



# 2025 PRESCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM HANDBOOK

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**03**

Mission Statement & IDEA Statement

**04-06**

Academy Staff, Faculty & Contact

**07**

Summer Calendar

**08**

Registration Information

**09**

Tuition & Fees

**10-11**


Academy Procedures

- Arrival & Departure
- Attendance
- Injury Policy
- Evaluations/Private Lessons
- Observations
- Academy Rules & Policies

**12-13**

Class Attire

# HOUSTON BALLET MISSION STATEMENT



To inspire a lasting love and appreciation for dance through artistic excellence, exhilarating performances, innovative choreography, and superb educational programs.

In furtherance of our mission, we are committed to maintaining and enhancing our status as:

- A classically trained company with a diverse repertory, whose range includes the classics, as well as contemporary works.
- A company that attracts the world's best dancers and choreographers and provides them with an environment where they can thrive and further develop the art form.
- An international company that is accessible to broad and growing local, national, and international audiences.
- A company with a world-class Academy that provides first rate instruction for professional dancers and meaningful programs for non-professional dancers.
- A company with state-of-the-art facilities for performances, rehearsals, and ongoing operations.

## **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Statement**

Houston Ballet is dedicated to creating meaningful change by cultivating a space that honors what is unique in all of us. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) are instrumental in the fulfillment of our mission and values. We recognize our responsibility to be an inclusive and open organization for students, artists, staff, trustees, and volunteers of all backgrounds.

Join us, together we are Houston Ballet.



# MEET THE ACADEMY



Stanton Welch

**Artistic Director,  
Member of the  
Order of Australia**



Julie Kent

**Artistic Director**



James Nelson

**Executive Director**



Jennifer Sommers

**Academy Director**



Yahudi Castañeda  
Academy Artistic  
Operations Associate  
Director



Katie Wesche  
Academy  
Administrative  
Associate Director



Kaitlyn Otto  
Associate Director  
of Student Life



Carla Cortez  
Academy  
Communications  
Manager



Dustin Shaw  
Academy Programs  
Manager



Reagan Lynch  
Academy Artistic  
Operations  
Coordinator



Tempest McLendon  
Academy  
Administrative  
Coordinator



Angela Galvez  
Academy Student  
Support Coordinator

# ACADEMY ARTISTIC STAFF



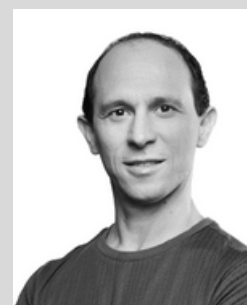
Beth Everitt  
Associate  
Director of  
Programs and  
Productions



Betsy McMillan  
Lower School  
Principal



Cheryne Busch  
Upper School  
Principal



Orlando Molina  
Boys Program  
Coordinator



Claudio Muñoz  
HBII Ballet Master



Susan Bryant  
Principal  
Instructor



Kelly Myernick  
Principal  
Instructor



Christopher Coomer  
Principal  
Instructor

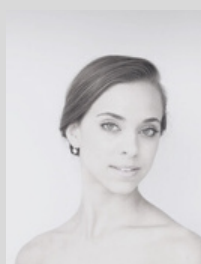
## ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS



Heidi Erickson



Carla Flores



Mallory Mehaffey



Dalirys  
Valladares



Paola Murga



Lucinda Rohrer



Kamryn Spell



Holda Torres

# ACADEMY CONTACT INFORMATION

Summer Program classes are held at the Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance.

Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance Address:  
601 Preston Street  
Houston, TX 77002



Administrative Offices Phone Number:  
713-523-6300

Academy General Inquiry Email Address:  
[hbacademy@houstonballet.org](mailto:hbacademy@houstonballet.org)

Houston Ballet Summer Programs Webpage:  
<https://www.houstonballet.org/about/academy1/summer-intensive-program/>

## Academy Administrative Staff Contact Information

Jennifer Sommers  
[jsommers@houstonballet.org](mailto:jsommers@houstonballet.org)  
713-535-3207

Dustin Shaw  
[dshaw@houstonballet.org](mailto:dshaw@houstonballet.org)  
713-874-5470

Tempest McLendon  
[tmclendon@houstonballet.org](mailto:tmclendon@houstonballet.org)  
713-535-3209

Katie Wesche  
[kwesche@houstonballet.org](mailto:kwesche@houstonballet.org)  
713-535-3219

Kaitlyn Otto  
[kotto@houstonballet.org](mailto:kotto@houstonballet.org)  
713-535-3201

Reagan Lynch  
[rlynch@houstonballet.org](mailto:rlynch@houstonballet.org)  
713-874-5461

Yahudi Castaneda  
[ycastaneda@houstonballet.org](mailto:ycastaneda@houstonballet.org)  
713-535-3205

Carla Cortez  
[ccortez@houstonballet.org](mailto:ccortez@houstonballet.org)  
713-535-3218

