

NBT

ACADEMY OF NEVADA BALLET THEATRE

STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2023-2024



Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre
1651 Inner Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89134
702-243-2623
www.nevadaballet.org

Photo by Virginia Trudeau

WELCOME TO ACADEMY OF NEVADA BALLET THEATRE

About the Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre

The Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre (ANBT) is the official school of Nevada Ballet Theatre and the premier ballet and dance training center of Southern Nevada. Founded in 1979, the Academy is guided by a commitment to excellence, offering training in many forms of dance with classes for students 18 months of age through adult. The Academy is housed in a 36,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility, offering the highest standard of artistic education taught by distinguished and world-renowned instructors.

ANBT follows a structured sequence of training stages designed to increase technical skills, stamina and discipline in accordance with age and individual physical development. The fundamentals of dance training include: technique, coordination, muscle development, strength, body awareness, flexibility, musicality, and artistic expression. Inherent to dance training, corrections are essential; therefore, students are guided verbally and physically by instructors to ensure proper body alignment and body placement.

Dance education is an ongoing process that continues throughout a dancer's career; students whose lives lead to non-dance careers garner invaluable skills of discipline, dedication, poise and a life-long appreciation for the arts.

For further information on the Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre, call (702) 243-2623 or visit www.nevadaballet.org.

ACADEMY CALENDAR

August 7-25	August Session
Monday, Aug 28	Classes Begin
Monday, Sept 4	Labor Day – No classes
Friday, Oct 27	Nevada Day – No classes
Tuesday, Oct 31	Halloween - No classes
Fri & Sat, Nov 10-11	Veterans Day Weekend– No classes
Wed-Sat, Nov 22-25	Thanksgiving Week – No classes
Dec 18-Jan 1	Winter Break
Tuesday, Jan 2	Classes resume
Monday, Jan 15	Martin Luther King, Jr Day – No classes
Monday, Feb 19	Presidents Day – No classes
March 11-17	Spring Break – No classes
March 29-April 1	Spring Holiday - No classes
April 29/30	Spring Concerts at The Smith Center
Sat, May 25	Spring Concert at Summerlin Library
Saturday, May 25	Last Day of Classes

Calendar subject to change.



Photo by Virginia Trudeau

Contact Us

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THE NANCY HOUSSELS SCHOLARSHIP

Nevada Ballet Theatre awards its own special scholarship to one deserving student a year. The Nancy Houssels Scholarship, named after Nevada Ballet Theatre Co-Founder Nancy Houssels, affords an Academy student the opportunity to further develop his or her talent and love of dance by covering a full season's tuition. Selection will occur in May and applies for the following school year.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

- Students in levels A3-C2 who are nominated by their instructor will be considered. The scholarship recipient is then chosen by the Director of Education and faculty.
- Scholarship criteria include dedication, talent, merit, leadership, attendance, and personality.
- Scholarship recipients must remain exclusive to Nevada Ballet Theatre and may not take dance classes or perform with any other organization or school.

BOYS SCHOLARSHIPS

Nevada Ballet Theatre offers a limited number of scholarships to deserving male students. Boys scholarships cover a full season's tuition.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

- Scholarship recipients must take a required class load as determined during registration.
- Scholarship recipients must perform in *The Nutcracker*, Spring Concert, and other Company productions if cast.
- Scholarship recipients must adhere to set policies and requirements.
- Scholarship criteria include dedication, talent, merit, leadership, attendance, and personality.
- Scholarship recipients must remain exclusive to Nevada Ballet Theatre and may not take dance classes or perform with any other organization or school.

COMMUNICATION

The primary means of communication of Academy information to parents is via email. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that the correct email address is in their online Jackrabbit account.

In the event that emails are not received or information is misplaced, all group emails and handouts are posted on the Academy blog for viewing at any time, at www.academyofnbt.blogspot.com.

Because our lobby is closed, parents are asked to call or email with comments or questions. Please call 702-243-2623, or email a staff member directly by using the email addresses on page 1.

