



Student & Family
Handbook
2026–2027 Season

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1 · WELCOME LETTER

Welcome to Brevard Ballet Academy

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Brevard Ballet Academy. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our dance family and share our passion for excellence in ballet training.

At Brevard Ballet Academy, we are committed to providing the highest quality instruction in a supportive and inspiring environment. Through our Pre-Ballet, Ballet, Contemporary, and Adult programs, students have opportunities to grow through classes, private lessons, performances, competitions, summer camps, and master classes.

Our mission is to help each dancer develop a love for the art of ballet while building strong technical skills, discipline, confidence, and artistry. Whether your goal is personal enrichment, a healthy lifestyle, or a professional dance career, we are dedicated to supporting your journey every step of the way.

Most importantly, we strive to create a community where students feel encouraged, challenged, and inspired to achieve their fullest potential.

Thank you for choosing Brevard Ballet Academy. I look forward to an exciting and successful season together.

Warmly,

Elena Shokhina

Artistic Director

Brevard Ballet Academy

2 · ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

At Brevard Ballet Academy, our mission is to provide exceptional dance education in a positive, disciplined, and nurturing environment where students of all ages can develop a lifelong appreciation for the art of ballet.

We are dedicated to fostering excellence in technique, artistry, and personal growth while inspiring confidence, creativity, and a strong work ethic. Whether students dance for recreation, personal enrichment, or professional aspirations, we strive to provide the training, opportunities, and support needed to help each dancer reach their full potential.

Through our commitment to excellence, discipline, artistry, and community, we aim to cultivate not only skilled dancers, but also confident, respectful, and well-rounded individuals.

3 · FACULTY & STAFF

**Elena Shokhina****Artistic Director**

Elena Shokhina received her training at the world-renowned Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, and went on to enjoy a distinguished 16-year career as a principal dancer with professional ballet companies in both Russia and the United States. Her extensive performance experience and commitment to artistic excellence continue to shape her approach to teaching and mentorship. After relocating to Brevard County in 2010, Elena founded Brevard Ballet Academy in 2014 and later established Brevard Ballet Youth Company in 2018. Through her dedication to classical ballet training, she has inspired countless students to pursue their goals with discipline, artistry, and confidence.

**Colin Fuller****Contemporary Instructor**

A Melbourne native, Colin Fuller trained at New Dimensions Dance Company, Next Generation Ballet, the School of American Ballet, and The Juilliard School, where he earned his B.F.A. He furthered his studies with Paris Opera Ballet, Netherlands Dans Theater, Forsythe's Art of Berlin, and Springboard Danse Montréal. An accomplished performer, choreographer, and educator, he brings a wealth of contemporary dance experience and a passion for inspiring the next generation of artists.

**Luba Gulyaeva****Ballet Instructor**

A graduate of the prestigious Vaganova Ballet Academy, Luba Gulyaeva performed with the Kirov Ballet before joining the faculty of American Ballet Theatre at the invitation of Mikhail Baryshnikov. Her distinguished teaching career also includes the School of American Ballet, the Australian Ballet, and universities throughout the United States.

**Michele "Mimi" MacDonald****Ballet Instructor**

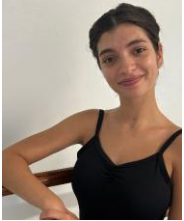
Mimi MacDonald is a distinguished dance educator and curriculum specialist with a Master's Degree in Dance Education from Temple University. Trained in Vaganova methodology, she has taught and choreographed at colleges and universities nationwide and helped develop the comprehensive ballet curriculum used at Brevard Ballet Academy.

**Kathleen Reau****Ballet Instructor**

Kathleen Reau trained at the School of American Ballet in New York City and enjoyed a distinguished professional career with the Hamburg Ballet in Germany and BalletMet in Ohio. Following her performing career, she became a respected ballet educator, teaching at renowned institutions including BalletMet Academy, Point Park University, and Jansen Dance Project.

**Tonia Heidenreich****Ballet Instructor & Certified Progressing Ballet Technique Instructor**

Tonia Heidenreich trained at Walnut Hill School for the Arts and the Boston Ballet School before dancing professionally at Charleston Ballet Theatre. A certified Progressing Ballet Technique and Classical Pilates instructor, she brings extensive experience in ballet training, conditioning, and dancer wellness.

