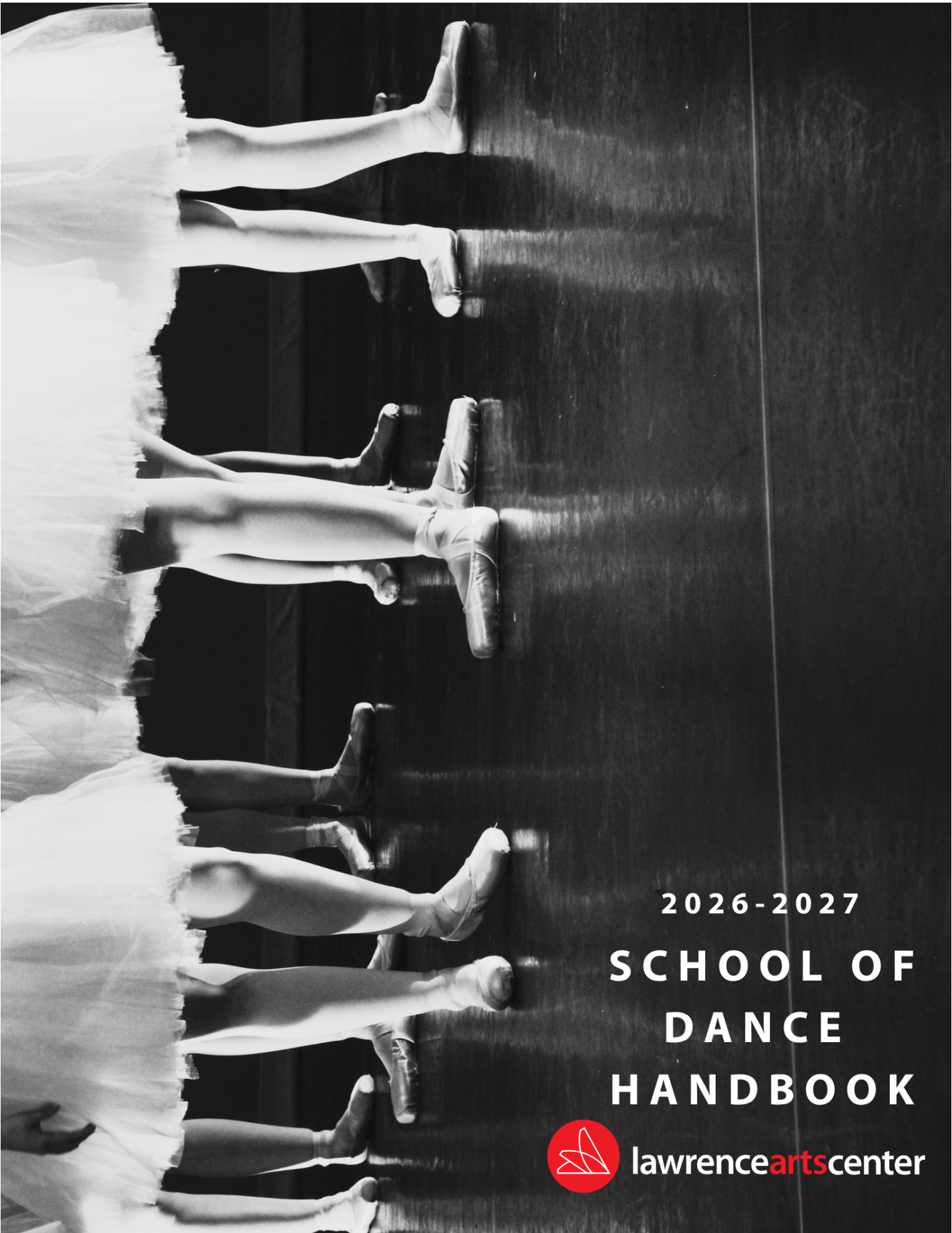




2026-2027

**SCHOOL OF
DANCE
HANDBOOK**



lawrence**arts**center

Lawrence Arts Center

School of Dance Handbook

2026-2027

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About the Lawrence Arts Center

The Lawrence Arts Center is a regional center for visual and performing arts, contemporary exhibitions, films, lectures and cultural education. The Lawrence Arts Center offers fully developed curricula in ballet and modern dance, theater performance, and visual arts. The Arts Center employs more than 120 teaching artists whose courses observe national standards for visual and performing arts. About 10,000 students take courses annually, and the Arts Center greets more than 200,000 visitors yearly.

