

Parent and Student Handbook 2023-2024

All the information you need for a rewarding and joyful dance experience.

BARRISKILL

dance theatre school

WELCOME TO BARRISKILL DANCE THEATRE SCHOOL!

This handbook will serve as your guide to Barriskill Dance Theatre School (BDTS) and our philosophy of dance education. We take our roles as mentors and teachers in your child's life very seriously, and appreciate that you have entrusted them to us. It is our objective to inspire a passion for the art of dance in every child who passes through our doors.

Please read the information in this handbook carefully. We hold all of our parents and students responsible for the information within.

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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OUR PHILOSOPHY:

BDS is committed to providing high-quality, developmentally appropriate dance and theatre education. We provide a safe and child-centered environment in which our students can explore dance with qualified, nurturing teachers.

Dance education encompasses so much more than the dance technique we teach your children. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment, the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to give dancers the tools and knowledge/education to become dancers in the professional world if that is desired. Even more importantly, we strive to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students; teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, and a valuable appreciation for the performing arts.

Our approach to dance education is aimed at helping our students find the intrinsic rewards of learning to dance rather than just the external rewards so commonly strived for. Even as we prepare for performances, our emphasis is on the process; the satisfaction of working hard together to create a finished production we share with family and friends.

We truly believe that by participating in challenging, developmentally appropriate dance classes in a nurturing environment, all children and adults can experience the sense of accomplishment and

joy that comes with learning to dance.

The joy is in the journey! We look forward to taking this journey with you and your family.

COMMUNICATION:

Communication is key to maintaining smooth and effective studio operations. BDTS has several means of communication to keep all of our students and parents well-informed.

- Our website, barriskilldance.com, is a great resource for studio information. Policies, schedules, and much more are posted on our website. If you have a question, it is likely you will find the answer on our website.
- Email is our primary way of communicating with families. Please make sure that the studio has your most up-to-date email address, and be sure to read the communications we send out. We do our best to limit our email communications to important information, and it is imperative that you read all emails you receive from the studio. These emails will contain important information about fees and deadlines and upcoming events. If you are not receiving regular emails from us, please let us know immediately. You can email contact@barriskilldance.com with any questions.

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES:

As always, please keep your child home if they exhibit any flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, headaches, runny or stuffy nose, body aches or increased fatigue.

Pertaining to Covid-19, we will continue to follow the guidance of the CDC and the NC Health Department. We anticipate this advice will change throughout the year, and we will adapt with it to ensure a safe and healthy environment for everyone at Barriskill.

We reserve the right to return to stricter protocols (including masking) if we are required to do so by mandate, or if we see reasons based on trends at Barriskill or locally. We will continue to be guided by health officials and will review all metrics and relevant guidance from health agencies.

CALENDAR:

The calendar for the current year is available below. Please make sure you are aware of school vacations and other important dates.

Occasionally we are forced to make changes to the calendar. These changes will be posted on the website and sent out by email