**Ariana Colon****Brevard Ballet Academy Alumna · Vaganova Method**

Ariana Colon is a proud Brevard Ballet Academy alumna who trained under Academy Director Elena Shokhina in the Vaganova method. During her years with the Brevard Ballet Youth Company, she performed in productions including The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Cinderella, and Paquita. Having grown up in the Academy's program, Ariana is passionate about introducing young dancers to ballet while building confidence, discipline, and a strong technical foundation in a positive and encouraging environment.

**Dasha Bondar****Assistant to the Director**

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Dasha Bondar trained at Nevada Ballet Academy, where she performed in productions including The Nutcracker, Peter Pan, and Dracula. She earned bachelor's degrees from Florida State University and ECPI University, as well as a Master of Science in Nursing from South University. With a unique combination of professional dance training, advanced academic achievement, and organizational expertise, Dasha brings exceptional skill, dedication, and leadership to her role as Assistant to the Director at Brevard Ballet Academy.

4 · ENROLLMENT & REGISTRATION

Trial Class Policy

Brevard Ballet Academy welcomes new students to experience our program with one complimentary trial class.

- One free trial class is available for all first-time students.
- Trial classes are offered by appointment and are subject to class availability.
- The Academy Director or faculty will use the trial class to evaluate the student's age, experience, and ability to determine appropriate class placement.
- Students should arrive 10–15 minutes early to complete any necessary paperwork and become familiar with the studio.
- Trial students should wear comfortable, form-fitting athletic clothing. Ballet shoes are encouraged but not required for the trial class.
- Participation in a trial class does not guarantee placement in a specific level or class.
- Following the trial class, families will receive class placement recommendations and registration information.

Placement evaluation done by Artistic Director before 1st day of classes.

Student enrollment is done through the Brevard Ballet Portal.

Class Placement

Class placement at Brevard Ballet Academy is determined by the Academy Director and faculty based on each student's age, previous training, technical ability, physical development, and overall readiness for a particular level.

To ensure safe and healthy dancer development:

- New students may be asked to participate in a trial or evaluation class before placement is finalized.
- Placement is based on individual ability and development, not age alone.
- Students may be recommended for a different level than previously studied in order to strengthen technical foundations.
- Faculty may adjust a student's placement during the year if it is determined that another level would better support the student's progress.
- All placement decisions made by the Academy Director are final.

Our goal is to place every student in the environment where they can develop proper technique, build confidence, and achieve long-term success in ballet training.

Competition Team Placement

- Participation in Brevard Ballet Academy's competition program is by invitation only. Dancers are selected at the discretion of the Artistic Director based on technical ability, artistry, work ethic, consistency, and overall readiness for competitive performance. Placement decisions are made in the best interest of both the individual dancer and the overall quality of the competition pieces.

Exclusive Training Policy

To preserve the integrity and consistency of our training program, students enrolled in Brevard Ballet Academy are expected to receive their primary classical ballet instruction exclusively through Brevard Ballet Academy.

Students may not enroll in, train with, rehearse, or perform with another local dance studios or ballet schools while actively enrolled at Brevard Ballet Academy. Participation in workshops, summer/winter intensives, or master classes outside the Academy is permitted only with prior approval from the Academy Director.

Any exception to this policy is at the sole discretion of the Academy Director. Failure to comply may result in reevaluation of a student's enrollment or class placement.

Registration & Fees

A one-time annual registration fee per student secures enrollment for the season and helps cover administrative and studio costs. Placement in each level is determined by the faculty based on age, experience and readiness to ensure every student is appropriately challenged and supported.

Costume, recital, and performance fees are separate from tuition and are announced well in advance of each production so families can plan accordingly.

5 · TUITION

The registration fee reserves your student's place in class for the semester. Receive a discount when you pay for the semester in full.

Late payments will be charged a fee, and failure to pay will result in the student being removed from class. Families experiencing hardship are encouraged to contact us privately — we will always do our best to help a dedicated student continue training.