ATTENDANCE/SICK/INJURY POLICY

- Students who attend class in person will be required to adhere to the ANBT Health and Safety Policies while in the ANBT building and studios.
- In order for students to reap the most benefit, students must attend the full school year.
- If sick, students are asked to call the Academy and notify the instructor of the absence.
- If a student is injured, he/she is encouraged to observe class.
- Report all injuries or illnesses to the instructor or front desk. All health problems or injuries shall be kept confidential.
- After any absence due to illness or injury, Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre reserves the right to request a doctor's note indicating the illness or injury that prompted the absence and releasing the student to return to participation in class.
- Excessive unexcused absences could result in the risk of termination from classes and/or performances.
- Students are expected to be on time for their scheduled classes.
- If a student is up to 15 minutes late, the instructor will allow the student to join in.
- If a student is more than 15 minutes late, the student might be asked to observe the rest of class, to prevent injury due to missing the warmup.
- Students may not dance in a boot or brace without prior consent from the Academy Coordinator. A doctor's note must be provided.
- If a student is unable to dance due to injury, the parent must notify the Academy Coordinator before the next scheduled class.
- Absences due to a conflict with a student's academic school must be approved in advance by the Academy Coordinator. Conflicts due to academic performances (such as band, choir, theatre, dance, etc) must be submitted in writing at the start of the school year, or as far in advance as possible. This enables ANBT to resolve potential conflicts and alter any rehearsals or class schedules if necessary.
- Students who miss class or rehearsal due to an academic function must attend as much of the class or rehearsal as possible. For example, if a school function begins at 6pm, the student could still attend their ballet class from 4:00-5:15, or after the event they could return for evening classes.
- Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre staff will make every reasonable effort to immediately contact the parent or guardian in the case of illness or injury which might occur on any premises in which ANBT conducts classes, events, rehearsals or performances. However, in an emergency in which time is of the essence (possibility of broken bone or serious injury, bleeding, seizure, unable to breathe, or similar situations), Nevada Ballet Theatre staff will assess the illness or injury and determine the next step of care, which may include the transport or arrangement for the emergency services transport of the student to a medical doctor or hospital in case of illness or injury, and the student may receive such treatment as deemed medically necessary by a licensed physician. In the case of situations which are not believed to be of an emergency nature as stated above, students may be requested to stop participating in class, to rest, apply ice, or follow other reasonable first-aid procedures.

NBT II (Age 17-21)

NBT II is a specialized training bridge to NBT's professional company. Under the direction of Don Bellamy, NBT II is designed for the pre-professional artist looking to build a foundation for a professional career. Artists selected for the second company will receive opportunities to train and rehearse alongside the professional artists of NBT, while being exposed to some of today's leading choreographers and exciting repertoire including specially commissioned new works. Offering a varied daily schedule and a diverse curriculum of pointe, modern, variations and repertoire, including Pilates, resume skills, and audition preparation, this unique program will focus on strengthening technique and developing artistry with the goal to create a well-rounded professional dancer.

Dancers of NBT II perform in the annual production of *The Nutcracker* and dancers may be selected to perform other repertoire during a performance season. Members of the second company will act as ambassadors by representing NBT as an organization in a variety of ways including community initiatives and appearances, and other activities related to NBT's Community Education department that serves 20,000 Clark County students annually. Full and partial scholarships are available.

ACADEMY CLASSES (Age 18 months to 18)

Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre offers Ballet and Dance classes for students from 18 months to 18 years old. Classes offered are Baby & Me, Ballet 'n' Play, and Pre-Ballet 1-3, as well as Hip-Hop, Acro, Tap, Contemporary, and Jazz. Instruction for students 8 and up can include Ballet Technique, Pre-Pointe or Pointe, Repertoire & Variations, and Character, as well as Contemporary, Modern, Jazz, Ballroom, Improv, Jumps & Turns, Pilates, Acro, Tap, and Hip-Hop.

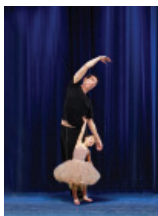
Students in Pre-Ballet 3 through Ballet B2 are eligible to be invited into the Academy's Invite-Only Program. These classes are offered to students who show exceptional promise and dedication to their dance education.

COMPETITION GROUP (Age 5 to 18)

The award-winning ANBT Competition Group is for young dancers who are ready to focus on Concert Contemporary with a strong Ballet base. Open to ages 5 and up, the group is an excellent way for students to improve their dance and performing skills while taking part in the competitive dance world. The team prides itself in being technique-focused as well as a positive, supportive team environment for students.