Important Dates

2023-2024 Season
Barriskill Dance Theatre School

BDS Classes Start	Saturday August 19, 2023
Junior & Senior Company Audition	Saturday August 26, 2023 10:00am-1:00pm
Legally Blonde Auditions Musical Theatre Levels 5+ Ballet Levels 5+ Jazz Levels 4+	Tuesday August 29, 2023 5:00-7:00pm
Labor Day Weekend No Classes	Saturday September 2 - Monday September 4, 2023
Nutcracker Auditions Current BDS students ages 7+	Saturday September 9, 2023
Legally Blonde Mandatory Rehearsals	Friday September 8, 2023 from 5:00-8:00pm Sunday September 10, 2023 from 12:00-3:00pm
Winter Spectacular Ensemble Auditions Hip Hop Levels 1+ Tap Levels 1+ Jazz Levels 1+	Saturday September 30, 2023
Mandatory Nutcracker Rehearsal	Sunday October 15, 2023 Act 2
Mandatory Legally Blonde Rehearsal	Sunday October 22, 2023 from 12:00-4:00pm
Mandatory Nutcracker Rehearsal	Sunday November 5, 2023 Act 1
Mandatory Legally Blonde Rehearsal	Sunday November 12, 2023 from 12:00-4:00pm
Observation Week Preschool Classes Recital Commitment Sheet Due	Monday November 13, 2023 - Saturday November 18, 2023
Mandatory Nutcracker Rehearsal	Saturday November 18, 2023 & Sunday November 19, 2023 Act 1 & Act 2
Thanksgiving Break No Classes	Monday November 20 - Sunday November 26, 2023
Mandatory Legally Blonde Rehearsal	Tuesday November 28, 2023 from 5:00-8:00pm
Mandatory Nutcracker Rehearsal	Saturday December 2, 2023 Act 1 & Act 2
Legally Blonde & Winter Spectacular Tech Week Musical Theatre Levels 1 - Pre-Professional	Monday December 4 - Friday December 8, 2023
Legally Blonde & Winter Spectacular Performances Musical Theatre Levels 1 - Pre-Professional	Friday December 8 - Sunday December 10, 2023
Nutcracker Mandatory Tech Week	Sunday December 10 - Friday December 15, 2023
Nutcracker Performances	Friday December 15 - Sunday December 17, 2023 4 Performances
Winter Break No Classes	Monday December 18, 2023 - January 3, 2024
Classes Resume	Thursday January 4, 2024
Spring Musical Audition	Friday January 5, 2024 at 5:00pm
Martin Luther King Jr. Day No Classes	Monday January 15, 2024
Spring Break No Classes	Monday March 25 - Sunday March 31, 2024
Classes Resume	Monday April 1, 2024
Junior & Senior Company Performance	TBD
Pre-School & Primary Level Recital at BDS Studio Theater	Saturday May 18, 2024
Mandatory Spring Musical Tech Rehearsals Musical Theatre Levels 1 - Pre-Professional	Monday May 13 - Friday May 17, 2024
Spring Musical Performances Musical Theatre Levels 1 - Pre-Professional	Saturday May 18 & Sunday May 19, 2024
Last Day of Classes	Friday May 24, 2024
Studio Level Spring Recital	Friday May 31, 2024
Conservatory Level Spring Recital	Saturday June 1, 2024
Cinderella Story Ballet Performances Ballet Levels 1+	Saturday June 1 & Sunday 2, 2024

CHOOSING A CLASS

We strive to provide classes that serve children and adults with a wide range of abilities, experience, and reasons for taking a dance class. First and foremost, we encourage you to talk with your child about his or her interests and goals. Consult our class list for age and experience guidelines for each of our classes.

If you are new to the studio, we recommend that you talk with us directly about placement in our classes. Please remember that each dance studio is different, and our class levels and curriculum may be different from your previous studio. We will work with you to find the best classes for your age and experience.

PLACEMENT FOR RETURNING STUDENTS:

Class placement at BDTS is based on a combination of age and ability. Our faculty meets regularly to discuss student progress and placement. We are committed to offering appropriate opportunities for each child. Most of our classes above the beginner level require instructor permission for enrollment. One of our most important jobs is helping each child find a class that will provide them with an appropriate level of challenge so that they can learn and grow as much as possible. Your child's teachers can provide the best guidance for appropriate class placement.

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular class where he or she will feel confident in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some students respond to the challenge of being in a class with students who are more proficient pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual, and the factors that go into the decision are complex.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress or placement, please discuss them with your child's teacher or the director. We ask that you set up an appointment for such conversations rather than trying to squeeze it in between classes.

FEES, TUITION, PAYMENT, AND SCHEDULES:

Registration:

There is a yearly registration fee of \$35 for each student. All students need to have completed online registration before beginning class. Registration fees are non-refundable and a mid-year withdrawal from school will incur a new registration fee upon re-enrollment. This fee supports materials used in classrooms throughout the year, music licenses required for class and more.

Refunds, Changes, and Withdrawals

Enrollment in a dance class at BDTS should be considered a commitment for the entire (or the remainder of the) *dance* school year. If your family decides to withdraw from a class, the school director must be notified via email at least one week prior to the start of the next billing cycle (the 1st of the month).

Tuition is paid in advance of class participation, and once tuition is paid, it is non-refundable. The only exception is in the case of serious disability or injury; in this case, a refund may be granted pending approval of the director and a letter from the student's physician.

Missed Classes:

We encourage students to make up missed classes by attending any other class at the appropriate age and skill level. Your teacher can provide guidance in selecting a good make-up class. NO CREDIT IS OFFERED TOWARD TUITION FOR CLASSES MISSED. Missed classes may not be used in lieu of tuition for the next payment period, and full tuition is owed on each payment regardless of classes missed in a previous month.