The mission of the Lawrence Arts Center is to ensure art is for everyone through education, exhibitions, and performances.

About School of Dance

Since 1985, the School of Dance curriculum has been based on national dance education standards and taught by professionals. Students follow a sequential training program developed to suit age and ability that fosters creativity and technique. Focused on developing the artist and the art, the School of Dance offers frequent opportunities for performance through numerous and diverse dance productions and the pre-professional youth company, Lawrence Ballet Theatre.

Our mission is to cultivate artistry, excellence, and healthy living in our community through dance training, performance, and community outreach. Cultivating the art of dance throughout the community, our vision is to make dance 100% accessible to all.

The School of Dance strives to:

- Provide comprehensive technical training and build knowledge appropriate for each discipline
- Promote artistic contributions to the community through innovation, exploration, and enrichment programs
- Provide exceptional dance experiences through visiting guest artists, master classes, intensive workshops and performances
- Promote diversity and excellence in the dance community



Candi Baker, School of Dance Founder

We might not be here today if not for the fact that a 12-year-old Candi had a fear of the dentist—to convince her to attend her appointment, Candi's mother promised to pay for dance lessons, and the rest is history. Candi was immediately hooked and pursued a dance education through college. In 1984, she moved to Lawrence and soon began establishing the school of dance at the Lawrence Arts Center. The program grew from just a few classes a week and handful of faculty members to a thriving center for dance education in the city. By 1998, Candi had been awarded the Lawrence Phoenix Award in the Performing Arts. Candi believed that "dance is a way of expressing dreams, ideas, and hope through the human body and emotion." Thank you for carrying on her legacy by being a part of this School of Dance community.

Our Spaces

940 New Hampshire Street

Inside the main building are two dance studios:

Studio 206 (40' x 36' x 12') & Studio 208 (36' x 36' x 12'). Both studios include state-of-the-art audio equipment, full-length mirrors, ballet barres, Marley floors, and upright pianos. Studio 206 is used also as a convertible performance studio complete with a HD video monitor and black theatrical curtains.

10th and Mass Studios

Our newly renovated space! 10th and Mass studios include two studios, one for the School of Dance use and one for the School of Performing Arts use. 10th and Mass Studios is equipped with a secure front door with an access code for entry. The dance studio (49' x 48') with a sprung Marley floor (33' x 46') includes mirrors, ballet barres, and a portable audio system. This space includes a lobby for dancers and families to use, and individual bathrooms and changing rooms.

Where to park your car?

Free two-hour parking is available on the lower two floors of the parking garage across the street from the Lawrence Arts Center. There is metered parking on New Hampshire Street. There is a 15-minute loading zone along the street on the southeast side of New Hampshire Street in front of the Arts Center.

940 New Hampshire



10th and Mass Studios



Dance Staff

Claire Buss | Dance Program Director

Claire Buss is originally from Salt Lake City, Utah. She grew up training at the Children's Ballet Theatre and moved to Millennium Dance Complex SLC for her high school years. She moved to Lawrence, Kansas, in 2017 to begin college at The University of Kansas. Throughout her years at KU, she participated in Unity Hip Hop Crew, University Dance Company, and Rock Chalk Revue. She graduated in Spring 2022 with a BFA in Dance and a BSE in Physical Education. Since graduating, Claire has worked with Tristian Griffin Dance Company and House of Dragon Dance under the direction of Maya Tillman-Rayton, and received her Basic Training Certification through Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago. Claire serves as the Dance Program Director, as well as teaches Jazz and Hip Hop at the Lawrence Arts Center. She also holds an adjunct position teaching Jazz and Modern at the University of Kansas. She has also presented 3 works for the University Dance Company Concerts.

Contact Claire Buss by calling 785.843.2787 or emailing claire@lawrenceartscenter.org

Allison McNellis | Dance Program Coordinator

A Lawrence native, Allison grew up training at the Lawrence Arts Center under the direction of Cynthia Crews as a member of the Lawrence Ballet Theatre. As a student, she had the opportunity to perform leading roles in dozens of LAC productions. She furthered her training through the Joffrey Ballet School and Regional Dance America. While currently pursuing degrees in Communication Studies and Public Administration at the University of Kansas, she is also the primary Little Movers teacher and the Dance Program Coordinator at the Lawrence Arts Center.