Angela Galvez  
[agalvez@houstonballet.org](mailto:agalvez@houstonballet.org)  
713-535-3210

# SUMMER CALENDAR

All dates and times are subject to change.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>DECEMBER</b>						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
					Registration Opens for Current Students	
<b>JANUARY</b>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					Registration Opens for New Students	
<b>MARCH</b>						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<i>Sleeping Beauty Children's Workshop Begins</i>				<i>Sleeping Beauty Children's Workshop Ends</i>	
<b>JUNE</b>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<i>Raymonda Children's Workshop Begins</i>				<i>Raymonda Children's Workshop Ends</i>	
<b>JULY</b>						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Orientation 6 pm				First Day of Saturday Classes
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
First Day of Sunday Classes						Summer Preschool Class
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Summer Preschool Class						Summer Preschool Class
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Summer Preschool Class						Summer Preschool Class
<b>AUGUST</b>						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Summer Preschool Class						Last Day of Saturday Classes
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Last Day of Sunday Classes	<i>Nutcracker Children's Workshop Begins</i>				<i>Nutcracker Children's Workshop Ends</i>	

# Registration & Tuition

Schedule

July 12, 2025 - August 10, 2025

*\*Times are subject to change.*

## Parent & Me

Ages 2-3 - must be at least 2 years old as of 7/12/2025

Birthdate Range: 9/2/2021-7/12/2023

### Section A

Saturday 9:00-9:45

### Section B

Saturday 10:30-11:15

### Section C

Saturday 11:00-11:45

### Section D

Sunday 11:00-11:45

## Joy of Motion

Ages 3-4 - must be at least 3 years old as of 9/1/2024

Birthdate Range: 9/2/2020-9/1/2021

### Section A

Saturday 9:30-10:15

### Section B

Saturday 10:00-10:45

### Section C

Saturday 11:30-12:15

### Section D

Sunday 11:30-12:15

### Section E

Sunday 12:00-12:45

## Creative Dance

Ages 4-5 - must be at least 4 years old as of 9/1/2024

Birthdate Range: 9/2/2019-9/1/2020

### Section A

Saturday 12:30-1:15

### Section B

Sunday 12:30 - 1:15

## Pre-Ballet

Ages 5-6 - must be at least 5 years old as of 9/1/2024

Birthdate Range: 9/2/2018-9/1/2019

### Section A

Saturday 12:00 - 1:00

### Section B

Sunday 1:00 - 2:00

## Elementary Ballet

Ages 6 as of 9/1/2024

Saturdays 1:30 - 2:30

Students ages 4-6 as of 9/1/2024 (birthdate range: 9/2/2017-9/1/2020) are eligible for the Youth Summer Training Program.

For more information about this program, visit our website [HERE](#).

## Withdrawal Policy

If a student wishes to withdraw from the Preschool Summer Classes, the Registrar's Office must receive a completed Withdrawal Form available [HERE](#). Verbal notification of withdrawal will not be accepted. Please refer to the refund policy on the next page.



# Tuition & Fees

Registration and payment (tuition and fees) are due at the time of registration to secure their enrollment. Registration will close once level/section caps are reached.

Program Registration Fee	\$50	Required for all students
Tuition	\$170	Required for Summer Preschool students in Parent & Me, Joy of Motion, and Creative Dance
Tuition	\$200	Required for Summer Preschool students in Pre-Ballet and Elementary Ballet
Late Fee	\$25	Required on invoices that are not paid by posted due date <i>Applied on the next business day at 4:00pm CT.</i>

Payment Schedule			
Installment	Due Date	Summer Preschool	Fees
#1	At the time of registration	\$170/\$200	\$50-Tuition registration
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$220/\$250</b>	

Houston Ballet accepts checks\*, cashier's checks, cash, or credit cards. Payments may be mailed, hand-delivered, completed online, or phoned into the Academy office. \*If a check is returned for any reason, a \$25 fee will be charged. The fee must be paid in cash within one week from the time the owner of the account is notified.

## **REFUND POLICY**

All fees and 1/4 of tuition are nonrefundable and nontransferable. The remaining tuition is refundable prior to May 1, 2025. Formal withdrawal must be received prior to May 1, 2025, to be eligible for any refund. All fees and tuition are nonrefundable and nontransferable after May 1, 2025. The Academy is not liable or obligated in any way to process any refunds or issue any tuition credits after May 1, 2025.

# Academy Procedures

## Houston Ballet Academy Rules & Policies

Houston Ballet Academy rules and policies can be found [HERE](#). We recommend reviewing this document in addition to the Summer Program Handbook. This document includes overall rules for the Center for Dance, proper student/employee engagement, non-discrimination/non-harassment policy, anti-bullying policy, media & social media policies, health policies, and releases included in the registration form.