The ANBT Competition Group works with top choreographers and leaders in the industry such as Jason Parsons, Ethan Colangelo, Tiare Keeno, and ANBT alumni Jemoni Powe. The group attends five conventions each season in addition to Nationals in July. Members of the group will have a required schedule of weekly classes and rehearsals throughout the year.





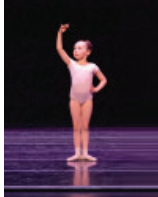
Baby & Me

This class is designed for children under age 3 who are not yet comfortable being in a class alone. Each child is joined by a parent or caregiver who is the child's dancing partner. Through movement exercises, games, stories, and songs, the very young are introduced to the joy of creative movement in a fun, musical setting.



Ballet 'n' Play

Ready to be in a class by themselves, Ballet 'n' Play students begin to learn the basic elements of creative movement. Skills such as turn-taking, working with others, and following instructions are emphasized. Students are introduced to ballet stories and have themed activities throughout the year while they learn class participation, focus, and confidence.



Pre-Ballet 1, 2, & 3

In Pre-Ballet, elements of creative movement are augmented by more coordination and sequence-related exercises. Movement emphasizes straight legs and pointed feet, posture, and the placement of classical ballet. By Pre-Ballet 3, students will practice at the barre.



Ballet A1-C2

Levels A1-C2 are ballet classes for students age 8-18 with previous Ballet training. Each student's progression through the levels is monitored so that some levels are repeated, ensuring that they receive the correct training based on their individual situation. Ballet C1/C2 students are considered for NBT II.



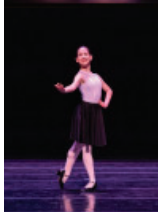
Pointe

Students in Ballet A3 may enroll in Pre-Pointe, in which they will strengthen the feet in preparation for pointe work. Once they are determined by their teacher to be ready, students start taking Beginning Pointe class, in addition to Ballet B1.



Partnering

Students in Ballet B3-C2 are eligible to enroll in Partnering class, also called Pas De Deux. In this class, students work together and learn supported jumps, turns, and lifts.



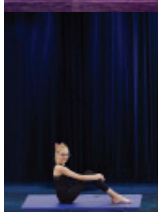
Character

In Character class, students learn folk dances from various countries. Character dances are often featured in famous ballets, and it involves pantomime and dancing in pairs. The boys wear shoes with a hard heel, and girls wear skirts and character shoes with a heel. Props such as tambourines and fans are often incorporated into the dances.



Boys

Usually offered while the girls take Pointe Class, Boys class allows boys the opportunity to focus on the petite allegro (small, fast footwork), jumps, turns, and movements that are specific to men.



Pilates

Pilates is a form of body conditioning that improves flexibility and strength. Exercises are done in a studio on a yoga mat, or on Pilates Reformer machines.



Contemporary

Drawing off of a strong ballet base, with elements of jazz and modern, Contemporary incorporates a large amount of floor work, fall and recovery, and improvisation. Students in ANBT's contemporary classes focus on Concert Contemporary that will get them ready for top dance colleges or a professional career in a Contemporary or Ballet company.



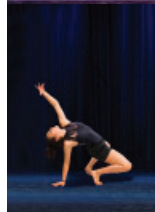
Modern

ANBT's Modern classes focus on the Horton Technique, but students will be exposed to different styles. Lester Horton developed his own method emphasizing a whole body, anatomical approach to dance that includes flexibility, strength, coordination, and body and spatial awareness to enable unrestricted, dramatic freedom of expression.



Jazz

While Jazz dance has many different styles, it is often associated with Broadway dance. Students in ANBT's Jazz classes are exposed to various styles that can include Broadway, Fosse, Commercial Jazz, Afro-Jazz, Latin Jazz, and more.



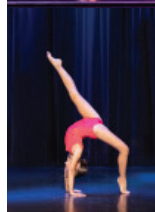
Improv

In an Improvisation class, students learn to create their own spontaneous movements. A highly necessary skill for today's professional dancer, Improvisation gives students deeper insight into music and movement while also building confidence in class.



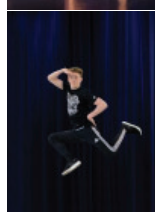
Ballroom

Usually taught in Ballroom Studios, Ballroom classes are now popular for all dancers. Dances can include Salsa, Cha Cha, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Samba, and is done solo and in couples.



