



The Official School of Ballet Idaho

We are thrilled to welcome you to Ballet Idaho Academy's 2026-2027 season, where excellence in dance education meets professionalism. As the only professionally affiliated school in Idaho, we are proud to offer world-class training right here in the heart of downtown Boise.

With our unique affiliation with Ballet Idaho, the state's only professional ballet company, students have access to unrivaled resources, faculty, facility, and performance opportunities that set us apart from any other dance program in Idaho.

We are excited to build upon our legacy of excellence and ensure our students' experience is one that is engaging and challenging within a positive and nurturing environment. From our youngest beginners to our most advanced pre-professional students, we are committed to providing a comprehensive curriculum that teaches technical proficiency, develops artistic expression, and fosters personal growth.

As the only profession-affiliated school in Idaho, we are proud to offer:

1. **Professional Faculty:** Our faculty consists of accomplished dancers, choreographers, and educators who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to every class. With their guidance and mentorship, students receive top-tier training that prepares them for success on and off the stage.
2. **Performance Opportunities:** As part of our affiliation with Ballet Idaho, students have the opportunity to perform alongside professional dancers on the Morrison Center stage, including in *The Nutcracker* and this season, *Swan Lake*. These performances provide invaluable life experience for any young dancer, and help inform aspirational goals for students seeking a professional career. Students also perform in their year end recital. Based on level, dancers can participate in our learning Through Dance outreach program and Youth Company. The Youth Company comprises the advanced levels of the pre-professional division. They perform at BSU's Special Events Center in their annual spring performance and at community events throughout the Treasure Valley.
3. **Specialty Classes:** Throughout the season, students will have the chance to learn from Ballet Idaho guest artists and industry professionals through master classes and specialty classes. These special events expose students to diverse perspectives and techniques, enriching their training and inspiring their artistic development.
4. **Summer Intensive Programs:** Our summer intensives offer immersive training experiences for serious dancers seeking to refine their skills and expand their artistic horizons. With a focus on technique, Ballet Idaho company repertoire, and performance, these programs provide a crucial foundation for aspiring professionals and students looking to level up in strength, stamina, and technical ability. BIA also offers a variety of fun and engaging summer camps for younger students and beginner intensives for advancing students. BIA students are expected to participate in our summer offerings as an essential part of their continued training and progress. Should a student wish to explore other opportunities, our faculty is available to provide guidance and recommendations suited for each individual student.
5. **Competition Program:** Through private and group coaching, selected participants will grow their technique, artistry, and performance skills in preparation to compete. Competitions such as, Youth America Grand Prix, offer dancers the potential to earn scholarships and the opportunity to attend master classes by jury members and renowned teachers all while making lasting memories and getting exposure in the dance world.



Please take some time to review the information in this booklet, which contains our 2026-2027 Student Expectations, General Policies, Code of Conduct, Dress Code, Tuition Schedule, Registration Policies, Calendar, and Waivers.

Afternoon and Weekend Office Hours:

Monday: 4:15-8:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 4:15-9:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 4:15-8:00 p.m.
Thursday & Friday: 4:45-8:15 p.m.
Saturday: 9:30-2:00 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Contact:

Academy Director, Jessica Sulikowski: jsulikowski@balletidaho.org
Academy Administrator, Sada Popick Ogburn: sogburn@balletidaho.org
Front desk: 208-343-0556

GENERAL POLICIES

Student Expectations

- All students will show appropriate respect for fellow students, instructors, staff, and visitors to the studio.
- Every student is expected to be a **positive role model for others**. We are all ambassadors of BIA.
- **Student Decorum:** Students of Ballet Idaho Academy are representatives of Ballet Idaho organization and will be expected to act accordingly while in class, in the studios, and at all ballet functions. Ballet is a disciplined art form and beginning with the youngest students, it is crucial to always encourage and require the highest standards of behavior.

