



Parent/Dancer Handbook

Premiere Dance Academy (PDA) is dedicated to dance education, competition and pre-professional training. Through nurturing and inspiring local young dancers, we help them strive toward an understanding of artistic excellence, discipline, leadership and a lifelong appreciation of dance and performing arts. We also seek to enrich our community, not only through our educational programs and performances of new and traditional repertoire, but also through our collaboration with other arts, educational and cultural organizations.

Premiere Dance Academy's History

Premiere Dance Academy was started in 1993 by Ami Bremer who created a nationally recognized school with an emphasis on clogging. In 2009, Elena Serykh, Russian Ballet Master purchased the studio and created a new mission and vision for the future of the studio. The focus on developing well rounded dance skills with ballet as a basis naturally led to the development of award winning competition teams.

Our mission is to encourage students of all ages and levels to experience the world of dance. We believe children flourish through the power of dance; enhancing self-confidence, critical thinking skills, self-discipline, determination, creative imagination and a new discovery of oneself that will last a lifetime.

Premiere Dance Academy has taught the joy, discipline and expressiveness of dance to hundreds of children and accepts students regardless of gender, weight, socio-economic status or ethnicity.

Annually, Premiere Dance Academy has more than 120 students taking classes in our studios ranging in age from 3 to 70. They come from 10-plus towns throughout the Missouri/Arkansas area and attend classes and rehearsals from 1 to 6 days a week. Our students, depending on age and level enjoy a variety of programs including a school-year season of classes, summer and vacation dance intensives, master classes with visiting professional dancers as well as competition and performance opportunities.

Premiere Dance Academy recognizes that students have different areas of interest and levels of commitment to dance. We are happy to enroll dancers who wish to study dance intensely as well as those who wish to have dance as just one aspect of their lives.

Premiere Dance Academy offers high-quality training with a goal to prepare students for a professional career in dance or university dance programs. Premiere Dance Academy students are hard-working and disciplined and may be found on the honor rolls of their schools. Our dream is that upon graduation, they will be admitted to outstanding colleges and universities and successfully incorporate dance in some way into their lives forever.

Premiere Dance Academy's Organization

Premiere Dance Academy is a for-profit studio owned and directed by Elena Serykh. A non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, Premiere Dance Company, has been established and is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors to provide scholarships for students and to develop the long term dream of Elena's which is to create a World Class Performing Arts School.

Faculty

Elena Serykh and her husband, Vadim are both professionally trained in their respective disciplines. They have performed worldwide and have received several of the highest honors available in their native country, Russia as well as the USA. Prior to taking over the ownership of the studio, Elena and Vadim were the star attraction on the Branson Showboat as the acrobatic adagio dance couple for 10 years. Elena maintains a standard of excellence for the level of teaching at the studio; the entire faculty has had extensive performance and teaching experience and training.

Types of Classes

Ballet: Combining grace, beauty and discipline, ballet builds strength, form and technique. Used as the basis for all other dance forms, all dancers are encouraged to take ballet to improve their physique, balance and poise. Our youngest dancers take Beginning Dance or Combo Classes, an introductory class of fun movement to music using props, rhythm instruments and imaginary play. As dancers progress, they follow the Vaganova (Russian) ballet syllabus which provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum for the progression of ballet knowledge, terminology and skills acquisition. The progression of levels in Ballet is:

- Combo Classes
 - Beginning Dance for 2-5 year olds
 - Preschool for 3-5 year olds
 - Combo 1,2,3 Ballet/Tap/Tumble
 - Combo 4,5 Ballet/Tap/Jazz
- Ballet
 - Pre-Intermediate
 - Intermediate
 - Pre-Advanced
 - Advanced
 - Adult

Dancers may take classes at more than one level with the permission of the Executive Director in consultation with the class teachers and

those who begin classes older than the age of 5 may be placed in the level determined developmentally appropriate by the Director and instructors after meeting with the dancer.

PrePoint: A ballet class designed to strengthen the ankles and prepare the dancer for pointe class.

Pointe: The use of pointe shoes to extend the technique of classical ballet. Students must be enrolled in ballet and have permission of the Executive Director.

Ballroom: We teach all the popular ballroom dances; Tango, Waltz, Fox Trot, Cha Cha, Rumba and many more. Ballroom dancing promotes grace, balance, flexibility, posture and self-confidence. We provide classes for all ages and levels.

Clogging: One of the oldest dance forms in America, clogging began in the Great Smokey Mountains as foot stompin' fun. Now a competitive sport, teams incorporate hip hop moves and Buck and Canadian step dancing into their routines.

Contemporary: Blends the sustained controlled movement of ballet with freedom, power and dynamics of jazz and modern dance. Contemporary is known to be the "no rules" style of dance, combining different styles to create a story of dance.

