



Parent-Student Handbook

2017-2018

Rankin Arts Center

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~Welcome:

The **CSU Dance Conservatory** (CSUDC) at the Rankin Arts works in partnership with The Columbus Ballet to offer the best classical ballet training and performance opportunities to aspiring dancers in our community. An air of tradition and discipline fills an atmosphere of intense, yet fun learning from our youngest dancers to advanced levels. In addition, the Conservatory offers training in jazz, contemporary, and Pilates. Our advanced students have been accepted to many well-recognized summer intensive programs such as: Atlanta Ballet, Montgomery Ballet, American Ballet Theatre in NYC, Boston Ballet, Ballet Magnificat in Jackson MS, Joffrey, and Alvin Ailey (NYC), San Francisco Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, and many others.

~Instructors:

Bridget Adams: Bridget Adams started her dance training with the Jackie O'Neal School of Dance in Birmingham, Alabama with a concentration in ballet, jazz, and acrobatics. After ten years of training, she began teaching at Nix Dance Studio in Auburn, Alabama while completing her BA degree in art. Ms. Adams came to Columbus in 2004 and began taking classes at CSU Dance Conservatory. She has performed in the *Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, and *Swan Lake* with The Columbus Ballet. She finds great joy teaching the students at CSU Dance Conservatory and sharing with them her passion for dance.

Kylie Casino: Kylie Casino received what she considers the best of her training from The University of Akron's Dance Institute. She went on to earn her BA in dance from The University of Akron. During her time there, she was given the opportunity to perform pieces choreographed by David Parsons, Paul Taylor and Ay Miller. After working as a professional dancer for a year after college, she decided to continue on with her education and earned her MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College in January 2016. Ms. Casino finds complete fulfillment through teaching and looks forward to sharing her love of dance with others.

Elizabeth James: Elizabeth James started her training at Kehl School of Dance in Madison, Wisconsin focusing on a wide variety of styles including ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and contemporary. She later studied dance at the University of Wisconsin and Mount San Antonio College. At Mount San Antonio College she received her certification in teaching Pilates in both mat and reformer. Ms. James has a BS in Exercise Science with a Health Science minor and is working on her masters in Exercise Science at Columbus State University. Her research is focused on Pilates and ballet dancers.

Laura Johnson: Laura Johnson received the majority of her early training at The Dance Factory under the instruction of Mrs. Susan Fisher. She continued her training at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and received her B.A. in Dance and International Relations in 2001. Upon graduation, Ms. Johnson attended the American Dance Festival in Durham, NC on a Young Artist Scholarship to continue her studies in modern dance. She continued her training while earning her M.A. in Performing Arts Management at American University in Washington, D.C. Ms. Johnson has been teaching dance for over 15 years and teaching at the CSU Dance Conservatory since 2009.

Angela Null: Angela Null has an extensive background in dance and a decade worth of experience teaching classical ballet, pointe, jazz, and contemporary styles. She began her formal dance training at the Loudoun School of Ballet in Leesburg, Virginia. At age 14, she was admitted on artistic scholarship to the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C. and received her diploma in the Vaganova method. Since graduation, she has danced for companies such as The Washington Ballet (*scholarship*), Richmond Ballet (*scholarship*), First State Ballet Theatre, and most recently The Sarasota Ballet of Florida. She has performed leading roles in *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Coppélia*. Angela competed in the USA National Youth Ballet Competition receiving a gold medal and was top twelve at the Youth America Grand Prix.

Janie Sutcliffe: Janie Sutcliffe began dancing at the age of 3. At age 9, she began taking classes at The Columbus Ballet Conservatory. She has played the roles of Clara, Marzipan, the Snow Queen, and the Sugarplum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, and also participated in The Columbus Ballet Company productions of *Coppélia*, *Cinderella*, *Firebird*, and *Swan Lake*. Ms. Sutcliffe has participated in summer dance programs in various cities, and has served as a counselor for ABT in Tuscaloosa's summer intensive. She attended The University of Alabama, where she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Dance.

~Dance Year & Holidays:

- First semester classes begin August 7, 2017 and run through December 4, 2017.
- Classes will not meet on Labor Day (Sept. 4) or during the week of Thanksgiving (Nov. 19-26).
- Second semester classes begin January 8, 2018 and run through May 7, 2018.
- Classes will not meet on MLK Day (Jan. 15) or during MSCD Spring Break (March 25- April 1).