Arrival and Departure

- **Arrive on time.** Doors will be open 15 minutes prior to the start of class or rehearsal unless otherwise specified. Students are expected to be ready prior to the start of class time. If you arrive late, the student should wait until the end of the exercise and acknowledge the instructor upon entering. If late for class in the Phil building, please go to the Front Desk to ask to be let in. Please do not knock on the Phil door or ring the doorbell to be let in. This is disruptive to those working in the Phil building.
- Students should arrive a minimum of 10 minutes prior to class start time. These 10 minutes should be used to prepare for class so students are ready to begin class promptly.
- All students should **arrive at the main Ballet Idaho building (501)**. If class is in the Phil, a staff member will escort students next door. Advanced students may go directly to the Phil if someone is stationed at the door.
- Students in level Intermediate 1 and up may enter studios that are not being used 15 minutes prior to class to warm-up and prepare for class. Youth and Lower Division students are not permitted in any studios until the instructor announces they may enter.
- Students who are not in class, should wait quietly and patiently in the back lobby. Best behavior is always expected in this area as it is not always monitored in person, though video surveillance is in operation.
- Please be advised that the 8th Street door is for emergencies only. Parents and students must enter through the door facing 9th Street.
- **Use the restroom before class** to minimize interruptions during class.
- Students arriving late for class will be admitted at the discretion of the instructor. Arrivals later than 15 minutes will not participate in class but will be required to observe. There is no late entry to adult class.
- Upon completion of class, students must wait to be picked up inside the buildings. Under no circumstances may students wait outside. Students are to be **picked up on time and within 15 minutes** of class or rehearsal ending.
- **Parking:** Once enrolled, families of registered students may register one vehicle to park in the 8th St lot or the 9th St Miller lot during August and January registration periods. Temporary parking passes are available



at the discretion of the front desk personnel and must be promptly returned. There is also free and metered parking available on the street and paylots nearby. **Parking in the downtown cultural district is very limited so allow for ample time to find a spot.**

- Please obey all road and parking lot signs to ensure safe drop off and pick up. Failure to do so may result in ticketing. (Please note that parking lots are operated by CarPark and BIA has no ability to control ticketing parameters or void citations issued).

Classroom Expectations

- **Be ready to begin** exercises promptly upon the direction of the instructor.
- Please address instructors as **Mr., Miss, or Ms.**, followed by their first or last name.
- If a student needs to leave the classroom for any reason, they should raise their hand and then ask to be excused.
- Please do not play pianos, do not touch sound equipment, and please do not hang or swing on barres.
- **Please be respectful to faculty and classmates;** Students who are disruptive or disrespectful in class will be given a warning. A parent-teacher conference will be set up if the issue continues.
- **Refrain from talking** and excessive questioning and be attentive to group and individual corrections. Disruptive students will be removed from the class in order to preserve a focused environment for other students. Once a student is asked to leave a class he/she will not be permitted to attend class until there is a meeting with the parent or guardian, instructor, Academy Administrator, and Academy Director.
- **Show us you are focused** by maintaining an attentive posture and attitude during class. Leaning on barres, hands on hips, and arms crossed in front of the chest are considered inattentive stances. No sitting down during class unless the teacher has given permission. During center, the group that is waiting must stay engaged and work on the combination in the back.
- Please avoid walking in front of the instructor and always give the instructor sufficient space so he or she can see everyone in the room and demonstrate the steps properly.
- If you must yawn in class, please cover your mouth.
- **All cell phones and watches must be silenced and stored in student's dance bag during class.** Students are asked to put cell phones/technology away 10 minutes prior to class start time and use the time for warming up and light stretching.
- **Personal belongings** will be stored neatly during class and rehearsal. In the main building, please utilize the white cubbies in the back lobby. In the Phil building, please utilize the cubbies found in the women's dressing room. There is also a men's dressing room for storage. You may bring pointe shoes and water bottles into the studio and place them on a designated wall and not at your barre spot. Leave all valuables at home.
- Only water bottles that are closed are permitted in the studios and **no open food in the studios.** Students are not permitted to chew gum in class.
- Students are expected to help keep the studios and reception areas neat and orderly by picking up after themselves.
- **Physical Contact:** Ballet and dance instruction can include physical touch as a vital means of articulating technical instruction and corrections. Examples may include but are not limited to:
 - moving a leg/foot/arm/hand/head to reposition for correct alignment
 - using hands to shape a foot to demonstrate proper positioning
 - using fingers/hands to gently indicate which muscle should be activated in a student's body
 - using hands on shoulders or back to help guide students to a specific location in the room
 - demonstration of partnering techniques by instructor for assisted balances on waist or hips, or holding hands or arms
 - partnering contact from other dancers (peer students or assistants to instructors)