Hip Hop: Teaches rhythm, musicality and coordination and age-appropriate choreography with no suggestive music/movement. This is an excellent class for high-energy kids who want to take a fast and fun class. Students are challenged to think on their feet while enjoying a fast-paced dance class. Our hip-hop dancers develop focus, strength, and agility while having fun.

Jazz: An expression of dance that combines ballet with hip-hop and other less structured forms of dance. With its distinctive style, our jazz classes incorporate isolation and stretching exercises emphasizing strong and proper body alignment and clean technique through floor work, turns, kicks and jumps. Following popular music trends, our jazz classes focus on the pure enjoyment of dance for all students.

Tap: A fun and unique form of dance based on rhythm, timing and sound in which the rhythm variations are audibly tapped out with the toe or heel. Our tap classes include rhythm tap which is similar to that seen on “Stomp” and “Tap Dogs” as well as Broadway style.

Tumbling/Acro: Classes that teach all levels of acrobatic skills from beginner to advanced while emphasizing flexibility and strength.

Extra Exercise Classes: We offer a variety of fitness classes based on interest and instructor availability. These are mostly adult leisure classes and include Zumba, Pilates, Shaolin Kung Fu, Body Ballet and Tai Chi as well as others. Please check with the front desk for seasonal class schedule.

Competitive Teams

Dancers are accepted onto the Competitive Teams based on skills, audition results and recommendation of their class instructors and/or Executive Director. Full participation on the Competitive Teams commands honor as well as responsibility; dancers on the Competitive Teams take class several days a week, and are required to adhere to the Competitive Code of Responsibility and act as ambassadors of the dance academy. Participation on the competitive teams is available to students who have achieved a technical level of

accomplishment commensurate with their level. Attendance is crucial to the success and positive camaraderie of the teams therefore all absences must be cleared with the teacher otherwise the absence will be considered unexcused. If a team member has more than 3 unexcused absences, the student will be removed from the team. Attendance is critical in the 4 weeks prior to competition or performance, please plan accordingly.

These are the team ongoing requirements.

- Pre-Intermediate
 - A minimum of 4 hours of class per week is the norm (must have 1 hour of ballet, 1 hour of tumbling/acro, 1 hour of tap and 1 hour of jazz)
 - 1 hour of team class per week plus extended rehearsals around competition dates.
 - 1 hour of All-team class per week
 - Participation in 2 regional competitions, 2 final competitions and 1 convention per dance year.
 - Participation in one dance intensive workshop per month during summer session.
- Intermediate
 - A minimum of 5 hours of class per week is the norm (must have 2 hours of ballet, 1 hour of tumbling/acro, 1 hour of tap, 1 hour of jazz)
 - 1 hour of team class per week plus extended rehearsals around competition dates.
 - 1 hour of All-team class per week
 - Participation in 2 regional competitions, 2 final competitions and 1 convention per dance year.
 - Participation in one dance intensive workshop per month during summer session.
- Pre-Advanced
 - A minimum of 6 hours of class per week is the norm (must have 2 hours of ballet, 1 hour of

tumbling/acro, 1 hour of tap, 1 hour of jazz, 1 hour elective)

- 1 hour of team class per week plus extended rehearsals around competition dates.
 - 1 hour of All-team class per week
 - Participation in 2 regional competitions, 2 final competitions and 1 convention per dance year.
 - Participation in one dance intensive workshop per month during summer session.
- Advanced
 - A minimum of 8 hours of class per week is the norm (must have 2 hours of ballet, 2 hours of tumbling/acro and 2 hours of Jazz, 1 hour of tap and 1 hour of an elective)
 - 2 hours of team class per week plus extended rehearsals around competition dates.
 - 1 hour of All-team class per week
 - Participation in 2 regional competitions, 2 final competitions and 1 convention per dance year.
 - Participation in one dance intensive workshop per month during summer session.

We also have 4 levels of clogging teams. All clogging team members regardless of level must take team class and 1 dance or clog skills class as well as team time.

- Tini-Tip Tap
- Tip Tap
- All Stars
- Advanced

Beginning Teen Dancers

Students beginning dance as a teenager or transferring from a less rigorous program may be eligible to participate on the Dance Competition Teams at Premiere Dance Academy. After assessment

by the Executive Director, a custom course of classes may be assembled to facilitate the progress of the individual dancer.

Adult Dancers

Adult dancers are welcome to attend Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Adult classes with instructor permission. Adults pay on a drop in basis before taking class or buy a class punch card.