## Arrival & Departure

- Parking options are listed [HERE](#).
- Families may use the driveway, entering from Congress Street.
  - Students being dropped off should use the far-left lane
  - Students being picked up should use the far-right lane
  - Middle lane should be clear for those to pass



## Driveway Policies

- Students will not be allowed into the building until 15 minutes prior to the start of class.
- Please do not arrive into the driveway to pick up your student until the end of the student's class. For example, if your student's class ends at 10 am, please enter the driveway at 10 am.
- Do not drop off or pick up students on the roads next to the Center for Dance.
- Families cannot park in the driveway.
- Do not walk up the ramps, but use the sidewalks.

Always follow instructions provided by HPD officers, security guards, and class monitors at the Center for Dance and all City of Houston driving/parking regulations.

## Attendance

- Students that arrive more than 15 minutes late to class may not be permitted to participate in class. This is at the teacher's discretion and for the safety of the student.
- If a student is absent, complete the absence notification form [HERE](#). Please note that we are unable to accommodate make-up classes during the summer.
- Tuition will not be prorated for missed classes.

### **Injury & Illness**

The Houston Ballet Academy employs thoroughly trained instructors and utmost care is given to all students; however, the Academy cannot be responsible for any injuries sustained by a student. If a student becomes ill or injured, the student or instructor should notify an Academy staff member immediately. If a student is ill or injured, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student for the remainder of the day.

### **Evaluations & Private Lessons**

There are no formal evaluations/assessments given during the summer program.

Private lessons or studio use for private use during the summer program are not allowed.

### **Observations**


Class observation will not be held during the 2025 Preschool Summer Classes.

Click links  
for more  
information

# Class Attire

	Parent & Me	Joy of Motion Creative Dance	Pre-Ballet Elementary Ballet
Female-Identifying Dancers	<b>Student:</b> Comfortable clothing to move in freely. <b>Parent/Guardian:</b> Comfortable clothing to move in freely.	<b>Leotard:</b> <u>Wear Moi style Coralie - cap sleeve leotard</u> <b>Tights:</b> Body Wrappers style C33 - theatrical pink or skin tone-inclusive <b>Shoes:</b> None	<b>Leotard:</b> <u>Wear Moi style Coralie - cap sleeve leotard</u> <b>Tights:</b> Body Wrappers style C81 - theatrical pink or skin tone-inclusive <b>Shoes:</b> Bloch style Prolite 2 Hybrid - pink or Blendz - skin tone-inclusive
Male-Identifying Dancers		<b>Shirt:</b> <u>Wear Moi style Conrad - white</u> <b>Bike Shorts:</b> Motionwear style 7105 - black  <b>Shoes:</b> none	<b>Shoes:</b> Bloch style Performa Stretch Canvas - black & Tall Socks - white

## Skin Tone-Inclusive Shoes & Tights Matching Guide

	Blendz Tights	Shoe Options
Confident Cocoa		Blendz Confident Cocoa  Spray Fashion Brown 
Brazen Brown		Blendz Brazen Brown  Capezio Mocha  Spray Tan 
Maven Mahogany		Blendz Maven Mahogany  Spray Bark 
Tenacious Tan		Blendz Tenacious Tan  Capezio Light Suntan  Capezio Nude  Spray Chamois 

## Attire Procedures

- Female-identifying students should have their hair pulled back away from the face and secured neatly in a ballet bun. Students with short hair should wear a headband and secure the hair at the back. For more information on Houston Ballet Academy's hair requirements for female-identifying students, please see our bun tutorial [HERE](#).
- Male-identifying students should have their hair neatly groomed and pulled back away from the face.
- Students with hair that is in braids, twists, or locs should secure hair back, without loose ends, and off the nape of the neck.
- Leg warmers and sweatpants are not allowed to be worn in class.
- Students may wear one pair of earring studs. No other jewelry may be worn.
- Students should not wear dance clothes as street wear outside Houston Ballet.
- Students should not apply lotion in the studios or apply lotion to the skin on days where they will be doing floor work. Lotion and oils can create slick spots on the studio floor.

## Purchasing Attire

Houston Ballet does not have a dance supply store onsite. Students should arrive at the start of the program with all required attire and shoes.

Uniform leotards and shirts can be purchased through [E-Commerce](#) in Classe365 or in person at [Dance Trends](#). Uniform leotards and shirts purchased via [E-Commerce](#) before May 15th will be shipped to the student, except for students with international addresses. Uniform leotards and shirts purchased on or after May 15th will be held at the Center for Dance for pick-up at orientation on Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

For questions and concerns regarding E-Commerce orders, contact Leslie Goodrum at [lgoodrum@houstonballet.org](mailto:lgoodrum@houstonballet.org).

For additional supplies, including tights and shoes, items may be purchased via online stores or one of the dance store options in the Houston area listed below. We recommend calling any store before arriving to ensure they have the needed items in stock.

Dance Trends  
14520 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 558-1400

Jazz Rags Dancewear  
25701 Interstate 45 N #10a  
Spring, TX 77380  
(281) 364-1600