



SUMMER DANCE

STUDENT HANDBOOK • 2025

**Thank you for choosing Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley
for your summer ballet training!**

Summer intensive programs are an opportunity for the dancer to immerse herself/himself in dance without the distractions of daily school work and activities. Maintaining skills learned during the regular school year is important for optimum progress. This handbook provides all you need to know about our school and organization. Please read and keep this booklet; if you have any questions, please call or send us an e-mail. If you have any helpful suggestions for future publications, please let us know.

“...You will grow as a dancer only by learning something new, so don't cling to what you know. Summer intensive classes may be very different - even a shock. ...the technique, approach and demands may be equally unfamiliar. My advice is to get used to it. Learn to concentrate so that you get the exercise and the corrections. Go beyond what you know in order to do what the teacher is seeing.”

- Suki Schorer
Pointe Magazine, May/June 2001
Former Balanchine Ballerina, New York City Ballet
Master Teacher, School of American Ballet
Author of *Suki Schorer on Balanchine Technique*

PHILOSOPHY

Ballet study is for everyone. We believe ballet is a healthful exercise that channels energy into a positive form of self-expression. Dance movements can inspire exhilaration in everyone. Come and experience this fulfillment—the undeniable joy of dance!

We believe in a serious approach to ballet study, as ballet is the foundation of all theatre dance. Students of all ages are encouraged to develop artistic awareness, to increase technical proficiency, and to acquire discipline, perseverance, improved powers of concentration and an aesthetic sense—qualities that will serve them well in all future endeavors.

A non-profit organization, Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley, Inc., founded in 1958 by Marjorie Berlin Fink, serves as the umbrella organization for the Pennsylvania Youth Ballet school and performing company. For more information on our history & activities, please visit our website at <https://www.bglv.org/classes/>.

SUMMER CALENDAR

PRE-PROFESSIONAL DAY INTENSIVES

Five weeks - choose one or more from the list below that best fit your schedule!

HOURS: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 8:30 am—1:00 pm
Tuesday/Thursday, 8:30 am—12:00 pm *(Please note that the week a guest master teacher is scheduled, the "Meet the Artist" session will be held immediately following classes on Thursday from 12:00-12:30 pm)*

WEEKS:

- Week 1, June 23 — June 27
- Week 2, July 7 — July 11
- Week 3, July 14— July 18
- Week 4, July 21 — July 25
- Week 5, July 28 — August 1

COMMUNITY CLASSES

One six week session, June 23 through August 1

PHONE NUMBERS / WEBSITES

BGLV/PYB

610-865-0353; pyb@rcn.com; <https://www.bglv.org/classes/>

CITY OF BETHLEHEM/LEHIGH VALLEY

www.bethlehempa.org

PARKING INFORMATION

<http://bethpark.org/>

DIRECTIONS / PARKING

From Route 22, take Route 378 South to Exit #3 (Center City). From the stop sign at the exit, turn left onto 3rd Ave. At the stop light, turn left onto Broad St. Follow for 3 blocks to the intersection with Main St. At the stop light, turn right onto Main St. BGLV studios are on the left side of the street, next door to the historic "Sun Inn."

There is currently one parking garage— 75 W. North St. (at North & Main Streets) —in the downtown area; follow signs as marked.

Parking Meters are available at times and in effect from 8:00 am—9:00 pm each day. It's best to use the parking garage as most classes are an hour or longer. Be aware of parking signs wherever you park.

Whether traveling to or from class, please allow time to park your car and walk to our studio, as the Parking Authority/Police will ticket those who double park on the streets surround the building. Parking is free in the garage for the first 30 minutes.

**DO NOT PARK IN OR DRIVE THROUGH THE COURTYARD
TO THE REAR OF OUR BUILDING**

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

Weather-related or other cancellation or closing announcements will be made via three media methods:

- <http://www.wfmz.com/weather/school-and-business-closings/149606> (use the words “Ballet Guild” when searching)
- <https://www.facebook.com/Ballet-Guild-of-the-Lehigh-ValleyPennsylvania-Youth-Ballet-119465338065731/> (Ballet Guild Facebook Page)

Also, to receive text messages from WFMZ regarding any closings, sign up for its service on the following webpage: [WFMZ-TV - TextCaster](#)

TUITION/FEES

- Tuition is based on a session, and is due whether or not the student is present, and whether or not the student completes the session, and is not transferable nor refundable except as stated below.
- Tuition for Community Division students is due upon enrollment. Payment methods on file in the Jackrabbit student account will be charged on the date of enrollment for the Community Division.

