

Ballet Westside Dance Studio



2026

Recital Handbook

Ballet Westside Dance Studio

Center for Nonprofits
1200 W Walnut St
Rogers, AR 72756
Suite 1225
479-636-6678

Dear Parents and Students,

For four decades, Ballet Westside Dance Studio has provided students with an exciting performance experience through its June recitals. The annual staples of the studio, the recitals, conjure up images of childhood and Americana for many. It's a rite of passage for thousands of children, a chance to shine in front of family and friends that they anticipate with nervous excitement.

The recitals offer our students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to their families and friends the results of a year's hard work, dedication, and progress.

A big part of the dance training process includes learning through performance. The experience helps build self-esteem, self-assurance, and contributes to a sense of confidence. Although performance opportunities can help prepare some students for a possible career in dance, they also contribute to children's success in non-dance activities. That onstage experience can result in better in-school presentations, improved social skills, and strong interview skills for future college or job opportunities. The rehearsal process is a tremendous learning experience as well. It helps the children develop retention skills, and by working with their classmates on a group performance, they learn the positive aspects of working as a team to create the best end result.

Dedication to recital commitment is the responsibility of both students and their parents. We've created this handbook in an effort to clarify what we expect from you in terms of commitments and responsibility to the annual recitals, the school, and other students and parents.

Recital Updates

As the season progresses, additional recital information will be posted on our website www.balletwestside.com,

Facebook

www.facebook.com/balletwestside and in emails. Make it your responsibility to keep abreast of this important information. It is our goal to make the recital experience organized and exciting for all involved. It's a team effort; students, their parents, the teachers, and the director are key players in the success of the show. Please email us with any questions or concerns:

HYPERLINK

"mailto:dtaylor@balletwestside.com"

dtaylor@balletwestside.com

- Recital 1: May 30th at 7:00 pm
- Recital 2: May 31st at 3:00 pm

All recitals will be held at Arkansas Arts Academy High School located at:
506 W Poplar Rogers, AR 72756

Home Study

To ensure that the students feel confident about their performance, we ask parents and guardians to encourage them to rehearse their recital choreography on a regular basis. Parents may film their child's dance routine in the studio.

Props

All props are the property of Ballet Westside Dance Studio and are to be returned to the backstage prop master after the performance. Props include such items as canes, parasols, beach balls, feather boas, tambourines, pom poms, maracas, etc.

Hair & Makeup

All female students are required to wear makeup for the recital: red lipstick, blush, eye shadow (not blue), and mascara. For the boys, a little blush works well. Uniform hairstyles are required. Please check the attached list for hair requirements.

Nail Polish

No nail polish except for clear on fingernails. This includes toenails if feet are showing during the dance.

Video and Photography

Parents or guardians may videotape or shoot photographs of their children at the dress rehearsal. Due to the large number of cameras and limited electrical outlets, be sure your batteries are fully charged. Please note: NO VIDEO or PHOTOGRAPHY will be allowed in the recital. Security guards will ask you to remove any cameras from the auditorium. All Occasion Video will be professionally taping the performances. Copies may be ordered during dress rehearsals or recitals. The cost is \$35.00 for per DVD or jump drive. If you purchase both Recital 1 and 2 you will receive \$10.00 off your total purchase.

Recital Tickets

Recital tickets are general admission. No reserved seating. Students will receive 4 free recital tickets to be used for adult or child admittance for their \$50 paid recital fee. Parents that paid a recital fee of \$60 for multiple children will receive 6 general admission tickets. Tickets will be given out the week of May 15th. Additional tickets can be purchased for:

- \$ 13 Adults
- \$ 7 Child (Ages 3-12)
- \$ 9 Students (Ages 13-18)

Dress Rehearsal

Students will sit with their class in designated seating during the rehearsal. They must stay with their class. Students will be dismissed from rehearsal once they have completed all of their routines, including the finale.

Dressing Room Etiquette

Students must respect other students' space and property in the dressing rooms. The students will spend more time in the dressing rooms than onstage or in the auditorium, so please do your best to keep them organized and clean. Children will be provided snacks, drinks, and activities to keep them entertained when not on stage. Students may bring their own snacks and drinks. Clear liquids only and no peanut products due to food allergies.

Backstage

Family members and friends don't belong backstage or in the dressing rooms during rehearsals or recitals. The same applies during intermission and after the show. There is a lot of backstage activity in a limited space, and dressing rooms are a private area. Please remind your family and guests to be respectful of these areas. Those who wish to greet a performer after the show or present flowers should do so in the lobby area after the show.

Auditorium Rules

No eating, drinking, or smoking is allowed in the auditorium or dressing rooms. Dancers may observe the dress rehearsal only in assigned seats in the auditorium. Dancers must remain in their dressing rooms during recital. No dancers are allowed in the auditorium in costume before or during the recitals.