Acro

Also known as Tumbling or Gymnastics, Acro classes at ANBT are dancer-focused. This means that the skills learned are meant to be used in dances with choreography. Students use mats and aids to learn skills such as back handsprings and aials.



Hip-Hop

Hip-Hop dance is danced to Hip-Hop music and includes high energy, a heavy beat, complex footwork, and reflects an attitude of confidence and boldness. In this class, students wear street clothes and tennis shoes.



Tap

In Tap class, students wear tap shoes and learn traditional tap steps ranging from Broadway style to "hoofing" and improvisation.



Jumps & Turns

ANBT offers four levels of Jumps & Turns classes. Students focus on jumps and leaps, and turns in center and across the floor.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Students who attend class in person will be required to adhere to the ANBT Health and Safety Policies while in the ANBT building and studios.
- Animals are not allowed in the building at any time with the exception of official assistance or service dogs. All assistance and service dogs must be in the control of their handler at all times and never left unattended.
- For security reasons, students are forbidden from propping open exterior doors.
- There is absolutely no smoking in the building.
- The Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre is a zero tolerance campus. The use, sale or transport of drugs, alcohol or weapons is strictly prohibited, as is any physical, sexual or verbal harassment, or bullying of any kind. The presence or provocation of any of the above are grounds for immediate dismissal from the Academy, and may be punishable by Law. Any payments made will be forfeited. It is incumbent upon each student to alert the front desk staff immediately if they are aware of any of the above mentioned activity.
- Students must show respect for the Nevada Ballet Theatre facility at all times. Theft and/or vandalism are grounds for immediate dismissal.
- The Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre is a private school and reserves the right to refuse service to anyone.
- The Academy agrees to provide suitable physical facilities and qualified instructors. Determination of the student's level, assignment of instructors and class schedules shall be at the discretion of the Director of Education. The Academy reserves the right to substitute Instructors and/or replace Instructors without prior notice, as well as combine, cancel or reschedule a class as needed.
- The contents of the ANBT Student Handbook are subject to change. Students and parents/guardians shall comply with all policies during the term of enrollment contract. Failure to read these policies does not exempt the student or parent from abiding by them.

ACADEMY TUITION & PAYMENT POLICIES

- Registration begins by calling the front desk and is then completed online. Subsequent payments may be paid online or by phone.
- Registration fees are charged annually and are valid from the date of initial registration until the end of the following summer. Registration fees are non-refundable.
- All classes must be paid for in advance.
- Monthly tuition is due on the 25th of each month. Billing statements will not be mailed. Payments are considered late on the 2nd of each month. Late charges will incur a late fee of \$10.
- There will be no pro-rating for missed classes unless a valid doctor's certificate is presented.
- Tuition payments must be made on time. Student may be denied access to class if the student account is not paid in full by the 1st of the month. Past due accounts will be assessed late fees and may be subject to collections. Missed classes cannot be made up, and there are no credits given for missed classes.
- No refunds or adjustments are made for missed classes due to family vacations, school functions, performances or classes which fall on a holiday. Make-up classes are not permitted.
- No refunds or adjustments are made due to instructor substitution. All instructors and substitute instructors are highly qualified. Students may not skip a class because their regularly scheduled instructor is not there.
- Refunds or credits will not be given for missed classes, whether they are in person or virtual.

TERMINATION/ WITHDRAWAL

- The enrollment contract may be terminated by the parent/guardian on behalf of the student, (or by the student if 18 years of age or older), with written notice, but only effective at the end of a tuition period (month) in which classes have been taken. **NO ADJUSTMENTS OR CREDITS WILL BE MADE.** If you wish to withdraw your child, please notify the front desk by email or by phone at (702) 243-2623.
- If a student withdraws and then wishes to return to class during the same school year, a re-enroll fee of \$30 will be required.
- The enrollment contract may be terminated by the Academy in the event student or parent/guardian fails to meet any of his/her obligations or comply with the Academy's rules and regulations. The Academy reserves the right to refuse service to anyone.