Teacher Training Program

Advanced dancers who want to further their dance education by teaching dance to others may enter the Teacher Training Program with the permission of the Executive Director. The program requires a One-year commitment and is open to dancers on the Advanced Team who are at least high school sophomores. The program incorporates a gradual increase in teaching responsibility under the careful supervision of a qualified teacher. Upon successful completion of the program trainees may be asked to substitute teach or may be assigned a beginner level class of their own.

Attendance, Absence, Make up and Tardiness Policy

Make-up classes may be taken at any time of the year *at the same level or a lower level if necessary*. No credit will be given for missed classes.

Students are expected to begin class on time and prepared to dance. It is in everyone's best interest to have students *arrive early* so they are ready for class to begin as scheduled. Students who enter the studio late disrupt the flow of teaching and distract their fellow classmates. Joining classroom exercises late without proper warm-up may be injurious to dancers. If a student is more than 10 minutes late they may be

asked by the teacher to observe the class rather than participate in it.

Registration, Drop-Add and Withdrawal Policy

- Fall registration begins in August.
- Class schedules for each dancer should be fixed by mid-September. Classes that are or become insufficiently enrolled may be cancelled.
- Students wishing to add or drop classes must have a parent submit the change to the front desk staff by note or email. This is to assure that parents know when their child is supposed to be at class and that appropriate tuition is assessed.
- Students wishing to withdraw from classes must have a parent submit a note or email to the front desk staff; the date the Executive Director receives the email/note will constitute the withdrawal date. Tuition will not be assessed after the withdrawal date.

Payment Policies

Current tuition rates are noted on the Registration Form and Website. **Tuition is payable in advance.** Students may take class only if tuition is current. There are **no** tuition refunds.

- Tuition may be remitted in:
 - Semester payments: 2 payments per school year (1st semester due Sept.1st), (2nd semester due Jan. 6th). 10% discount
 - No discounts applied on monthly fees/registration fees/team fees.

- Premiere Dance Academy accepts checks and cash only. Please make checks payable to *Premiere Dance Academy*.
- Payments received after the 15th of the month will be **assessed a late fee of \$15.**
- Adults pay on a drop-in basis before taking class or buy class punch card.
- Returned check fee of \$25 will be assessed.

Costume Payments

We make every effort to ensure appropriate, high quality costumes are selected and we try our best to keep the costs to a minimum by re-using costumes. Costume deposits (\$60 per costume) will be due by November 15th. The balance, if any, must be paid by December 20th. Any balances not paid by January 1st will be assessed a late fee of \$10 per costume. If a student is not planning on participating in the recital, written notice must be given to Premiere Dance Academy no later than November 1st. **THERE ARE NO REFUNDS FOR COSTUME DEPOSITS AFTER DECEMBER 1st.**

Private Lessons

Premiere Dance Academy is able to help students schedule private lessons with our staff when needed. Private lessons will require a charge for the studio rental (see policy below) as well as the teacher's time. Payment of tuition and fees **must be up-to-date** in order to use the facilities and payment for the studio use must be paid on the date of the rental. Private lessons are arranged directly with the dance instructor and must be written on the master schedule.

Studio Rental

Studio rental may be arranged for use by Premiere Dance Academy students and teachers wishing to use the studio outside of regularly scheduled classes and rehearsals pending approval by the Executive Director. A *Student/Teacher Use of Facilities Request/Agreement Waiver & Release of Liability* form must be submitted to the Executive Director for approval no less than one week prior to the requested use date. Payment of tuition and fees **must be up-to-date** in order to use the facilities and payment for the studio use must be paid on the date of the rental. An adult must accompany dancers in the studio and both understand that using the building per this agreement is a serious responsibility that is offered only to mature and responsible students. Violating the terms of the agreement will result in the loss of permission to use the building in the future.

Scholarships

Premiere Dance Academy has a limited scholarship fund which is **dependent on donations**. The non-profit foundation, Premiere Dance Company was created in 2010 by an Elena Serykh and run by a volunteer Board of Directors to provide tuition scholarships for dancers who would otherwise be unable to attend dance.

Applications for scholarship must be requested prior to the commencement of the school year season, returned promptly together with a copy of parents' tax return and other documentation required by the Scholarship Committee. Scholarships are awarded by a volunteer board of directors and based on donations received.

Dress Code Uniform Requirements

Dancers at PDA are required to present themselves in class in appropriate dancewear and with hair neat and off the face.

Beginning Dance: Girls: Pink leotard and tan tights – optional pink skirt for ballet and black booty shorts for tap and tumble, black tap shoes, pink ballet shoes. Boys: White t-shirt and black shorts or jazz pants, black ballet and tap shoes.

Combos 1,2,3,4: Girls: Pink leotard and tan tights – optional pink skirt for ballet and black booty shorts for tap, tumble and jazz, black tap shoes, pink ballet shoes and if in jazz, tan jazz shoes. Boys: White t-shirt and black shorts or jazz pants, black ballet and tap shoes.

