

Barriskill Dance Theatre School
Classroom Assistant Program

At BDTS, our classroom assistant program is a great opportunity for our most dedicated students to contribute to the studio and further their own dance education.

Students participating in the program can:

- Gain leadership experience.
- Reaffirm and strengthen their own dance technique.
- Learn more about how dance fundamentals are taught.
- Learn teaching techniques that encourage cooperation, focus, and discipline.

To be eligible to be a classroom assistant, students must be:

- At least 10 years old.
- Currently enrolled in dance classes at BDTS.
- Studying dance at an intermediate level or higher.
- Willing and able to commit to attending the class weekly for the entire year, as well as assisting at the spring concert rehearsals and performances.

Responsibilities of classroom assistants

- Dress appropriately for the dance discipline. In general, you will follow the dress code for the class you are teaching. Confer with the teacher if you have any questions. As a classroom assistant, you are setting an example for your students, who will look to you as a role model.
- As in all classes, wear your hair tied up securely. Keep jewelry to a minimum.
- Treat parents with courtesy and respect.
- Arrive at least ten minutes before class start time
- Learn the students' names, and greet them when they arrive. At class time, gather your students outside the studio door.
- Ask the teacher if there is anything specific she needs you to do prior to class starting.
- If students are under age 8, ask them if they need to use the rest room before class starts.
- Help students with tying shoes, fixing hair, etc. If they need to leave the room to get a drink or use the rest room, and a parent is not there to help, remain with them and escort them back to class.
- At the end of class, make sure all young children get into the hands of their parents. If a child can't find her parent, stay with her until she does, or take the child to the front desk and ask Elliot or another staff member to call the parent.
- Help the teacher and the class at rehearsals and performances.

Assisting during class

- Always follow the teacher's lead.
- Keep the focus of the class on the teacher by giving him or her your full attention.
- When the class is standing in lines facing the mirror, assistants should stand in front, facing the same way the teacher is facing. Assistants should begin, execute, and finish

each exercise with the students so that the teacher may concentrate on giving corrections when needed.

- Demonstrate dance technique and steps as accurately and clearly as possible.
- Listen carefully to the teacher as he/she instructs the class to see if you can improve your own technique.
- During exercises that travel across the floor, assistants should go to the opposite side of the room from the teacher. Make sure the students are quiet, lined up and ready when it is their turn to go.
- When the children need to transition from one exercise or location to another, make sure they finish correctly and walk—not run—to the next starting position.
- During creative/free movement exercises, assistants should always do the exercise with the students unless asked to do otherwise by the teacher.

Encouraging a positive classroom environment

Assistants can play an important role in fostering a positive learning environment in the studio by:

- Modeling attentive behavior, giving the teacher your full attention.
- Using positive language with the students. For example, say “Look at the teacher” instead of “Don’t look at the floor.”
- Leaving hands on and verbal corrections to the teacher.
- Always handling the children quietly and gently.
- Comforting a child who gets hurt; encouraging a shy child; gently bringing a distracted child into focused attention.
- Treating parents with courtesy and respect.

Absences

Assistants who need to miss a class for any reason are responsible for informing the teacher and the office. If you are unable to tell the teacher in person, use the method of communication you both decide upon. Telephone the studio and have them notify the teacher if he/she is in class.

Spring Concert

Class assistants are required to help backstage during the Spring Concert, depending on the show’s format and the assistant’s own roles in the performance. In some cases, assistants may participate in their class dance. Backstage, stay with your group when possible, and keep them quiet and busy while waiting. Help to line them up to go on stage and escort them back after their dance.

If you would like to apply to be a classroom assistant, please fill out the attached form and return it to Elliot in person, or email it to him at elliott@barriskilldance.com . All applications must be received by **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH** .

Barriskill Dance Theatre School
2012-2012 Classroom Assistant Application

Name _____

Age _____ Today's Date _____

Current Class(es) at BDTS:

Why are you interested in being a classroom assistant?

Why do you think you would be a good choice as an assistant?

What do you hope to gain from this experience?

On the reverse side of this form, please indicate which classes you are interested in assisting with. If desired, you may rank your choices, with 1 being your first choice. We will not place you in a class that you do not check off or rank.

I have read and understood the responsibilities of a classroom assistant, and I am ready and able to assume those responsibilities. I understand that I am making a commitment for the full academic year, including the spring concert.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date

Class Name	Class Day/Time	Ranking
Creative Movement	Mon 4:15-5:00	
Pre-Ballet 3	Wed 4:30-5:15	
Pre-Ballet 3	Thu 5:30-6:15	
Pre-Ballet 3	Sat 9:30-10:15	
Pre-Ballet 3/4	Mon 10-10:45	
Pre-Ballet 3/4	Wed 1:30-2:15	
Pre-Ballet 4	Mon 3:45-4:30	
Pre-Ballet 4	Tue 5:30-6:15	
Pre-Ballet 4	Sat 9:30-10:15	
Pre-Ballet 5	Wed 4:30-5:15	
Pre-Ballet 5	Thu 5:30-6:15	
Pre-Ballet 5	Sat 9:30-10:15	
Pre-Tap (3-5)	Tue 4:45-5:30	
Pre-Ballet/Tap (3-5)	Thu 3:45-4:30	
Pre-Ballet/Tap (4-6)	Mon 4:15-5:00	
Open Broadway Kids	Tue 4:15-5:15	
Open Broadway Kids	Tue 5:20-6:20	
Discover Dance 1	Sat 10:15-11:15	
Hippity Hop	Mon 5:00-5:45	
Primary Ballet	Thu 4:15-5:00	
Primary Ballet	Sat 10:15-11:00	
Ballet 1	Wed 5:45-6:45	
Ballet 1	Thu 4:30-5:30	
Ballet 1	Sat 10:15-11:15	
Jazz 1	Mon 6:00-7:00	
Beginning Hip Hop	Mon 6:00-7:00	
Beginning Tap	Thu 4:30-5:30	