Students who wish to withdraw from a class temporarily must discuss this with their teacher and the director, understanding that re-enrollment is dependent on space in the class at that time, and that they will incur a new registration fee. To hold their space, families may have the option of continuing to pay tuition during the absence.

Payment of Tuition and Fees:

Tuition is based on a dance school year, which consists of 36 weeks divided into 9 monthly payment periods. Some months will have more classes than others, but it will average out over the course of the year. Tuition is based on the number of class hours per week, and the cost per hour is lower as class hours increase. The current tuition schedule is available on our website and here:

YOUTH TUITION 2022-2023																					
hrs per week	45 min	1.0 hr	1.5	1.75	2	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	9.5	10 - 10+
\$ per payment each month	75	80	115	125	135	150	165	180	190	215	225	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	275	280	290

Every customer must provide a credit card to keep on file. Tuition and all other charges are paid by the automatic billing of your credit or bank card that is securely on file in our management system. Tuition is billed on the 1st of each month. Arrangements can be made for those who need to have the payment day delayed. There is no monthly payment by cash or check.

Additional Fees:

Tuition does not include the registration fee, dancewear, shoes, costumes, recital tickets, private lessons, or special events.

Class Cancellations:

We will rarely cancel class due to teacher illness or severe weather conditions. We will often follow regular school closings and delays but not always. Notifications of cancellations will be emailed to all families and posted on the website home page, Facebook, and Instagram. Affected students may attend another existing class to make up for the missed class. There are no refunds for classes missed due to severe weather conditions.

Production Fee:

On February 15th, each student will be charged a \$100 recital production fee for each dance class they are enrolled in. This production fee will be applied towards the spring recitals, story ballet,

and musical theatre production (the weekend after Memorial Day Weekend) and covers everything from renting the theater space and backdrops, costumes and props, paying staff, etc.

If your child will not be participating in the spring concert, you must inform us in writing by December 1 to avoid being charged the production fee. Once production fees are charged they are non-refundable.

Adult Classes:

Barriskill offers open level classes for adults ages 18+. Adults have two options for participation: monthly based tuition for the dance calendar year (minimum enrollment must be 3 individuals) or a single class drop-in fee. Drop-ins can be paid in cash, venmo @BDTSDance, or via your Barriskill account. Either way, all adults must be registered with a credit card on file. Class offerings are available on our website at barriskilldance.com/adults

Adult Drop In Pricing:

1.5 Hour Classes: \$85/Month Tuition OR \$25 Drop In

1 Hour Class: \$65/Month Tuition OR \$20 Drop In

45 Minute Class: \$45/Month Tuition OR \$15 Drop In

Private Lessons:

Private lessons are not required. We encourage all students to take advantage of their class time and learn to work efficiently and intelligently. If a dancer is interested in one on one attention they may schedule a private lesson with a Barriskill instructor. Private lessons are \$60-70/hour (depending on the instructor). All privates must be scheduled through the studio so we know who is coming and going. Please email megan@barriskilldance.com if you are interested in scheduling privates.

CLASS OBSERVATION:

We know that this could be your first year with us. We will host a "Meet the Teacher" moment during the first class. Parents will be allowed to enter with their dancer for the first 15 minutes of the first day, see the studio, and meet the teacher. Our "kiss and go" policy successfully increases student focus and independence. It is important that parents keep a positive attitude about dance class to make the transition as seamless as possible for your young dancer.

Once a year, there is a scheduled parent observation week. At this time, family members are invited to observe the full class. Check our website for this year's dates. Additionally, rehearsals for studio productions remain closed to parents. This allows dancers to focus on their material, observe the rehearsal process and thrive in a peer-supported environment.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR AND ETIQUETTE:

In order to maintain a happy, healthy, and professional environment our teachers and staff model respectful behavior towards all people and property at the studio. We expect our students to show the same respect to each other, our staff, and the studio.

Students should arrive on time to class ready to work hard and learn. There will be times when students are busy, tired, and have other things on their mind. We expect students to do their best

to channel their energies into their dancing at the studio. Sometimes the best relief from a busy and stressful schedule can be a vigorous dance class!

We foster a friendly and relaxed environment, but not at the expense of the work. While students are often excited to see one another, there is not time for socializing during our limited class time each week. All students deserve to have a learning environment free from distractions, with a shared focus on the work at hand.

