

NORTHERN NEVADA



BALLET ACADEMY

Student Handbook

4840 Mill Street, Suite 4,
Reno, NV 89502
775-220-9822
info@nnballet.com

Academy Director

Kris Swaczyna

NNBA Faculty

Kris Swaczyna, Maykel Solaz, Vanessa Abare,
Jennifer Davis, Kimberley Yukes, Michele
Swaczyna, Judit Bartos, Malina Shubzda, Eric
Ventura, Alex Kaskie

Administrative Faculty

CEO - Vinh Luong

Accounting - Denelle Padgett

Administration - Cari Williams

Academy

NNBA welcomes dancers age of 5 and up.

Safety is our highest priority and we focus on student injury prevention. Therefore, our artistic director will determine what level each student is placed in regardless of age.

1. Beginner Ballet (Level 1): Perfect for aspiring dancers taking their first steps into the world of ballet. This level focuses on building a strong foundation in technique, posture, and basic movements, fostering a love for dance in a supportive environment.

2. Elementary Ballet (Level 2): Designed for students with some prior experience in ballet. In this level, dancers refine their technique, coordination, and musicality while expanding their repertoire of movements and developing greater strength and flexibility.

3. Intermediate Ballet (Level 3): For dancers with a solid foundation in ballet technique. This level emphasizes further refinement of skills, increased complexity in movements, and the introduction of more challenging combinations and variations, preparing students for more advanced levels.

4. Advanced Ballet (Level 4): Geared towards experienced dancers with a strong technical proficiency. In this level, dancers focus on mastering intricate movements, perfecting artistry, and honing performance skills through rigorous training and exploration of diverse ballet styles.

5. Pre-Professional Ballet (Level 5): Tailored for dedicated dancers aspiring towards a professional career in ballet. This intensive level offers advanced training in technique, repertoire, pointe work (for female dancers), partnering, and performance preparation, under the guidance of seasoned instructors.

6. Professional Ballet (Level 6): Reserved for elite dancers displaying exceptional talent and commitment. This level provides specialized coaching and performance opportunities, refining technique to the highest standards and preparing dancers for auditions and careers in professional ballet companies.

Northern Nevada Ballet Academy proudly offers both beginner and advanced ballet levels tailored specifically for adults.

Our beginner classes provide a welcoming environment for those new to ballet, focusing on fundamental techniques, posture, and coordination. Led by seasoned instructors, beginners will build confidence and grace as they explore the beauty of ballet.

For those with prior experience, our advanced classes offer a dynamic challenge, refining technique, enhancing artistry, and pushing boundaries. Whether you're returning to ballet after a hiatus or seeking to elevate your skills, our advanced level provides a platform for growth and artistic expression.

Join us at Northern Nevada Ballet Academy and immerse yourself in the timeless art of ballet, regardless of your skill level or background. Discover the joy of movement, camaraderie, and personal achievement in our adult ballet classes.

Etiquette

To foster a positive and productive learning environment, we ask that parents/guardians engage in a thorough review of the Behavior Code with their students, ensuring full comprehension of all rules governing student conduct. Adherence to the following guidelines is mandatory:

1. Maintain attentiveness in class; refrain from conversation and maintain proper posture. Ballet class demands focus on the instructor and individual body awareness.
2. Embrace corrections positively; view them as constructive feedback rather than criticism. Endeavor to retain and implement corrections, seeking clarification from the instructor when necessary.
3. Refrain from requesting bathroom breaks during class unless absolutely necessary; endeavor to utilize facilities beforehand.
4. Be mindful of personal space within the classroom; avoid overcrowding fellow students, ensuring ample room for movement without encroaching on others' space.
5. Arrive prepared for class with appropriate dance attire/uniform and neatly groomed hair.
6. Maintain cleanliness within the studio environment and keep personal belongings organized.
7. Demonstrate respect towards instructors and peers by maintaining a quiet demeanor during class sessions.
8. Silence cell phones and refrain from their use within the studio premises.
9. Remain in the classroom once class commences until designated break times or the conclusion of the session.
10. Express gratitude to instructors for their guidance, as well as for class participation and corrections received.
11. Ensure that siblings of students are accompanied by a responsible adult at all times; faculty cannot assume responsibility for supervising siblings.
12. Understand that the faculty/staff are not liable for any accidents or injuries that may occur during class or related activities.

By upholding these standards of behavior, we cultivate an environment conducive to learning, growth, and mutual respect among all participants.

