

“A PERFORMING ARTS STUDIO SINCE 1990”

MISSION/PHILOSOPHY **BACKSTAGE PERFORMING ARTS’ MISSION IS TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF DANCE TRAINING WHILE BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM, POISE, AND A LOVE FOR DANCE.**

About Backstage Performing Arts

We are more than just a dance studio! We teach discipline, dedication, confidence, and respect to ourselves as well as to our fellow dancers and teachers.

The Director and Staff of Backstage Performing Arts (BPA) would like to welcome you to the 2023-24 dance season. The dance program will serve beginning thru advanced students starting at age 3 years. Our program will work on a small class size allowing no more than 12 students per class. We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service, along with an underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this handbook of policies and guidelines to give our parents and students a clear understanding of our mutual commitments and responsibilities to Backstage Performing Arts.

Our studio was started in 1990 for the sole purpose of giving all students a professional dance experience. Our facility gives dancers a fun and safe learning environment that stimulates students to achieve their personal best. At BPA, we teach the art and enjoyment of dance in a positive, friendly atmosphere. A wonderful form of exercise, dance develops coordination, poise, and confidence, which carry over into other areas of school and life. We use age-appropriate music, moves and costuming. Classes are offered for beginner to advanced, recreational to competition.

Registration

A non-refundable annual fee of \$30 per student/\$40 per family is required yearly at the time of registration. This will reserve the student a place in class. All students must fill out the registration and medical forms online before starting class. Students enrolling in the creative movement class must be 3 years old by October of the enrolling year and must be potty trained. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, as class sizes are limited.

Tuition

Tuition is due on the 1st of the month, August - May. Once registered, a student is enrolled for the entire August through May year. Tuition is based on a yearly fee for the total number of classes per year (34). Fees are due and payable to Backstage Performing Arts (BPA) in 9.5 payments (due the first lesson of each month). May tuition is half price and is due when the 1st month's tuition is paid. Annual and bi-annual plans are available. The tuition is the same every month regardless of holidays or missed classes. ***A \$10.00 late fee will be added to your account if tuition is not paid by the 10th of the month.*** There will be a \$25.00 service fee if a check is returned. Accounts more than 60 days in arrears will cause that student to be dismissed from the studio unless acceptable arrangements are made with the Director. We do not pro-rate or refund tuition for missed classes due to illness, injury, or other conflicts.

Payment Methods

Payments may be made by cash, check, credit card or money order. Please include your child's name in the memo area and specify what the check is for (ex: tuition, costume, etc.) this will help us ensure that your check is properly allocated. Checks should be made payable to the **Backstage Performing Arts (BPA)**.

Credit card payments will have a 2% fee added if paid at the front desk and a 3% fee added if paid online.

There are three ways to pay tuition:

1. Payment in full for the entire year submitted by September 10th (10% discount)
2. Payment by the semester: August – December (plus May—Due Sept 10) and January – April (Due Jan 10). (5% discount)
3. Monthly payments. (Due the 1st class of each month, late after the 10th of the month).

All tuition is non-refundable (unless prior arrangements have been made with Director).

Online Credit Card Payments

Credit card transactions are accepted at the front desk and online. We will provide the online payment link via Remind Text and email. Credit card info is not saved on file. If paying by card, you have to go online, call or stop by to make payment each month.

Class Information

Schedule is subject to change. The studio reserves the right to cancel/combine class due to low enrollment. You will be notified of any changes by phone or mail. Classes will be closed when full. A minimum of 5 students is required per class. Substitutes will teach class if the regular teacher is unavailable.

Withdrawal from Class

Parents wishing to withdraw their child(ren) must notify the director, in writing, at least two (2) weeks before the next billing period. Notifying a teacher does not qualify as a withdrawal. If proper notice is not given, the May tuition payment will be forfeited. Recital costumes are ordered in December. If you withdrawal from a class after November 10th you will be responsible for the cost of the recital costume for that class, no exceptions. If costumes have not been ordered and a deposit has been made, the deposit may be applied toward the tuition.

Recital

Each year dancers are invited to participate in a fully costumed production showcasing the year's accomplishments. The recital fee is \$40 per student/\$60 per family. This fee covers the rental of the auditorium, lights, backdrops, music, programs, etc. This fee is non-refundable and is due April 11th. Tickets are not required for the recital and there is no admission charge!