One of the keys to success as a dancer is strong technique, and class is where students develop that technique. Each class is an opportunity for students to become better at what they are studying. Encourage your children to listen to all feedback given, whether it's directed at them or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows how much the teacher cares about your progress as a dancer.

We believe that the most successful students are those who apply themselves in every class and are open to their teachers' knowledge and experience.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes and rehearsals. At every level, regular participation in class is essential for learning. Our curriculum is designed so that new skills are taught incrementally, building on one another. Students who miss class may find themselves missing crucial building blocks. Younger students have a hard time developing the necessary body awareness and muscle memory for dance when they miss class. In advanced classes, students will have a hard time progressing without being in class every week.

At times, there may be circumstances that cause a child to miss multiple classes or rehearsals. In the case of repeated and/or extended absences—for any reason—participation in the end-of-the-year recital may be denied. In rare cases, a student with multiple absences who demonstrates exceptional commitment and mastery may still be included in the recital; this will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the teacher and director. Good communication with teachers and the director about absences is the first step in demonstrating commitment.

For conservatory students, regular attendance is taken especially seriously. We encourage conservatory level students to take the responsibility to contact their teachers directly.

Arrival and Departure:

Lateness is distracting to both teacher and students, and disruptive to the class, so please arrive with plenty of time to enter class (with hair ready and shoes on) when class starts. We encourage Conservatory students to arrive 10 minutes before class. Dance is a physical activity that requires the body to be warmed up in order to execute movement safely. Late students miss the proper warm-up and/or barre exercises. At the instructor's discretion, students who arrive late may be instructed to warm up themselves before joining the class, or may be asked to observe class for safety reasons.

Restroom Use:

All students should use the restroom before class, especially our pre-school students. Dancers should not leave class to use the restroom unless absolutely necessary. It is disruptive, and the student misses valuable class time. Please feel free to use the restroom you are most comfortable

with, there are restrooms for all upstairs off the student lounge and in studio 6.

Potty-Training Policy:

As a general rule, Barriskill requires that students be potty-trained before signing up for dance class. However, a parent can choose to enroll a student who is not potty-trained in a class if they can be available for diaper changes during class or camp. Our instructors are not responsible for changing diapers.

Termination of Enrollment:

In very rare cases, a student may be asked to leave the school. Bullying, abusive, or repeatedly disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Every effort will be made to correct a problematic situation before terminating enrollment. Termination for cause is not grounds for a tuition refund. In addition, if students repeatedly miss class and/or tuition remains unpaid, and there is no communication from the family, enrollment in the class may be canceled at the discretion of the studio administration.

Dress Code Requirements: Barriskill welcomes students of all races, ethnicities, genders, and sexualities and maintains zero-tolerance for any form of discrimination. Our dress code offers options for students to pick the attire they are most comfortable dancing in.

[Shop Barriskill Dress Code HERE!](#)

General guidelines:

- For all classes, hair should be securely tied away from the face, ideally in a neat bun. This applies to all levels, including pre-school classes.
- No jewelry or watches other than small stud earrings.
- Ballet shoes should be made of canvas or leather
 - Drawstrings should be knotted, trimmed, and tucked into the shoe prior to first class
- Jazz shoes are pull-on (no laces)
- Primary Ballet through Ballet 8/PrePro Ballet have a particular color of leotard. These do not need to be a specific style or make, your dancer can pick a fit they are comfortable dancing in.
- Dance shoes should not be worn outside, including sneakers for hip-hop.
- We have a "Take a Pair, Leave a Pair" bin at the studio for gently worn shoes and clean leotards. Please feel free to look through before purchasing items.

Ballet Dress Code 2023-2024

Levels Primary - Pre-Professional and Teen/Tween

- Primary Ballet:
 - Option 1: Lilac Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Ballet Tights, Black Ballet Shoes
- Ballet 1:
 - Option 1: White Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Ballet Tights, Black Ballet Shoes
- Ballet 2:
 - Option 1: Light Blue Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Ballet Tights, Black Ballet Shoes
- Ballet 3:
 - Option 1: Burgundy Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Ballet Tights, Black Ballet Shoes
- Ballet 4:
 - Option 1: Navy Blue Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Ballet Tights, Black Ballet Shoes