Monthly Tuition Rates

Creative Movement & Pre-Ballet (Includes Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet 1, and Pre-Ballet 2)

Weekly Hours	Monthly Rate
1 hour / week — Creative Movement & Pre-Ballet 1	\$80 / month
Pre-Ballet 1 students attending two classes/week (special rate)	\$110 / month
2 hours / week — Pre-Ballet 2	\$140 / month

Ballet 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Weekly Hours	Monthly Rate
3 hours / week — Ballet 1 requires 3 hours/week	\$195
4 hours / week	\$255
5 hours / week	\$315
6 hours / week — Ballet 2 & 3 require 6 hours/week	\$360
7 hours / week	\$400
8 hours / week — Ballet 4 requires 8 hours/week	\$440
9 hours / week — Ballet 5 requires 9 hours/week	\$475
10 hours / week	\$505
Unlimited	\$550

Semester Tuition Rates

Creative Movement & Pre-Ballet (Includes Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet 1, and Pre-Ballet 2)

Weekly Hours	Semester Rate
1 hour / week — Creative Movement & Pre-Ballet 1	\$400 / semester
Pre-Ballet 1 students attending two classes/week (special rate)	\$110 / month
2 hours / week — Pre-Ballet 2	\$700 / semester

Ballet 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Tuition is based on total weekly studio hours. Level requirements shown on each row.

Weekly Hours	Semester Rate
3 hours / week — Ballet 1 requires 3 hours/week	\$975
4 hours / week	\$1,275
5 hours / week	\$1,575
6 hours / week — Ballet 2 & 3 require 6 hours/week	\$1,800
7 hours / week	\$2,000
8 hours / week — Ballet 4 requires 8 hours/week	\$2,200

Weekly Hours	Semester Rate
9 hours / week — Ballet 5 requires 9 hours/week	\$2,375
10 hours / week	\$2,525
Unlimited	\$2,750

* If your dancer falls between hour tiers, a formula determines the price for the additional 30 minutes.

* 20% sibling discount applied to the youngest student for each additional sibling enrolled.

Level Requirements

Weekly Hours	Minimum Weekly Hours
Ballet 1	Minimum 3 hours / week
Ballet 2	Minimum 6 hours / week
Ballet 3	Minimum 6 hours / week
Ballet 4	Minimum 8 hours / week
Ballet 5	Minimum 9 hours / week

Withdrawal & Refunds

We understand that circumstances change. To withdraw a student, please provide written notice to the studio. Tuition is non-refundable once a month has begun, and notice given mid-month does not prorate that month's tuition.

Registration, costume, and performance fees are non-refundable, as these funds are committed to materials and venue arrangements on your student's behalf. We appreciate your understanding as we plan our season around enrolled dancers.

Payment Policies

- Due dates: Late payment fees occur on the 5th day of the month. Late payment fee will be assessed on the 6th of the month.
- Returned payment fees: \$50.00 for each occurrence.
- Suspension will occur for unpaid balances, until account is paid in full.
- Accepted payment methods: Credit cards, Checks.
- Auto-pay available on the portal.

Additional Fees

Weekly Hours	Amount
Registration fee (assessed yearly)	\$50.00
Performance fees	Varies by performance
Costume fees	Varies per production
Solo private lesson	\$100 per hour

6 · DRESS CODE

All BBA students will need the required leotard for their class. See below for the style and color as needed based on your student's level. You can purchase BBA uniform — leotards, tights and ballet shoes from BBA Boutique at the studio, if available. The leotards for the upper levels ballet — Ballet 2, 3, 4 & 5 are also available at Nikolay World Orlando.

Required Footwear & Accessories

	
BALLET SHOES — ALL LEVELS Split sole canvas. Pink or matching skin tone. Black for boys.	DANCE TIGHTS — ALL LEVELS Ballet pink or matching skin tone.

Pre-Ballet Division

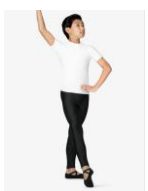
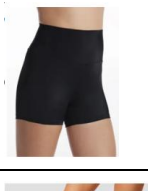
	CREATIVE MOVEMENT & PRE-BALLET 1 Ages 3–5 PINK Camisole Dress / Leotard & Skirt
	PRE-BALLET 2 Ages 6–7 Light BLUE Camisole Dress / Leotard & Skirt

Beginner Ballet Division

	BALLET 1 Ages 8–10 LAVENDER Camisole Dress / Leotard & Skirt
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Pre-Professional Division

