations

On the last day of each session, levels 3, 4, Intermediate, and Advanced will perform repertoire learned over the course of the two weeks. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Families will be notified via email at the end of the first week of each session with performance details.

Levels 1 and Level 2 will have a class observation during their ballet technique class during the second week of each session. Students may have up to two (2) guests attend in person.

Levels 3, Level 4, Intermediate, and Advanced will have class observations on the Thursday and Friday of the first week of each session, depending on a Level's section. Students may have up to two (2) guests attend in person.

The Academy will confirm dates during orientation.



Click on links for more information and to order

CLASS ATTIRE

Ballet Uniform

Level 1-Intermediate	Advanced
Leotard: Wear Moi style Candide - Light Blue	**Leotard: Wear Moi style Galate - Royal Blue**
Tights: Bloch Convertible T0982G| T0982L Color: Pink or Skin Tone **Ballet Slippers:** Bloch Prolite 2 Hybrid Full Sole Leather Color: Pink or Blendz - skin tone-inclusive **Pointe Shoes (Intermediate only):** pink or skin tone-inclusive	**Tights:** Bloch Convertible T0982G| T0982L Color: Pink or Skin Tone **Ballet Slippers:** Full Sole Leather Color: Pink or skin tone-inclusive **Pointe Shoes:** Pink or skin tone-inclusive
OR	
Level 1-2	**Level 3-Advanced**
Shirt: Wear Moi style Conrad - White	
Eurotard: 33440C/33440 Unisex Long Length Dance Short Color: Black **Ballet Slippers:** Bloch S0205g/S0205L Full Sole Leather Color: Black **Socks:** Tall White	**Tights:** Slate/gray tights **Belt:** Discount Dance Supply style 62S Color: Black **Ballet Slippers:** Full Sole Leather Color: Black **Socks:** Tall White

Modern/Contemporary Uniform

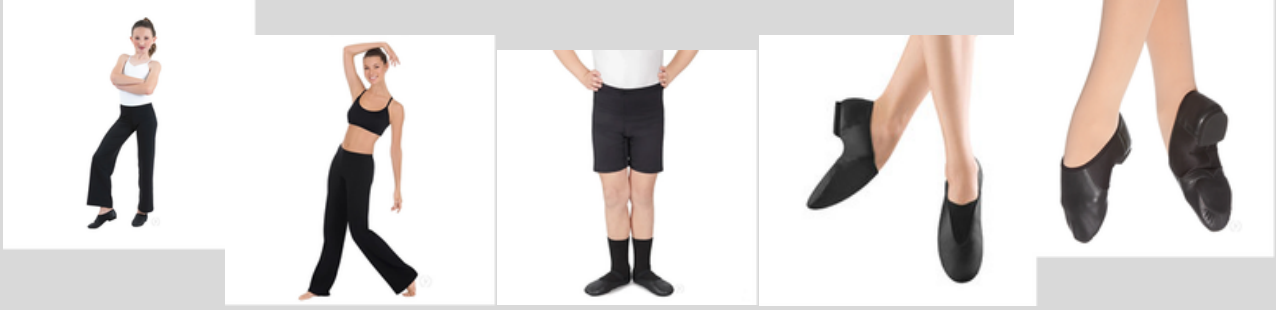
Leotard: Ballet Uniform
Tights: Ballet Uniform
Black Shorts or Black Jazz Pants
Shoes: none

Jazz Uniform

Leotard: Ballet Uniform
Black Shorts or Black Jazz Pants
Shoes: black jazz shoes

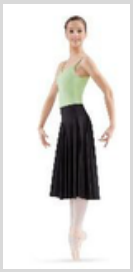
Health & Wellness

Ballet Uniform and Black Shorts or Jazz Pants



CLASS ATTIRE

Character Uniform *(Level 3 through Advanced only)*



Character Skirt:
Dance Trends Character Skirt
Color: Black

Character Shoe: 1.5” Heel
So Danca CH50 or Capezio 550
Color: Black



OR

Eurotard Long Length Dance Short and Black Jazz shoes

Skin Tone-Inclusive Shoes & Tights Matching Guide





CLASS ATTIRE

Attire Procedures

- Students should have their hair neatly groomed, pulled back away from the face and secured neatly in a ballet bun. Students with short hair should wear a headband and secure the hair at the back. For more information on Houston Ballet Academy's hair requirements for all students, please see our bun tutorial **HERE**.
- Students with hair that is in braids, twists, or locs should secure hair back, without loose ends, and off the nape of the neck.
- Leg warmers and ballet skirts 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.
- 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 a dance supply store on-site. 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 or in person at Dance Trends. Leotards and shirts purchased from our online site 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 at orientation/check-in on Saturday, June 5th, 2027, or Saturday, July 24th, 2027.

If you need to process a uniform exchange or return, please get in touch with Leslie Goodrum at lgoodrum@houstonballet.org.

For additional supplies, including tights and shoes, you may purchase items through online stores or at Dance Trends in the Houston area; store details are listed below. We recommend calling before arriving to ensure they have the needed items in stock.

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

HEALTH & WELLNESS AND ADJUNCT CLASSES



Aki Kawasaki

Head Strength & Conditioning Coach

Originally from Ibaraki, Japan, Akihiro Kawasaki holds a B.S. in Exercise Science from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. As a student athletic trainer, he worked with several sports teams, including the national championship-winning football team at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC). Kawasaki previously served as a personal trainer and strength and conditioning coach for Olympic athletes on the national team of Japan. He is currently the head strength and conditioning coach at Houston Ballet and Houston Ballet Academy. Kawasaki holds certifications in Functional Movement Systems (FMS) – level 2, Y Balance Test (YBT) of FMS, Fundamental Capacity Screen (FCS) of FMS, Rossiter – level 4, Yamuna Body Rolling – Face, Feet, Table Treatment and Animal Flow and Spatial Medicine. Learn more at https://bit.ly/3taRxwE.

Health & Wellness and Adjunct Class Offerings:

- Body Conditioning
- Yoga
- Pointe Preparation
- Modern
- Jazz
- Character
- Musical Theater

*Classes may vary by level.