- Conservatory and Pre-Professional Ballet:
 - Option 1: Black Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Ballet Tights, Black Ballet Shoes
- Teen/Tween Ballet:
 - Option 1: Solid Color Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Ballet Tights, Black Ballet Shoes

Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, Modern, Musical Theatre, Tap

- Contemporary 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Teen/Tween:
 - Option 1: Solid Color Leotard, Flesh Tone Tights or Black Tights/Leggings
 - Option 2: Solid Color Shirt, Tight Fitting Pants
- Hip Hop 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Teen/Tween:
 - Comfortable Dance Shirt or Leotard, Comfortable Dance Pants, Clean Closed-Toe Shoes/Sneakers
- Jazz 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Teen/Tween:
 - Option 1: Solid Color Leotard, Flesh Tone Tights, Flesh Tone Jazz Shoes
 - Option 2: Solid Color T-Shirt, Black Jazz Pants, Black Jazz Shoes
- Musical Theatre Primary, 1, 2, 3, Teen/Tween:
 - Option 1: Solid Color Leotard, Flesh Tone Tights or Black Tights/Leggings, Flesh Tone Jazz Shoes
 - Option 2: Solid Color Shirt, Tight Fitting Pants, Flesh Tone Jazz Shoes
- Musical Theatre Conservatory 4, 5, Pre-Professional:
 - Option 1: Solid Color Leotard, Flesh Tone Tights or Black Leggings, Flesh Tone Character Heels
 - Option 2: Solid Color Shirt, Tight Fitting Pants, Black Jazz Shoes
- Tap Primary, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Teen/Tween:
 - Comfortable Dance Shirt or Leotard, Comfortable Dance Pants, Black Tap Shoes

Pre-School Dress Code

- Creative Movement:
 - Comfortable clothing that doesn't inhibit movement. Barefeet recommended, ballet or jazz shoes are optional.
- Pre-Ballet 3, 4, 5:
 - Option 1: Pink Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Pants or Shorts, Black Ballet Shoes
- Pre-Ballet/Pre-Tap:
 - Option 1: Pink Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Black Tap Shoes, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Pants or Shorts, Black Tap Shoes, Black Ballet Shoes
- Pre-Tap:
 - Option 1: Solid Color Leotard, Flesh Tone Tights, Black Tap Shoes
 - Option 2: Solid Color T-Shirt, Black Jazz Pants, Black Tap Shoes
- Pre-Tap/Pre-Jazz:
 - Option 1: Solid Color Leotard, Flesh Tone Tights, Black Tap Shoes, Flesh Tone Jazz Shoes
 - Option 2: Solid Color T-Shirt, Black Jazz Pants, Black Tap Shoes, Black Jazz Shoes
- Pre-Ballet/Pre-Jazz:
 - Option 1: Pink Leotard, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Tights, Flesh Tone or Pink Ballet Shoes, Flesh Tone Jazz Shoes
 - Option 2: White T-Shirt, Black Pants or Shorts, Black Ballet Shoes, Black Jazz Shoes
- Broadway Babies:
 - Option 1: Solid Color Leotard, Flesh Tone Tights or Black Leggings, Flesh Tone Jazz Shoes
 - Option 2: Solid Color Shirt, Tight Fitting Pants, Black Jazz Shoes
- Hippity Hop:

- Comfortable Dance Shirt or Leotard, Comfortable Dance Pants, Clean Closed-Toe Shoes/Sneakers
- Modern Movers:
 - Tops: students may wear leotards, dance dresses or stretchy tops in any color
 - Bottoms: students may wear dance pants, stretchy pants or shorts, or footless leggings in any color
 - Students should be ready to dance barefoot (socks, footed tights and footed leggings are not safe!); however, students that wish to wear ballet slippers may do so
 - No jewelry, dance crowns, or dress up clothes that inhibit movement
- Dance with Me!:
 - Children: Comfortable clothing that doesn't inhibit movement. Barefeet recommended, ballet or jazz shoes are optional.
 - Adults: Comfortable clothing that doesn't inhibit movement. Barefeet recommended or clean closed toe shoes.
- Music & Movement:
 - Comfortable clothing that doesn't inhibit movement. Clean closed toe shoes are recommended, ballet or jazz shoes are optional

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS:

Our purpose is to provide the highest quality preschool education in a secure, nurturing, and stimulating environment. BDTS serves the physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of preschool students. We meet these goals with our developmentally appropriate curriculum and ongoing communication with parents.