Participation in the recital is not mandatory. Participating students are required to attend dress rehearsal and all scheduled performances. Any conflicts must be discussed with the director.

Recital Costume

Students performing in the recital will have to purchase a recital costume for each class they are taking. Costume payments will be divided into 2 payments. A breakdown of price will be given to each dancer.

1. September 9, 2023 (A deposit of \$30 minimum per costume)
2. November 9, 2023 (The balance of all costumes)

We will be ordering costumes over Thanksgiving Break and your child will not be ordered a costume if we have not received the full payment. There will be no refunds after costumes are ordered.

Dance Pictures

In the spring professional pictures will be taken of each class and dancer dressed in their costumes. Group and individual pictures will be made; however, there is no obligation to purchase these photos.

Insurance

It is required that all students be covered by their own family insurance policies. If an injury occurs it is understood that the students own policy is your only source of reimbursement.

Competition groups

For those dancers who have a greater interest and dedication to dance. Practice schedules require commitment to prepare for performances throughout the year and also the recital in May. The competition group will travel to well-known conventions/workshops taught by professional instructors. They will attend competitions throughout the year to compete against students their age from other studios in specific categories. The competition group will have extra practices to prepare for the competition season. These practices are mandatory and a contract must be signed. The fees for the extra practices, conventions, competition fees, hotel and travel accommodations are at the responsibility of dancer/family.

Dropping off and Picking up students

Please drop off and pick up your students at the door if child is 12 and under. If you are going to be late please let the teacher know at the beginning of class. The studio is not responsible for before and after class care for students. Doors will not be open until 3:15 and we will lock up no later than 15 minutes after the last class. We do not allow our students to wait in the parking lot for safety reasons. Please do not drop your child off more than 15 minutes before their class starts and pick your child up as soon as class is over.

A \$5 fee will be added to your account if you are excessively late picking up your child/children.

Class Observation/Viewing Windows

BPA has an open-door policy and invite you to view any of your child's classes through the viewing window of each dance room. There will be times when we open the door towards the end of class if we have a combo to show. *We LOVE to show new things we have learned!!* Although there are normally no street shoes allowed on the dance floor, we will occasionally invite parents into the classroom. Please let the instructor know if you would like to video at the end of any class. We will have a mandatory parent/recital information meeting in March.

Lobby/Waiting Area

Parents are allowed to sit in the lobby/waiting area while their child is taking class. Please pick up after yourself. Please do not leave young children unattended at the studio. Siblings and friends (not in class) may not remain without an adult. The lobby/waiting area is not supervised.

Food and Drink

Any drink that is brought inside the studio must be in a plastic container. No food allowed in the dance rooms. Water only! Everyone is responsible for cleaning up after themselves!

Cancellations/Snow Policy

BPA does not follow any certain school system for weather related closings. Closings will be emailed and announced on Facebook and Instagram.

Communication

Monthly newsletters are emailed first of each month. If you do not receive your newsletter by email, please pick up one at the front desk. If you need to contact an instructor you may contact them by studio phone or email. Please limit questions asked between classes. It is the responsibility of the parent or adult student to be aware of all studio activities, such as observation days, recitals, extra classes, and dates the studio is open or closed. The studio will post all such notices on the bulletin board in the lobby, in monthly newsletters and on the website. Please check the board and website regularly to ensure you are informed. It is the responsibility of the parents or adult students to inform the studio of any address or telephone number change. ****Please keep up with emails and Text Reminds as this is how important info will be passed out****

Join us on Facebook, Instagram and Text Remind.

Placement Guidelines

Our goal is to place students in a class where they can learn, grow, and be challenged, but not frustrated. Each student is evaluated on their unique abilities; however, we would prefer to move a student up a level instead of down. So it is better to start at a lower level and work your way up. If you have any concerns about your class level, please feel free to talk to the teacher or the studio director. Backstage Performing Arts reserves the right to change a student's class based on appropriate age and/or skill level.

Attendance

ATTENDANCE...STANDS FOR ATTEND DANCE!

All dancers are expected to attend their scheduled classes regularly and to be on time. If there is a lack in attendance there is a lack in progress. If you are going to be absent from class please let the director or the teacher of the class know of your absence.