~Withdrawals:

Students register for the entire year. If a student is paying their tuition in monthly installments, a written agreement must be signed agreeing to the terms of the payment plan. If the student chooses to stop attending classes, full tuition for the entire year is still due. Monthly installments not paid may be sent to collections. A \$20 withdrawal fee will be assessed when dropping a class.

~Performance Opportunities:

Conservatory students Level 1 and up have the opportunity to perform in The Columbus Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* in December (9 & 10, 2017). Upper level dancers are encouraged to audition for lead roles. Auditions will be held on Saturday, August 26, at the Rankin Arts Center, and rehearsals begin Friday, September 8, 2017.

Our 2017-18 Season also includes *Sleeping Beauty* in partnership with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra on Friday, March 16, 2018 at the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts.

The Conservatory will also hold the End of the Year Performance. Levels 1-3 will perform dances choreographed by their ballet class instructor, while Levels 4-7 will perform classical variations from the ballet repertoire in either small groups or as soloists (Level 7 only).

~Student Placement:

Students as young as age 3 may participate in CSUDC classes. Students age 6 and under will be placed in the appropriate class based on age. New students age 7 and older with or without experience will be evaluated and placed in their appropriate levels. Call 706.507.8368 to schedule a placement appointment.

~Promotions:

Students through Pre-Level 1 normally move on to the next level on a yearly basis. From Levels 1 through 6 the progression and mastery of skills slows down. Not every dancer progresses at the same rate. When the teacher selects a student for promotion, she will bring suggestions to the director. Students will then be re-evaluated by the director and a decision will be made based on maturity and technical ability. Promotions can be decided at any time during the year.

~Student Evaluations:

Parents are requested to be present during formal evaluations in April. Decisions for promotion for the next school year are discussed at this time.

~Parent Observation:

Classrooms will be open to parents twice a year: September and April. Parents will be introduced to a formal dance class. The instructor will explain in-depth the nature of each step, combination of steps, and the different skills involved in any particular exercise at the barre and/or center. Parents will have an opportunity to see their child's progress.

~Absence/Tardiness:

If a student is to be absent, please contact the Conservatory prior to the class. Email csudance@columbusstate.edu, or call 706.507.8368. The teacher will suggest the best class within the same level or lower level for makeup. Because of the systematic progression of the class, a student will be considered late 10 minutes after the class begins. If the student is late, he/she may sit and watch the class but may not participate. Classes must be made up within three weeks of the absence.

~Office Hours:

Should you wish to speak to the Director or a teacher please do so by appointment only. It is imperative that teachers are not disturbed before, during, or after class.

~Summer Intensives and Summer Classes:

The Summer Intensive for intermediate and advanced students (ages 10 and older) provides the opportunity for tremendous technical, artistic, and personal growth. Working with different instructors in a variety of dance disciplines helps all students maintain muscle memory as well as strengthen and develop more matured muscles. Summer intensive classes for all ages are designed to address technique, artistry, specific skills, and increase strength. Students gain deeper understanding of ballet as an art form. Evaluation of new students is required prior to registration for the summer intensive program.

Regular classes are offered over the summer in two, three-week sessions and a Princess Dance Camp for ages 4-6 is also offered.

~Conservatory Etiquette:

- Students are expected to be **ON TIME** for every class. This means the student should be in the classroom before the music begins.
- Students are expected to stay in class until the end and should not leave the classroom without permission.
- Use the restroom, get a drink of water, and secure hair, etc., before entering the classroom.
- No talking during class.
- No chewing gum, eating, or bringing water/sodas/juice or any open bottles into a classroom or rehearsal without permission.
- Food is prohibited; only water bottles are allowed in the studios.
- Ballet bags are allowed only in designated areas of the Conservatory during class.
- Students are expected to keep the noise level to a minimum in the hallway and in dressing rooms.
- The school cannot assume responsibility for the loss of students' valuables.
- Arrival and departure from classes and rehearsals are expected to be punctual.
- Students and parents are responsible for reading all posted notices.
- It is highly recommended that parent(s) attend all meetings and/or check emails to keep informed of information regarding the school and performances.
- Proper understanding of the rules will lead to a more positive experience for all.

~ CSUDC Dress Code

- Move a Little, Move a Lot through Level 7: black leotard (no skirts attached); pink, mesh, seamless tights (feet must be covered, no ankle length tights); pink leather ballet shoes. Students training in more than one discipline are advised to wear convertible tights for ease of changing. No underwear should be worn underneath tights and leotard.
- Full sole up to & including Level 3. Level 4-6 split sole.
- Level 5/6: Pointe shoes/technique shoes.
- Jazz: pink/black footed tights or black jazz pants, any color leotard, tan jazz shoes.
- Contemporary: pink or black footless tights, any color leotard, bare feet.
- Acrobatics: leotard and footless tights or fitted shorts.
- Stretch class: shorts, leotard, convertible tights, socks, hair neatly fastened. Please supply yoga mat & Theraband.