NORTHERN NEVADA BALLET ACADEMY POLICIES AND INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE | Students must attend all scheduled classes and should notify the academy in advance of any planned absence. This can be done by calling (775) 220-9822 or sending an email to info@nnballet.com. Please provide the student's name, class level, reason for absence, and duration (if it spans multiple classes). An absence due to illness will be excused. However, excused absences still count toward overall attendance and may impact casting, performance eligibility, and level progression. Consistent attendance is vital for enhancing skills and advancing in training.

****Private lessons cannot substitute for regular class attendance.**

PUNCTUALITY | Being on time is crucial to maintaining the flow of classes and ensuring a productive learning environment for all students. If a dancer arrives more than 15 minutes late, they may be asked to observe the class. It's essential for dancers to arrive with ample time for warm-up before class begins to prevent injuries. Drop-off should occur no more than 20 minutes before class, and students should be picked up promptly after class ends. Late pick-up may incur additional fees.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE | Northern Nevada Ballet Academy is a professional school, and our staff are dedicated to the smooth running of our programs. Please adhere to drop-off and pick-up times for your dancer. Student safety is our utmost priority. Students must enter through the front of the building and check in at the front desk. Parents of children under age 8 should accompany them into the lobby. Dancers should wear street clothes or cover-ups when entering and leaving the studio to protect their dance attire. They should avoid wearing ballet or dance shoes outdoors to prevent damage. Students are not permitted to leave the premises without a parent or guardian and must wait inside the building until picked up. Parents are not allowed beyond the lobby area.

MAKE-UP POLICY | Make-up classes will not be offered at Northern Nevada Ballet Academy to maintain continuity in our curriculum and program classes.

BALLET CLASS ETIQUETTE AND CODE OF CONDUCT | Parents must review the Behavior Code with their child to ensure understanding and compliance with all rules regarding student conduct.

The following code must be adhered to:

- Maintain focus during class; refrain from talking or slouching.
- Receive corrections positively; view them as opportunities for improvement.
- Request permission to use the bathroom during class only in case of emergencies.
- Respect others' space in the classroom; ensure adequate room for movement.
- Arrive prepared with appropriate dance wear, hair neatly groomed, and all necessary equipment.
- Keep the studio clean and tidy; show respect to teachers and fellow dancers by maintaining discipline.
- Refrain from using cell phones during class.
- Siblings of students must be accompanied by an adult at all times; the academy staff are not responsible for supervising siblings.
- Students should arrive at least 10 minutes before class starts and be picked up no later than 10 minutes after the class ends.

DRESS CODE

- **Students in the Children's Program, Pre-Professional Program, and Teen Open Division must adhere to the dress code:** Leotard color based on level, Pink or flesh-tone tights, convertible foot. **Shoes:** Pink or flesh-tone soft shoes. Pointe shoes if applicable. *In colder months, form-fitting warm-ups may be worn but must be removed after pliés.
Additional Dress Code Policies:
- **Pilates, Progressing Ballet Technique, and Modern classes:** students should wear their uniform and be barefoot.
- **Jazz class:** students should wear their uniform and jazz shoes.
- **Open Adult Class:** No formal dress code, but participants should wear form-fitting athletic wear to aid instructors in observing alignment; jeans are not permitted.

PLACEMENT CLASS | New students must schedule a placement class in advance with staff and the Artistic Director. Placement classes are only available during the last week of each month. Students will be assigned to a level based on their abilities to ensure appropriate challenge and growth.

PERFORMANCES | Participation in performances is integral to dance education. Students in various levels are required to perform in productions.

PHOTO / VIDEO POLICY | Photography or filming of classes and posting online images of classes or rehearsals is not permitted unless expressly allowed by the Artistic Director. This policy is in place to maintain a conducive learning environment and out of respect for instructors and students' safety.

HOLIDAY OBSERVATIONS | Please refer to the yearly schedule posted on the academy bulletin board and website for holiday observances.

RESOLVING ISSUES | Open communication is encouraged among parents, students, and teachers. If issues arise, parents are encouraged to email info@nnballet.com
Office Hours | To schedule a meeting with the Artistic Director or Artistic Associate, please email info@nnballet.com to arrange an appointment during their office hours.

ACADEMY DRESS CODE

Ladies - All the uniforms can be purchased at Satori Dancewear.

Boys - Black T-shirt,
Dance belt (as needed),
Black tights,
Black ballet Shoes,
(optional) Black socks

All NNBA dancers will receive 10% off of their entire purchase. (does not include Indie Ella Silks or Consignment items such as gently used leos or costumes).

Introduction to Ballet - Any Pink Leotard
Level - Lavender
Level 2 - Royal Blue
Level 3 - Ice Blue
Level 4 - Red
Level 5 - Coffee