Concerns/Questions

Please call the director at 433-4168 if you have any questions or concerns. Limit discussions of your concerns or questions before or after class. We will be glad to set up a time to meet with you if needed.

Nutcracker of Lincoln County

Our 8th production of the Nutcracker will be December 2024. It is performed every other year. Our goal is to have a holiday tradition that will offer your child the opportunity to perform in a production you will be proud to share with family and friends. All students enrolled in ballet at BPA (either ballet combo or full ballet classes) are eligible to participate. Some rehearsals will take place the last 10 minutes of class time. Others will need to practice on the weekends. We ask every dancer in "The Nutcracker" to make a \$30.00 Nutcracker participation fee. This helps offset the cost of costume construction, cleaning, repairs, storage, auditorium rental, rehearsal fees, etc. The costumes remain the property of Backstage Performing Arts.

Dress Code

Required dancewear and dance shoes, appropriate to class style, must be worn in all classes. In all classes hair must be secured away from the face. Cover-ups may be worn but must be removed upon request of teacher. No street shoes on dance floor. Sneakers worn for hip hop must be clean and free of debris. For safety reasons dancers are not permitted to wear jewelry (includes FitBit, AppleWatch, or any other smart watch). No jeans, baggy clothes or street shoes are to be worn in class. **NO PHONES IN CLASS!**

The dress code is established so that the instructors have an unobstructed view of the students' posture during class. This increases the effectiveness of the instruction. Strengths, weaknesses, and trouble spots can be monitored and corrected immediately. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for each class. This is also enforced for safety reasons.

Dance shoes should not be worn outside.

*The floor in Studio A & B both have a floating wood floor providing a safe, shock-absorbent environment for all movement activities with a Timestep dance floor on top of it. **Please, no street shoes on the dance floors.***

Personal Belongings

It is the responsibility of the student to collect all personal belongings from the building before leaving. Under no circumstances will BPA be held liable for misplaced or stolen personal property. A lost and found is located in the waiting room, but items will be donated if left unclaimed the last day of each month.

Class Attire/Dress Code

Creative Movement Classes (ages 3-5)

This level may wear pink, tan or white tights and any color and style of dancewear they wish. They may wear skirts or dance shorts, but not pants. They will need pink leather ballet shoes and black **patent** tap shoes that buckle or velcro. Boys wear black ballet shoes, black dance pants and a black or white t-shirt.

Combo 1 Classes

This level may wear pink, tan or white tights and any color and style of dancewear they wish. They may wear skirts or dance shorts, but not pants. They will need pink leather ballet shoes. Black **patent** tap shoes that buckle or velcro if doing tap. Tan slip on jazz shoes if doing jazz. Boys wear black ballet shoes, black dance pants and a black or white t-shirt.

Ballet/Tap/Jazz Combo II and III classes

These levels may wear pink or tan tights. Solid color leotards are preferred (any color). Dance skirts may be worn for ballet portion of class. Leggings/spandex shorts are allowed in jazz and tap sections of class only. They will need pink leather ballet shoes, BLACK **matte** Mary Jane tap shoes for tap, and TAN slip on jazz shoes for jazz.

Combo 4 and Level 1, 2 & 3 Ballet Class

All levels must wear pink tights and a leotard. Skirts may be worn in ballet class. Leg warmers and some cover-ups may be permitted. Please check with instructor for their policy. They will need pink leather or canvas split sole ballet shoes. Boys wear black ballet shoes, black dance pants and a black or white t-shirt.

Combo 4 and Level 1, 2 & 3 Tap Classes

All levels must wear pink or tan tights and leotard of their choice. Leggings and spandex shorts are permitted. They will need BLACK lace up FULL SOLE tap shoes. Boys wear same dancewear as in jazz.

Combo 4 and Level 1, 2 & 3 Jazz Classes

All levels must wear appropriate dance attire. Tights are required, leotard, spandex shorts, leggings, dance top, etc. They need TAN slip on jazz shoes.

Hip Hop Classes (if signed up for this class)

Clean sneakers (any brand). Please do not wear any shoes that would have dirt or mud on them. Any style and color dancewear. A specific color may be required for recital.

Lyrical/Technique Classes

Same attire as jazz class. Barefooted for all lyrical classes. Please see instructor for their policy.