All Ballet and Combo 5: Girls: BLACK leotard, tan ballet tights, pink ballet shoes (leather split sole – Capezio Cobra) Hair must be in a tight bun and/or off the face. Boys: White t-shirt and black shorts or jazz pants, black ballet and tap shoes.

Tap: Students are required to wear appropriate dancewear, black pants or shorts with leotard or dance top and tights. Appropriate shirts may be worn over the leotard. Tap shoes required for each level are listed below. Beginners wear a black patent Mary Jane tap shoe with elastic and tie. Pre Intermediate and up require Black Bloch Respect tap shoes.

Jazz/Contemporary: Students are required to wear appropriate dancewear, black pants or shorts with leotard or dance top and tights. All levels are required to wear Bloch tan super jazz shoes.

Hip Hop: Students are required to wear appropriate dancewear, loose fitting dance pants and top. All levels are required to wear flat sole sneakers. Sneakers must not be worn outside the studio.

Tumbling/Acro: Students are required to wear appropriate dancewear, black pants or shorts with bodysuit. Bare feet for all levels.

Emergency Closings

Premiere Dance Academy follows Branson School district school closure policy, if they close due to weather, we close. In case of an emergency closing, there will be a message left on the studio phone voice mail and a message posted on the website homepage, www.premieredance-branson.com. In the event of emergency closings, classes will not be rescheduled; however the individual student will be permitted to make-up the class in a class equal in level to the one canceled within 1 month of the missed class. It is the sole responsibility of the student to make arrangements for these classes. No tuition is refunded due to inclement weather.

Communication Policy

We will make every effort to keep dancers and parents updated with all recent communication. By use of our website, studio bulletin boards, Facebook, email and texting, we are certain you will receive all necessary information. All information concerning schedules and calendar are posted on our website! www.premieredance-branson.com and Premiere Dance Academy Facebook.

Our site functions as a way to keep students and parents informed and up to date on studio events and activities. Please visit this site often to receive current studio information as it is updated regularly.

Student Pick Up

No student will be permitted to remain at the studio unattended if their classes are more than one hour apart. Parents must arrange for pick up if they are unable to do so themselves. Premiere Dance Academy employees cannot be held responsible for unsupervised children. We urge all parents to personally pick up their children in the studio lobby and not permit them to exit the studio unattended.

Recital Information

All students will be featured at our year end recital in May or early June. A recital fee that includes 2 free tickets as well as other specific instructions will be posted closer to the date of the recital. All students are encouraged to participate and showcase their skills. If a student is unable to participate in the recital, please notify the Front Desk Staff no later than December 1st.

Communications Regarding Casting Decisions

Dancers and parents are sometimes pleased with casting decisions and sometimes not. We want our staff to be approachable and encourage open communication so it may be

necessary to schedule a private meeting with the Executive Director to discuss any questions or disappointments around casting decisions. Parents are required to ***wait 48 hours*** after casting decisions have been made before approaching the Choreographer and/or Executive Director to discuss casting decisions.

School Rules and Dressing Room and Lobby Etiquette

1. Students are expected to behave respectfully and courteously at all times toward Premiere Dance Academy faculty and staff, as well as toward each other. All dancers should aspire to be dressed neatly, well-groomed, and present themselves to each teacher as involved dance students.
2. Be on time for all classes or do not take class.
3. If unable to attend a class, contact the front desk.
4. No one may smoke, chew gum, use bad language, alcohol, or drugs in or near the dance studios.
5. Students must follow dress code for all classes and rehearsals. It is the prerogative of the teacher or director to dismiss a student from taking class who is judged to be inappropriately dressed according to the dress code. See uniform requirements above.
6. Students must show respect for the property of others and for the facilities.
7. Only water is permitted in studios, no food or drinks; do not leave items in studio after class (including water bottles).
8. Students without parental permission may not leave Premiere Dance Academy without a parent or guardian.
9. Premiere Dance Academy is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.
10. Premiere Dance Academy's Executive Director may dismiss any student from the school for breaking these rules, for being uncooperative, disruptive or destructive, or for endangering the health, safety, or welfare of him/herself or others.
11. Do not borrow from lost and found, check for your own items regularly.
12. Do not litter or spread your things out, leave this space clean and uncluttered for others.
13. Do not leave school stuff or any other items on benches.
14. If you have an agreement to borrow or share stuff with a friend, do ask permission **every** time, and put stuff back right away.
15. Do not borrow from anyone without permission!
16. Do clean up all food and food wrappers immediately after use.
17. **DO TAKE THESE GUIDELINES VERY SERIOUSLY SO THAT WE CAN REMAIN ONE BIG HAPPY "DANCE FAMILY!!!"**