REFUNDS

- Tuition refunds are granted for medical reasons only. Any request for such a refund must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a doctor’s signed statement on letterhead.
- There is no refund for missed lessons or lessons not made up; students may make up any classes missed due to illness by attending classes at the same or next lower level. Students are responsible for making up missed classes within 2 weeks of the absence. There will be no refund for absences or classes cancelled due to inclement weather.

CLASS

- BGLV reserves the right to change instructors as needed. There will be no refund for absences or classes cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Children must be at least 3 years old before the session date, and must be potty-trained before starting classes at BGLV, & be able to separate easily from parents or guardians.

CLASS PLACEMENT

Class placement is determined by the Summer Program Directors. Students are placed according to their technical ability and physical strength, at a level where they can best improve their ballet technique.

CLASS PLACEMENT - PRE-PROFESSIONAL

Non-BGLV students wishing to enroll in the Pre-Professional program will be placed in the proper level during his/her first class day of the summer session. Students are placed by ability, not age, in these classes. If you have any questions as to class placement, please contact our office.

COMMUNICATION

Your primary e-mail address will be used to send school information as needed. Please add pyb@rcn.com to your Address Book to ensure that our e-mail does not end up in your SPAM box. Check your e-mail frequently and notify us if your address changes.

When contacting the office about your child, please list student's full name, class and day enrolled for faster service.

TEACHER COMMUNICATION

If you would like to speak with your child's teacher, or if you have questions about your child's progress, please call or e-mail the office.

POLICIES / PROCEDURES

- Children must be at least 3 years old before the session date, and must be potty-trained before starting classes at BGLV, & be able to separate easily from a parent or guardian.
- Children in the youth programs (Pre-Ballet through Youth Ballet III) will be met on the second floor by the instructor and then escorted to the third floor classroom.
- All students should carry a water bottle with them daily. There is a Bottle Filling Station on the third floor.
- All items should be clearly labeled with student's name.
- With the exception of small earrings, students should not wear jewelry of any kind during class. Student Uniform and Attire information may be found on page 6.
- Dance attire should be worn to the class with street clothing covering. Young children should bring a bag with their name clearly marked on it for storage of their street shoes during class.
- Dance bags will be placed in an allocated place in the studio.
- Valuables of any sort should not be brought to class. We cannot be responsible for lost or stolen articles left in any part of the building.
- Gum is not permitted.
- Young students may be escorted by one parent/guardian into the building to the second floor. Arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before class time.
- Community students in the youth programs will be escorted to the rear door by their teachers. PLEASE BE ON TIME TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD. NOTIFY ANYONE PICKING UP YOUR CHILD OF THIS DISMISSAL POLICY. THE OFFICE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF ANY VARIATIONS (*Substitute driver, etc.*) REGARDING A STUDENT'S DISMISSAL.
- Any disruptive behavior problems will not be tolerated. Any use of offensive language, bullying, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products will result in dismissal without refund. The Artistic Director reserves the right to suspend, expel, or withdraw scholarship from any student whose attitude, class attendance, work habits, chronic lateness, overall conduct, or physical fitness for classical dance training is judged unsatisfactory.



PRE-PROFESSIONAL DIVISION ONLY

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- **SPECIAL CLASSES: SCHEDULE/SUPPLIES STUDENTS SHOULD BRING**

Tap Class — Tap Shoes. *Class day to be determined.*

Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT) —Yoga Mat & Resistance Band measuring at least 4” wide and 9 feet long. (*Bands are available for purchase in the office—\$10 each*) - see class days below for schedule:

Advanced Level PBT Class — Class day to be determined.

Intermediate Level PBT Class — Class day to be determined.

- **SUPPLIES TO BRING DAILY**

Water Bottle — Water filling station available on the 3rd floor

Dance Supplies — Shoes, etc. See above class schedule for specific items. See page 6 for other uniform information.