The first few weeks of classes serve as an introductory phase to help students become comfortable with the overall dance experience, the classroom, their teacher, and their classmates.

From the beginning, we focus on your child's coordination, listening skills, musical awareness, and developing imagination. We accomplish this through age-appropriate music, simple stretching exercises, and dance basics in an environment of creativity.

Preschool dance is not just about learning dance steps. It is about helping children learn to tap into their imagination and express themselves creatively, learning to wait their turn and admire the accomplishments of their peers. It is a great environment to begin to experience self-discipline.

Separating from the parent

One of the challenges for some preschool children may be separating from their parents and attending class on their own. If your child cries or does not want to take class, don't panic. Please do not force your child into class. Ask your teacher for help with the transition if needed.

It may not be the right time.

All children are different, and are ready to attend a dance class independently at different ages. Some young 3-year-olds will readily run into class and participate fully, while some 5-year-olds may not be ready. Try not to compare your child with others, but use your best judgment to determine if this is the right time for them. Dance classes and our studio will always be here, and you may find that it makes sense to take a break and try class again at a later date.

BDTS CLASS DIVISIONS:

The dance classes at BDTS are divided into 4 divisions or programs.

Pre-School Division: includes classes for children up to 6 years old: Creative Movement, Pre-ballet, Pre-tap, Pre-ballet with Pre-tap combinations, Pre-tap with Pre-jazz combinations, Broadway Babies, and Hippity Hop.

Studio Division: these include classes for children ages 6 and up and includes the Teen/Tween program and primary level classes. Classes in this division usually have no prerequisites and are primarily for beginners. Classes in this recreational division include: ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, musical theatre and hip hop.

Conservatory Division: Intermediate and advanced level classes for children willing and able to make a commitment to a more rigorous course of study.

Adult Division: for students older than 18.

CONSERVATORY PROGRAM

For students with the required level of interest and ability, BDTS offers a conservatory program, in which students can select a program of study that includes ballet, musical theater, jazz, and/or tap. The conservatory program requires a significant commitment from dancers and their families, and in return provides opportunities to:

- develop skills to the highest degree.
- work with mentors who are focused on student success inside and outside of the classroom.
- build long-lasting friendships
- enjoy a sense of belonging to an extended family of fellow dancers, teachers, and parents.
- discover the long lasting results of hard work and determination.
- develop a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts.

Is the conservatory for me?

The conservatory program may be a good fit for you if:

- You're excited to learn more about dance and its many intersections with your interests.
- You love dancing and would like to perform more!
- You enjoy working collectively with peers who share your joy for dance.
- You love how dancing makes you feel.
- You're fully committed to attending all classes and rehearsals.

The conservatory program may *not* be a good fit for you if:

- You're involved in other extracurricular activities that could interfere with your class, rehearsal, or performance commitments.

- You're doing it because you want to be with your friends, but are not passionate about dance or the commitment.
- You're doing it because your parents or teachers want you to.
- You're *not* fully committed to attending all classes and rehearsals.

Most of our students are balancing multiple commitments and interests, and only some will find that they are willing and able to make the commitment that the conservatory program requires. The conservatory program is not for everyone.

We offer many studio level classes for continuing students who don't want to or cannot commit to the rigor of the conservatory

Admission:

Admission to the conservatory program is by invitation. In some cases (as in a student new to the studio), an audition may be used to facilitate placement. Generally, observation of students in class and performances provides the faculty with the information they need. Our faculty is happy to discuss admission to the conservatory with any interested students.

Requirements:

First and foremost, we require that conservatory students make a solid commitment to classes, rehearsals and performances. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Each class, rehearsal, or performance is an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

Be sure to review the attendance policy in this handbook. Clear communication with teachers and the director is key! Failure to communicate with your teacher about absences may jeopardize your participation in performances.

We realize that our students have full lives, and at times may have difficulty fulfilling the commitments for the conservatory. If you find yourself in this situation, the first step is to communicate with your teacher about your situation. We can work with families to determine whether continued participation in the conservatory is appropriate, or if other options should be explored.

2023-24 Conservatory Level Classes:

Ballet 5, 6, 7, 8, Pre-Professional

Musical Theatre 4, 5, 6, Pre Pro

Jazz 4, 5, 6, 7

Hip Hop 4, 5, 6

Tap 4, 5, 6, 7

SPRING RECITAL

Our annual Studio and Conservatory level spring recital is typically held on the campus of Duke University. Preschool & Primary level recitals are typically held in our newly renovated Studio Theater at Barriskill. Exact Spring 2024 recital locations and times are TBA.