	BALLET 2 Ages 9–12 Olive GREEN Leotard & Mesh Skirt Nikolay ELENA Camisole Leotard or Nikolay Charlotte Leotard + Mesh Skirt
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	BALLET 3 Ages 11–14 Royal BLUE Leotard & Mesh Skirt Nikolay ELENA Leotard Camisole or Nikolay Charlotte Leotard + Royal Blue #3 Mesh Skirt
	BALLET 4 Ages 13–15 Blush PINK Leotard & Mesh Skirt Nikolay Elena Tea Rose #61 / Nikolay Charlotte or similar Tea Rose Color
	BALLET 5 Ages 15–18 Coffee Color Leotard & Skirt Nikolay Camila Leotard
	BOYS Ages 3–18 WHITE t-shirt, BLACK tights/pants, BLACK ballet shoes
	CHARACTER SHOES Black Leather 1.5" Heel. Optional for Ballet 3, 4 & 5.
	CHARACTER SKIRT Black character skirt. Below the knee — mesh or solid. Optional for Ballet 3, 4 & 5.
	JAZZ SHOES Tan or black split sole. Optional for Ballet 3, 4 & 5.
	BLACK SHORTS Contemporary Attire Required for Ballet 2, 3, 4 & 5
	BLACK SOCKS Contemporary Attire Required for Ballet 2, 3, 4 & 5

7 · STUDENT CONDUCT & EXPECTATIONS

Classroom Etiquette

At Brevard Ballet Academy, we strive to create a positive, respectful, and supportive learning environment where every student has the opportunity to grow both as a dancer and as an individual. Students are expected to conduct themselves with kindness, responsibility, and respect at all times.

Students are expected to:

- Arrive on time and ready to participate.
- Be respectful to instructors, staff, fellow students, and parents.
- Listen attentively and follow instructions promptly.
- Demonstrate a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.
- Accept corrections with respect and apply them to improve.
- Care for studio property and equipment.
- Keep personal property (Ballet Bags) neat, out of walkways and in cubby, when not actively using.
- Represent Brevard Ballet Academy with professionalism and respect both inside and outside the studio.

Wellness Expectations

Healthy dancers perform at their best. Brevard Ballet Academy encourages students to develop habits that support their physical and mental well-being.

Students are encouraged to:

- Stay well hydrated before, during, and after class.
- Eat nutritious meals and snacks to fuel their training.
- Get adequate rest each night to support recovery and performance.
- Practice proper stretching and warm-up techniques before and after class.
- Listen to their bodies and communicate any pain or discomfort to an instructor.

Student Social Media Expectations

- To maintain a respectful and focused learning environment, students are not permitted to take photos or record videos during class, rehearsals, or performances unless authorized by an instructor.
- Students should respect the privacy of others by obtaining permission before posting photos or videos that include fellow dancers, faculty, or staff. We encourage all social media content to reflect the positive values and supportive community of Brevard Ballet Academy.

Kindness and Respect Policy

- Bullying, intimidation, unkind behavior, or repeated actions or words that make another person feel unsafe, uncomfortable, or excluded will not be tolerated. Students are expected to treat instructors, staff, classmates, and families with kindness, courtesy, and respect at all times.
- Any concerns should be reported to the Academy Director and will be addressed promptly and fairly. When necessary, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken to ensure a positive learning environment for all students.

Disciplinary Procedures

Brevard Ballet Academy is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment for all students. When behavioral concerns arise, disciplinary action will be determined based on the nature and severity of the situation.

Disciplinary actions may include:

- Verbal warning or correction
- Parent or guardian notification
- Meeting with the Academy Director

- Temporary removal from class or rehearsal
- Suspension from classes or Academy activities
- Dismissal from Brevard Ballet Academy

The Academy Director reserves the right to determine the appropriate course of action. Serious or repeated misconduct, including bullying, harassment, disruptive behavior, or actions that compromise the safety or well-being of others, may result in immediate suspension or dismissal.

8 · PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS

Parent Expectations and Communication

The primary source of information, updates, and academy news is our official website: BrevardBallet.com. Families are encouraged to check the website regularly for schedules, announcements, and important updates.

For direct communication, the academy may be reached by phone at 321-622-4713 or by visiting the studio's information window during regular office hours. Office hours are designated for enrollment questions, scheduling, billing assistance, and general inquiries.