Snacks — If needed, for break between classes. The office has a few snacks for sale-\$1 each

ABOUT POINTE CLASS - PRE-PROFESSIONAL

The Pre-Professional Summer Day Intensives are intended primarily for serious students with previous ballet training, who are willing and able to benefit from a concentrated program of ballet instruction. Even though a student may be taking pointe classes at her regular school, it is possible that she may not be scheduled for pointe during our Summer Intensive, as pointe work can be harmful if the student has not learned to use proper foot and leg muscles or does not have good body placement. Improvement of basic ballet technique is essential in order to improve pointe work.

MASTER TEACHERS

Throughout the summer dance program, master teachers are invited to instruct the Pre-Professional day intensive students. A “Meet the Artist” session will be held during the week a guest instructor is scheduled. Students and their parents/guardians are invited to attend this very valuable session — bring your questions!

Please note that the “Meet the Artist” question/answer sessions will be held on a Thursday beginning at 12:00 pm just following the morning classes which end at that time. The exact date for each event is listed on the BGLV website:

<https://www.bglv.org/classes/summer-dance-program/>

MISSION STATEMENT

Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the art of theatre dance, primarily classical ballet, through education and performances.

WHAT TO WEAR TO CLASS: UNIFORMS/SHOES/APPEARANCE

- All students should wear a uniform in the prescribed color, as listed below, for all classes and should present a neat appearance at all times. Legwarmers, tutus & skirts (unless for pointe or part of the uniform as specified), and jewelry are not permitted in ballet classes. Girls' hair should be secured neatly in a bun (see photo below—no bangs) to present a sleek, classical profile. Elaborate hairbands, scrunchies, bows, etc. are not permitted in ballet classes. Your child's first and last name must be neatly printed in all class attire and belongings, including ballet shoes.
- Shoes should be obtained from a reputable dancewear store (See list below) where they can be properly fitted. Be sure to have the teacher check the fit at the first class. The elastics on the ballet slippers must be sewn (not tied) on for classes.
- Children should not wear their dance shoes outside of the dance studio (especially outside, to and from ballet). Dance attire should always be covered by street clothes outside of the dance class.
- Dancers ages 8 and up are expected to be responsible for and to carry their own dance bag and equipment, which should include: ballet slippers, class leotard (if not worn under clothing), extra pink tights (for last minute rips), hair accessories (bobby pins, hair pins, elastics, hair brush, barrettes, hairnets, hair-spray/gel).
- As your child progresses in levels, more items are suggested. If your child is on pointe, she may also need: Pointe shoes (stored outside of your dance bag—see your instructor for details), lambs wool, toe pads, needle & thread for pointe shoes, extra leotard/pointe leotard, band aids, foot tape, scissors, safety pins, and an instant ice pack.

FEMALE STUDENTS—UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Skirts/Tutus for class are not permitted. Only pointe and adult students may wear a skirt in class.

• SUMMER PRE-PROFESSIONAL DAY INTENSIVE STUDENTS IN BOTH LEVELS

Ballet: Black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers

Tap: *Bloch* brand, not split-sole, tap shoes

• SUMMER COMMUNITY CLASSES

Any solid color leotard, pink tights, pink ballet slippers.

(Adults may wear any color ballet slippers)

MALE STUDENTS—UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Black unitard/tights/biker shorts/leggings/sweat pants, solid color t-shirt, dance belt (if needed, depending on age of boy), thin white socks, black ballet slippers. Add Tap Shoes if needed (*Bloch brand, not split-sole*)

UNIFORMS—LEOTARDS, TIGHTS, BALLET SLIPPERS, TAP

- **DC DANCEWEAR** — 423 Northampton St., Easton, PA
610-923-6100; <http://www.dcdancewear.com/>
- **EN ARABESQUE DANCEWEAR** — Located in Perkasio, Doylestown, Royersford
215-453-5950 (Perkasie); <https://enarabesque.com/>
- **FREEMOTION** — 2476 Willow Park Rd., Bethlehem, PA
610-758-9397, <http://www.freemotiondance.com/>