It is completely acceptable to ask that instructors refrain from touch as a means of instruction. Should a student be uncomfortable with physical touch for any reason, we strongly encourage this preference to be communicated to the instructor or BIA Director. If a student is not comfortable making this preference known, we will rely on the parent to communicate this. Faculty are likewise trained to ask for consent prior to using physical contact to correct a student.

Attendance Policies



- Students are required to attend all classes as dictated by class level. Excessive absences may result in a change in class assignment.
- **If a student must miss a class or will be late, a parent should contact the Academy Administrator, Sada at sogburn@balletidaho.org.**
- Refunds will not be given for missed classes. A student may attend a class in a lower level as a makeup after notifying the Academy Administrator.

Level Placement and Assessments

- Students will be given an assessment to evaluate proper level placement.
- Conferences can be requested and scheduled at any time if you would like to discuss your child's progress. End-of-year conferences are offered, but these are not mandatory.
- Level placement classes for the following academic year will take place in May.

Parent Observation Week

- There will be two parent observation weeks scheduled during the course of the school year. Please refer to the school calendar.
- Parents and visitors are not permitted in the studio or to stand in hallways to observe classes outside of parent observation week.
- There is a parent lobby on the east side of the building. **Parents are encouraged to monitor their young students** leading up to the start of class and be promptly available at dismissal.

Communication

- Parents and students should not expect to speak with instructors before or after class. All communications regarding a student (class placement, schedules, etc.) are to be directed to the Academy Administrator. Students may schedule additional time to meet with instructors.
- Parents are expected to be respectful of staff and faculty at all times. Parents acting in an intimidating manner will be asked to leave the premises. Parents shall not negatively speak about Ballet Idaho Academy.
- Parents and students are responsible for checking bulletin boards for notices regarding the school. Information will also be emailed on a regular basis. Please check your email often. Email is the main form of communication for Ballet Idaho Academy. If you'd like to receive the monthly newsletter and you are currently not, notify jsulikowski@balletidaho.org.
- **It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to provide their correct email address(es) and to make sure they receive Ballet Idaho Academy's emails.**
- Parent-student-teacher conferences can be requested through the Academy Administrator at any time.
- Please visit the Student and Parent Portal at <https://balletidaho.org/academy/bia-student-parent-portal/> to view the schedule, calendar, tuition calendar, Student Handbook, Nutcracker Handbook, and more.
- If there are **class cancellations due to inclement weather**, you will be notified via email at least 2 hours prior to the closure. We will also post to our Instagram page @balletidahoacademy. Please follow for updates. **Ballet Idaho Academy follows Boise School District for inclement weather closures.**
- **Emergency:** In the event of an emergency, Ballet Idaho Academy will contact student's emergency contact as soon as possible. In partnership with ESPAA, Ballet Idaho has developed an Emergency Action Plan in which all faculty members and staff are trained.
- **Parents/guardians MUST be reachable while their student is participating in any Ballet Idaho activity. Please be sure to keep your student's emergency contact up-to-date.**

Your support is vital to our Academy and community. We kindly request that parents and students volunteer this season when available. All volunteer efforts will be coordinated by Academy Director Jessica Sulikowski at jsulikowski@balletidaho.org. We truly appreciate your help!