We are committed to maintaining open, timely, and professional communication with all families as part of our dedication to excellence and community.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents play an important role in helping us maintain a positive, organized, and professional studio environment. We ask that all families support the following expectations:

- **Lobby & Waiting Area:** To help maintain a comfortable environment, we ask that no more than one parent or guardian wait in the lobby during class.
- **Lobby Etiquette:** Please help keep the lobby clean, quiet and respectful so classes can continue without distraction.
- **Communication:** Faculty members are focused on teaching and keeping classes on schedule. Please do not ask questions before or immediately after class. All questions, scheduling requests, or concerns should be directed to brevardballet@gmail.com.
- **Respectful Interactions:** Parents are expected to communicate respectfully with faculty, staff, students, and other families. We value open, courteous communication and are committed to addressing concerns in a professional manner.
- **Social Media:** We love seeing our dancers' accomplishments shared with family and friends! We encourage parents to celebrate with their dancers while helping promote the positive, supportive dance community that makes Brevard Ballet Academy so special. When sharing on social media, we ask that families represent the Academy, its faculty, students, and fellow families with kindness, respect, and professionalism. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us directly at brevardballet@gmail.com so we can address them promptly.
- **Timely Pick-Up:** Students should be picked up promptly at the end of class. Brevard Ballet Academy faculty will escort students (B1 to B5) to cars weather permitting, after their scheduled class has ended. Pick up is in the alley behind the studio; you enter from the south, behind the Irish Cottage restaurant, and exit to the North behind Pineapples. There will be a faculty member to safely escort dancers to their cars. No dancer will be permitted to leave until faculty calls for them. If you park, priority of dismissal will go to the pick lane first — be prepared to wait. Additional parking is available at the Brevard County Library.



Health and Safety

Illness: To help maintain a healthy environment for all students and staff, dancers who are ill should remain at home and not attend classes.

Students should not attend class if they have:

- A fever within the past 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- A contagious illness or unexplained rash
- Symptoms that may be contagious, including persistent coughing or excessive nasal drainage

Students may return to class once they have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication or when cleared by a healthcare provider, if applicable.

If a student becomes ill during class, a parent or guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up the student promptly.

Injury Policy: The health and safety of our students is our highest priority. If a dancer is injured, they should notify their instructor before class begins.

Students with an injury may observe class if approved by the instructor. Dancers should only return to full participation when they can do so safely. The Academy may request a physician's release before a student resumes class following a serious injury or surgery.

Parents are encouraged to keep the Academy informed of any injuries or medical conditions that may affect their dancer's participation.

9 · WEATHER & EMERGENCY CLOSURES

The safety of our students and families is our top priority. In the event of hurricanes, severe weather, or other emergencies, Brevard Ballet Academy follows the Brevard County Public Schools closure schedule. If schools are closed due to weather, the Academy will also be closed.

Any additional closures or schedule changes will be communicated through email, text, and the Academy's social media channels.

10 · LIABILITY WAIVER & POLICIES

Brevard Ballet Academy
1399 Highland Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32935
Phone: (321) 622-4713
BrevardBallet.com

Participation in dance classes, rehearsals, performances, workshops, camps, and other activities at Brevard Ballet Academy involves physical activity and carries inherent risks, including but not limited to falls, muscle strains, sprains, fractures, and other injuries.

By enrolling a student at Brevard Ballet Academy, the parent/guardian (or adult student) acknowledges and agrees to the following:

Assumption of Risk

I understand that participation in dance instruction and related activities involves inherent risks of injury. I voluntarily assume all risks associated with participation and accept full responsibility for any injury, illness, or accident that may occur while participating in Academy activities or while on Academy premises.

Medical Authorization

In the event of an emergency, I authorize Brevard Ballet Academy to seek emergency medical treatment for my child (or myself, if an adult student) if I cannot be reached immediately. I understand that I am financially responsible for any medical expenses incurred.

Release of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I release and hold harmless Brevard Ballet Academy, its owners, directors, instructors, staff, volunteers, and independent contractors from any claims, demands, damages, liabilities, costs, or expenses arising out of or related to participation in Academy activities, except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Health Responsibility

I certify that my child (or I) is physically able to participate in dance activities. I agree to notify the Academy of any medical conditions, injuries, allergies, or limitations that may affect participation.

Personal Property

Brevard Ballet Academy is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal belongings, including dancewear, costumes, shoes, electronics, or other personal items brought to the studio.

Acknowledgment

I have read and understand this Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk. I acknowledge that I am voluntarily agreeing to these terms as a condition of participation at Brevard Ballet Academy.

Student Name	
Parent/Guardian Name (if student is under 18)	
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
Adult Student Signature (if applicable)	Date