Jewelry

No necklaces or bracelets are allowed. We will provide clear rhinestone earrings at no cost for all students to wear. We have them for pierced and non-pierced

Class Moms

Class mothers are needed for each class to supervise the dancers. They do not need a recital ticket and will be able to watch their children perform from the audience. Class moms must assure that each child in her care is safe and accounted for. They are responsible for making sure that each child is in the proper costume, has the proper accessories and shoes, and is backstage at the appropriate time. They are also responsible for seeing that all children return to their appointed dressing room after their performance. The number of volunteers need for each class is determined by the number of students (1 – 9 students = 1 volunteer; 10 or more students = 2 volunteers).

If there are too many volunteers for one class, some may be asked to work with children from another class. During their class' performances, room mothers leave the students at the stage door with their teacher and watch the dance from the auditorium.

Recital Drop off and Pickup

Parents or guardians should bring the students to their assigned dressing rooms, where they will be checked in and placed under the supervision of their class mom(s). Parents or guardians must remain in the auditorium until their children have been dismissed. After the finale, parents may pick up their child at the dressing room. Parents are not allowed in the dressing rooms after the child has been check in for the recital. At no time are children allowed in the auditorium in costume. This ruins the surprise of the show.

Recital Photos

This year's recital photos will be taken during dress rehearsals for each recital. Photos will be taken of each child in their individual costume then a picture will be taken of the group. Students will perform their routine onstage at dress rehearsal than have their picture taken before finale rehearsal or changing to their next costume if they have multiple costumes. Pictures will be taken in the commons area of Arkansas Arts. An order form for the pictures will be emailed out soon.

Finale Rehearsal

Recital 1 students are on May 16th at 10:30-11:30 am.
Recital 2 students are on May 16th at 9:30 am to 10:30 am downstairs, in the auditorium of the Center for Nonprofits. This is not a mandatory rehearsal but it is important for all the classes to work together on the recital finale before going to dress rehearsal so they will be familiar with it and spend less time at dress rehearsal rehearsing the finale.

Costume Care

It is mandatory that your child's name be placed in all costumes, shoes, accessories, and tights. Place costumes in a garment bag with your child's name on the outside. Pack accessories in a clear plastic bag with your child's name on the bag and on each item. Steam all costumes prior to the dress rehearsal and the performance if needed.

Tights

To ensure that there are no discrepancies in color and style, students are required to have the correct tights for their classes. Please refer to the attached costume requirement sheet. Tights are to be purchased from the studio. Recital 2 classes will have one pair of tights give to them with their costume. If their dance needs tights, Recital 1 classes need to purchase the correct style and color from the studio. Tights prices are \$12 for children sizes and \$14 for adult sizes. Note: Having a second pair of tights offers students and parents a great sense of security. Students should not wear panties under their tights, as they hang out underneath their costumes and can be seen. Bras should be a nude color unless specified by the teacher.

Flowers/Gifts

These items will be available for purchase at the dress rehearsals and recitals. Please remember these items may be presented after the recital finale, during awards ceremonies, or in the dressing rooms. Items cannot be presented on stage during the performances unless your child is a graduating senior.

Volunteer Opportunity Preference Form

Ballet Westside Dance Studio relies on the assistance of many dedicated volunteers to provide a high-quality performance experience for your children. Your child is a direct beneficiary of this volunteer effort, so we hope that you will become an enthusiastic member of our volunteer pool.

Most jobs require limited commitment at a specific time during the dress rehearsal and/or recital. There are positions available for men as well as women, which makes it reasonable for families to assure their volunteer responsibility. We encourage every family to become involved with our volunteer program and welcome any contribution you are will to make.

Please check any of the items listed below that you are interested in. Filling out this form does not obligate you to volunteer in any capacity. At the appropriate time, we will contact you with more information about the opportunities you have expressed an interest in. Return this form by May 25th, 2025. If you have questions, please contact us at 636-6678 or email dtaylor@balletwestside.com. Thank you for your involvement with your child at Ballet Westside Dance Studio. All volunteers will be required to attend a short informative meeting before the recitals. Date and time to be announced.

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent Phone #: _____

Child's Class Day/Time: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

_____ Class Mom: Ensure that children are safe and accounted for when not onstage. Check for proper attire and escort children to and from the stage for their performances during rehearsals and recitals.

_____ Security: Check dancers in as they arrive at the theater and release them when they are picked up.

_____ Security: Ensure that only authorized personnel volunteers are backstage and in the dressing rooms. Ensure no food or drinks are in the auditorium or dressing rooms.

_____ Usher: Escort ticket holders to their seats, distribute programs, open doors for intermission, and ensure everyone entering the auditorium have tickets.

_____ Flower/Concessions Sales: Arrange and sell flowers, snacks, and drinks in the commons area.

_____ Clean up and Breakdown. Clean up after the recitals, and take down and help load props, scenery, and supplies.