- Adult Ballet: comfortable attire with proper undergarments, ballet shoes.
- Boys: white, short sleeve t-shirt, black tights or comfortable black exercise shorts, black ballet shoes.
- Hair: ballet bun pulled away from face.
- No watches, bracelets, big rings, elastic bands, etc. Small earrings are acceptable.
- No flowers or ornaments in hair.

~Conservatory Policies:

- The Conservatory is an alcohol, tobacco, and drug free environment. Use of such substances will not be tolerated at our facility or at any event venue.
- No foul language. Bad language and terminology will not be tolerated at The Conservatory or any event/venue where you are involved with the school.
- No dancer or parent is allowed to dictate placement at the barre, order of class exercises, choice of music, level placement, beginning of pointe, or attire under any circumstances.
- Your time and tuition are valuable, so students must arrive promptly for class. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior in class not only interrupts the learning process, but does not reflect the character of our school. Examples of inappropriate behavior such as, but not limited to, the following may result in dismissal from the Conservatory:
 - Talking excessively in class
 - Talking while the teacher is giving instructions
 - Entering "Faculty Only" areas without proper permission
 - Leaving the dance room and/or studio without permission
 - "Talking back" to the teacher or otherwise conversing with the teacher or others in an impolite or ill-mannered way
 - Refusal to do as the teacher has instructed
 - Bothering another student by touching them in an impolite or annoying way, including public displays of affection of a romantic nature
 - Taunting others
 - Participating in classes you are not registered for

~Ballet Bun:

- With one hand gather hair into a "bunch" at the back of the head. With one hand, lightly spray hair around the head with water.
- Brush hair into a ponytail and secure with covered elastic. Ponytail should not be lower than middle from back of the head.
- Insure the ponytail is centered between ears.
- Brush and smooth hair towards ponytail.
- Spray hair evenly around the head.
- Twist ponytail and begin to spiral around the elastic.
- Coil hair into a bun a bit at a time, insert hairpins at every inch.
- Repeat until all hair is spiraled and ensures it is as flat against the head as possible.
- IMPORTANT: WRAP HAIR NET AROUND BUN!
- Add a few extra pins. An additional spritz of hairspray may be used if needed.



~What to Have in a Ballet Bag:

- Small Towel
- Hairbrush
- Bobby Pins
- Hair Spray
- Elastic Bands
- Antiperspirant Deodorant
- Extra leotard and tights
- Ballet shoes and/or pointe shoes
- Aluminum water bottle
- Theraband

~2017-2018 Payment & Registration Information:

All CSU Dance Conservatory classes are held at the historic Rankin Arts Center, 1004 Broadway in Uptown Columbus. All classes are priced by semester but may be paid in monthly installments.

Save 10% when you pay the year by **Monday, August 11, 2017**.

Call 706.507.8368 or 706.507.8070 to register.

You can register/make payments:

In person:

You are welcome to register and make payments at the CSU Dance Conservatory on the 2nd floor of the Rankin Arts Center at 1004 Broadway. Only credit/debit card payments are accepted at this location. During the school year, we are open 4:00 to 8:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm on Fridays, and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays.

Alternatively, you may register and make payments at CSU Continuing Education's business office, located on the CSU campus at the corner of College Drive and East Lindsay Drive. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. After 4:30 pm, you must have the exact change or plan to pay by check or credit/debit card. Make checks payable to Columbus State University.

By mail:

Send your check or money order to:

CSU Continuing Education
Columbus State University
4225 University Avenue
Columbus, GA 31907

By phone:

Use your Visa/MasterCard/American Express to register at CSU Continuing Education's business office between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday by calling 706.507.8070 (select option 1 to speak with a Registration Specialist). Or, you can call the Dance Conservatory directly at 706.507.8368 between the hours of 4:00pm and 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm on Fridays, and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays.

Please Note: CSU will no longer accept payments as a Recurring Billing Option. Payments will need to be made monthly and initiated by the account holder. CSU will also be instituting a **\$20 transaction fee per family** for student-initiated changes when adding and dropping classes, as the process for the adjustments in classes and payments is time-consuming and complicated.

Visit us online at: www.ColumbusState.edu/Ballet

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