ETIQUETTE AND POLICY

For the Parents

- Parents are required to regularly check the Academy blog at www.AcademyofNBT.blogspot.com to make sure they have not missed any pertinent information. It is the parent's responsibility to stay informed regarding upcoming dates, deadlines, schedule changes, rules, and news.
- The NBT lobby is closed to the public for security and safety reasons. Therefore, we ask all parent/guardians to contact the Academy staff via phone or email. In-person meetings are also available by appointment.
- The Academy is not responsible for students who leave the building without adult supervision.
- Questions or concerns that require a meeting with instructors or staff can be scheduled by contacting the front desk.
- Faculty and staff members are NOT to be contacted at home, by cell phone, or at any other type of personal phone number. Doing so may result in immediate termination of enrollment. Any tuition paid in advance will be forfeited.
- The Academy reserves the right to publish photos and video of Academy students taken during classes, rehearsals and performances for publicity purposes.
- If your child is taking any medications please list them when you register. All health problems or injuries shall be kept confidential.
- Parent/Guardian will supply student the necessary uniform as specified by the Academy uniform requirements.
- Please be prompt. A late pick-up fee of \$1 per minute will be charged to your account. Excessive late pickups could result in the students' termination from the Academy. If any parent/guardian is running late for pick-up of student, please call the Academy at (702) 243-2623.
- Students and parents/guardians shall comply with all policies during the term of enrollment contract. Failure to read these policies does not exempt you or the student from abiding by them. Academy reserves the right to terminate student enrollment if the student and/or parent does not comply with all Academy policies and rules in effect during the term of enrollment contract. Any payments made will be forfeited.

STUDENT ADVANCEMENT

- Each student is an individual who will progress at his or her own pace through the ballet levels and syllabus. It is important for parents and students to understand that, unlike academic schools, remaining in the same level from one year to the next is not an indication of failure but rather an aid in attaining the ultimate goal of progressing and mastering the technical standard of the different stages of the syllabus. Students are carefully evaluated.
- The Academy reserves the right to place any student in any level throughout the year. It is a disservice and potentially dangerous to expect a student to perform exercises for which they are not muscicularly strong enough or adequately prepared. At the same time, students with exceptional awareness of the fundamentals and technical strength, will have the privilege to progress at his or her own optimal pace.

ETIQUETTE AND POLICY

For the Students

- Students are asked to refrain from running and playing in the lobby and hallways.
- Students are responsible for following all building entrance and exit procedures.
- Students must enter the building with their dance clothes under their street clothes. Changing clothes in the restroom is not allowed.
- Cell phones must be turned off completely during all classes. Phones may not be charged in the studio during class.
- Chewing gum is not allowed in the building.
- Prescription glasses may be worn in classes, rehearsals and performances on stage and at all times at NBT. Please note that Competition Team members must follow the glasses requirements for each competition they attend, and these regulations might differ from those of the Academy.
- The Academy halls are for students only and must be a QUIET environment.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

- Uniform Requirements are posted on the Academy blog at www.AcademyofNBT.blogspot.com.
- At the start of the school year, if items are backordered, students must inform the instructor and wear a simple leotard (preferably black) for class until the correct uniform is shipped.
- Students are required to wear Academy specific styles of garments and articles. Items outside the specified uniform will not be allowed. Uniforms must be purchased by the start of the second week of class. The dress code will be strictly enforced.
- Students must be in proper class uniform for every class. Students who are not properly dressed will be asked to sit and observe the class.
- Nail polish is not allowed.
- No student may wear their dance shoes outdoors as it compromises the shoes and floor condition in the studios.
- No jewelry is allowed while taking class or rehearsing.
- Pointe shoes must be professionally fitted. Do not purchase pointe shoes until they are required for your class. When purchasing pointe shoes, make sure they are returnable. Do not wear or alter them before your first class. All pointe shoes must be approved by the instructor.
- There are no specific uniform requirements for NBT II dancers.
- There will be occasional themed Spirit Weeks throughout the year, when students may take class out of uniform. During these weeks, students must wear clothing that is safe to dance in, and the required shoes for each class must be worn.

LIABILITY POLICY

- The Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre is not responsible for any illness or personal injury sustained by the student in the building, on the building premises or performance venue. Any injuries or illness shall be promptly reported in writing to the student's instructor.
- The Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre is not responsible for loss or theft of any personal property on its premises. Any valuables should be left at home. Keep all belongings in your bag and take them into your studio during class.
- Nevada Ballet Theatre is not responsible for students when they are outside the NBT building.