The Spring Concert is a fun and exciting performance opportunity for all Barriskill youth students. Participation is encouraged, but not required. The concert offers our students an opportunity to show their families and friends the results of a year's hard work, dedication, and progress. Part of dance training is learning through performance. The rehearsal process can be a tremendous learning experience. Children develop retention skills by working with their classmates on a group performance, they learn the positive aspects of working as a team to create the best end result. These skills contribute not only to successful dancing, but also to success in other areas of life.

Participation

- For younger children, participation in the recital is encouraged but not required. Families may opt out of the recital if desired by emailing the school director.
- Conservatory students are expected to participate in the recital. If extenuating circumstances prevent participation, please let us know as soon as possible.
- Musical Theatre students enrolled in classes Musical Theatre 1 through Musical Theatre 3 will participate in the spring recital. Musical theater students in Conservatory MTR 4, 5 and 6 will perform in a separate spring musical instead of the recital.
- Ballet students enrolled in classes Ballet 1 through Pre Professional Ballet will participate in the spring story ballet instead of the spring recital.

Production Fee:

On February 15th, each student will be charged a \$100 recital production fee for each dance class they are enrolled in. This production fee will be applied towards the spring recitals, story ballet, and musical theatre productions and covers everything from renting the theater space and backdrops, costumes and props, paying staff, etc.

*NEW this year: The production fee includes 2 tickets to the preschool-primary level recitals shows, produced in Barriskill's renovated Studio Theater.

If your child will not be participating in the spring concert, you must inform us in writing by December 1 to avoid being charged the production fee. Once production fees are charged they are non-refundable.

Attendance is important!

- Starting in March, part of class time will be used to learn and rehearse choreography.
- In the case of repeated and extended absences—for any reason—participation in the concert may be denied. In rare cases, students who demonstrate exceptional commitment and mastery may be included in the showcase; this will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the teacher and studio directors. Good communication with teachers about absences is the first step in demonstrating commitment.

Performance Week

- The week before the recital, musical, and story ballet all classes are suspended.
- We will share a more detailed rehearsal schedule with you well in advance, because performance week rehearsals are absolutely mandatory for all recital participants.
- It is essential that you keep this week as free from other commitments as possible.

Nutcracker

Our biggest performance each year is our annual production, which includes over 100 dancers. Please ask for our Nutcracker Handbook for much more information. Auditions are scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2022. Rehearsals are generally on Saturday from about 10 am thru 5 pm depending on the role or roles you are cast in. Principal roles rehearse on Friday night. The attendance policy for Nutcracker rehearsals is very strict.

The Barriskill Winter Spectacular

An alternative to Barriskill's traditional Nutcracker. This production incorporates the genres of ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary and hip hop to create an all-new dance experience. Dancers ages 6 and up are invited to audition on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Rehearsals are generally held on Friday and Saturday afternoons, depending on role. This production requires a strong commitment to attending rehearsals. An online interest meeting will be held prior to auditions, and more information can be found in our Nutty Nutcracker info packet.

Legally Blonde (MTR 5, 6, Pre Pro)

Students enrolled in Musical Theatre 5 and higher are welcome to attend this audition which will include dancing, acting and vocals. Email liza@barriskilldance.com for acting and vocal sides after 8/1. Students enrolled in conservatory ballet level 5 and higher are welcome to audition for vocal/acting/dancing roles in this show if interested, they are also welcome to attend the "dance only" portion of the audition to be considered as a featured dancer in the show. Performances are Dec. 9 & 10 at Duke! All Mandatory rehearsals and dates can be found on our website:

<https://www.barriskilldance.com/legally-blonde>

Cinderella Story Ballet

Performances June 1 & 2, 2024 for Ballet students levels 1 - Pre-Professional

The Studio Company

The Barriskill Studio Company consists of invited Conservatory-level students who are interested in a more dedicated study of dance. The Company is not a competitive team, rather a pre-professional program in which students are given the opportunity to work with guest choreographers from around the country to gain experience auditioning and performing. Company members commit to an intensive rehearsal and performance schedule in addition to their dance classes throughout the year.