Acro Classes (if signed up for this class)

Any color leotard (can wear hot shorts) or shorts and tight fitted tank top. Barefooted.

Dancers' Etiquette

1. Respect for your teacher and fellow classmates is the number one lesson in dance class. Teachers will ask students to wait in the lobby if they are being disruptive or disrespectful.
2. There is a zero tolerance policy for inappropriate or unacceptable behavior. The studio reserves the right to dismiss a student for inappropriate behavior.
3. All shoes and dancewear should be marked with the dancer's name. Students are to bring their dance shoes into the classrooms and put them in the area provided. Each student is responsible for their personal belongings. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.
4. Students should use the bathroom before class.
5. Gum is not allowed in the studio. Water bottles are allowed in class. No other food or drink, please.
6. Arrive to class on time. The first 15 minutes are crucial to a proper warm-up.
7. Dancer should be dressed in proper dance attire with hair pulled back off the face before coming into class.
8. No excessive talking during class.
9. Jewelry of any kind is not allowed in class.
10. Students should come to class with a positive attitude, ready to dance!
11. Finish every combination.
12. Practice as if you are performing for an audience.
13. No cell phones in class.
- 14. Students should thank their teacher at the end of class.**
15. HAVE FUN!!

Class Description

Preschool Classes (ages 3 - 5)

This is a 45 minute class that incorporates ballet, tap, tumbling and personality singing in a fun and creative atmosphere. They experience the magic of dance through the use of songs, games, fairy tales and fun props. Children's activities bring movement and coordination together for this youngest dancer.

Combination Classes (ages 5 – 14)

This is an introduction to ballet, tap and jazz. Students will learn the basic steps from each discipline and form a strong foundation to build upon.

Ballet Classes

Ballet is a classical form of dance and is the foundation for all forms of dance. It enhances strength, flexibility, coordination, poise, posture, self-confidence and grace. Barre, center floor and progressions are used in developing ballet technique.

Pointe Classes

Students must be 13 years or older, have had at least two years of ballet (hour classes), and currently enrolled in 3 hours of dance classes per week. Must be assessed by Director.

Tap Classes

Tap is an essential factor in the training of rhythms and musicality. Students learn timing and coordination while building on steps, progressions, turns and combinations.

Jazz Classes

Jazz is an energetic and fun way of moving. It is the “melting pot” of dance. Class consists of warm-ups, center floor combinations and across the floor progressions. Various styles will be explored. Students will also learn routines to today’s music.

Acro Classes

Training in both dance and acrobatic elements is required for Acro. Acro technique includes balancing, limbering, tumbling and partnering, based in flexibility, contortion and strength.

Hip Hop Classes

Hip Hop is a rhythmic, fun and energetic freestyle dance form to up to date music. This style of dance was made popular by music videos. Student should have training in jazz.

Lyrical/Contemporary/Technique

Required to be enrolled in ballet class. This dance form is based on the technique used in ballet and jazz. Movements are usually slow and sustained with long lines and emotional expressive content.

2023-24 Backstage Calendar

August 7	Classes begin!!
September 4	Closed for Labor Day
September 21	Costume Deposit Due
October 2-6	Closed for Fall Break
November 9	Costume Balance Due
November 21-23	Closed for Thanksgiving Break (we do have class on Monday 20)
December 2024	Nutcracker (LCA)
December 22-Jan 5	Closed for Christmas Break
January 8	Classes resume
March 11-15	Closed for Spring Break
March 24	Program ad due (optional)
March 22,23,24	Picture Day (tentative)
April 1	Recital Fee Due
May 1 – 15	Pre-registration free for BPA students
May 16-31	Pre-registration ½ price for BPA students
April 29 - May 2	Last week of classes
May 7, 9, & 11	Rehearsal & Recital Week (LCA)

2023-24 Tuition Rates

30 mi-45 min.....	\$48
1-1.25 hrs.....	\$50
1.5-1.75 hrs.....	\$60
2-2.25 hrs.....	\$70
2.5-2.75hrs.....	\$80
3 - 3.75 hrs.....	\$95
4 - 4.75 hrs.....	\$105
5 - 5.75 hrs.....	\$115
6 – 6.75 hrs.....	\$125

Costumes range in price from
\$55 - \$80.