Private Lessons

All private lessons must be scheduled through the school office. Please contact the Academy Administrator. Private lessons are \$85/hour or \$100/hour depending on the instructor. This includes a studio rental/administration fee.



Illness and Injury Policy

- **Students should not attend classes or rehearsals if they are feeling ill or showing symptoms of an illness.** Please keep your student home until the illness has passed to allow the student to be healthy enough to take class fully and to avoid the spread of illness. Please wait 24 hours after the last fever to return. If unsure of a student's ability to participate in class, please contact your family physician.
- Students should notify their instructor of any injuries or problems that may interfere with their abilities to take class fully. Students who have a serious injury will need to observe class and take notes at the instructor's discretion. **Injured students will need a doctor's note to return to class.**

Performance Policies

- Students who are not enrolled in the full schedule and/or have excessive absences will only be able to participate in performances at the discretion of the Academy Director.
- Parents and students will be provided with specific details for all performances.
- **All rehearsals will be mandatory.** Rehearsals may be scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays, so please keep them available.
- **Class schedules will be modified on weeks that BIA students are involved in BI Company and BIA performances.** Specifically, the month of December will have class changes for all levels.
- Participation in performances is voluntary. **Prior to registering for performance participation, please carefully consider your ability to fully commit to the rehearsal and performance scheduling requirements.**

Company Productions

- Each year-round/annual registered student of Ballet Idaho Academy will **receive two complimentary tickets for two select Company Programs in the 2026-2027 season.** The fall program is *Westward* and in the spring, families have the choice between *Anthology* or *Family Series*. The day and time of performance tickets are determined by the Ballet Idaho Box Office. During predetermined timeframes, you may book your complimentary tickets via the emailed forms. Additional tickets may be purchased at your expense. Please note there are no ticket exchanges. More information will be provided once student is enrolled.
- **Students and families are encouraged to attend as many Company, Trainee, and Academy productions as possible,** as it is a vital part of the students' dance education.

Non-Discriminatory Policy

Ballet Idaho Academy admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, or any other school administered programs.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Students and parents are expected to behave with politeness, respect, and courtesy towards faculty, staff, peers, families, and guests of BIA. All students are expected to conduct themselves in a safe and responsible manner. BIA reserves the right to dismiss any student whose attitude or conduct is deemed disrespectful or unsafe. Any disrespect and/or bullying will NOT be tolerated.
- Any student found to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be subject to immediate dismissal.
- Any student found destroying property will be held financially responsible and subject to dismissal.
- If the student is sent out of class for bad behavior twice in a four-week period, the student will be withdrawn from the studio for up to a three month break at the discretion of the BIA Director. We want dance to be a fun and positive experience. We do not want anyone to associate dance with bad behavior or a bad experience.
- Inappropriate language or innuendos are prohibited on BIA property. If these behaviors are observed or reported, you may be dismissed at the discretion of the BIA Director.
- Any credible accusations of disrespect or bullying involving students at BIA will be handled accordingly:
 - The BIA Director and staff will investigate the accusation to try to obtain corroboration.
 - We will bring the concern to the attention of the accused student.



- We will have a meeting with the student and parent(s) to discuss the issue and address the problem. During the meeting, the student will have the opportunity to share his or her perspective on the allegations. The student will be reminded of our expectations of Code of Conduct and behavior as it relates to all BIA activities, and give the opportunity to recommit to the standards of BIA.
- If after a first offense and meeting there are continued corroborated reports of bullying or disrespect, a meeting will be held with the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s), and consequences will be discussed, up to and including suspension or expulsion from BIA.
- If you personally experience any bullying or disrespect at BIA or witness bullying or disrespect of another student, please bring it to the attention of staff in a timely manner.