Contact Allison McNellis by calling 785.843.2787 or emailing allison@lawrenceartscenter.org

Liat Roth | Artistic Director of Lawrence Ballet Theatre

Liat Roth, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, is a choreographer, dancer, and educator based in Kansas City. In 2021, Liat graduated cum laude from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance and Choreography and a minor in Visual Art and Communication. Within the dual emphasis Ballet and Modern program, she had the opportunity to dance works by Paula Weber, Christopher Huggins, George Balanchine, Salvatore Aiello, and Tom Gold. Post graduation, she has danced for City in Motion Dance Theater, Quixotic, choreographers through the Charlotte Street Foundation, Dance Center of Kirkwood, and Lawrence Ballet Theatre. Along with a repertoire of self-produced dance films, her work has been presented at City in Motion's Modern Night at the Gem, Dance in the Park, and Lawrence Ballet Theatre. Liat strives to foster creative intersections between makers of all mediums in the Kansas City area and beyond.

Contact Liat Roth by emailing liat@lawrenceartscenter.org

Dance Faculty

Allison McNellis | Little Movers, Ballet

A Lawrence native, Allison grew up training at the Lawrence Arts Center under the direction of Cynthia Crews as a member of the Lawrence Ballet Theatre. As a student, she had the opportunity to perform leading roles in dozens of LAC productions. She furthered her training through the Joffrey Ballet School and Regional Dance America. While currently pursuing degrees in Communication Studies and Public Administration at the University of Kansas, she is also the primary Little Movers teacher and the Dance Program Coordinator at the Lawrence Arts Center.

Annie Stark | Irish Step Dance

Annie Stark is a third-generation Irish dancer in her family with roots in Sligo, Ireland. She is a champion Irish dancer and teacher with the Driscoll School of Irish Dance where she trains and competes year round. She is also a company member of the dance company Ceili at the Cross-roads, fusing traditional and modern Irish dance with contemporary dancing. Along with being a dancer, she is an accomplished Irish fiddler, and performs Sundays as the in-house dancer at O'Dowds Irish Pub in Kansas City. Annie studied violin at the Chicago College of Performing Arts. The mixture of the two art forms encourages a unique perspective on Irish dance.

Anna Shelton | Tap, Hip Hop

Anna Shelton earned her BFA in Dance Performance with a Minor in Theatre from the University of Kansas ('25), where she served as President of KU's Dance Company for two years, directed and choreographed for the Jayhawk Tap Company, and received the Key Collaborator Award for her contributions to the university's performing arts community. Since graduating, she has choreographed for multiple productions throughout the Kansas City area, performed with Kansas City Dance Collective in their Halloween show, and achieved a Pilates certification, deepening her understanding of alignment, strength, and movement quality. She also works for Inferno Dance Competition as a Tabulator. With a foundation built on technical precision and creative exploration, Anna Shelton approaches her work with curiosity, intention, and a commitment to continual artistic development, while having fun!

Claire Buss | Jazz, Hip Hop

Claire Buss is originally from Salt Lake City, Utah. She grew up training at the Children's Ballet Theatre and moved to Millennium Dance Complex SLC for her high school years. She moved to Lawrence, Kansas, in 2017 to begin college at The University of Kansas. Throughout her years at KU, she participated in Unity Hip Hop Crew, University Dance Company, and Rock Chalk Revue. She graduated in Spring 2022 with a BFA in Dance and a BSE in Physical Education. Since graduating, Claire has worked with Tristian Griffin Dance Company and House of Dragon Dance under the direction of Maya Tillman-Rayton. Claire serves as the Dance Program Director, as well as teaches Jazz and Hip Hop at the Lawrence Arts Center. She also holds an adjunct position teaching Jazz and Hip Hop at the University of Kansas. She has also presented 3 works for the University Dance Company Concerts

Cynthia Crews | Lawrence Ballet Theatre Director Emeritus | Ballet

Cynthia Crews started her dance training in Tulsa, OK with Roman Jasinski and Moscelyn Larkin, acclaimed Ballet Russe stars and co-founders of Tulsa Ballet Theatre. Ms. Crews continued her dance training in New York City as a full scholarship student for Joffrey Ballet and Harkness Ballet. She then returned to Oklahoma and received a BFA in Ballet Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma graduating with Honors. Cynthia Crews performed as a principal with Tulsa Ballet Theatre for nine years. She danced leading roles in works by George Balanchine, Ruth Page, Peter Anastos, Loyce Holton, as well as classics such as Giselle, Coppelia, Swan Lake, and The Nutcracker. She taught master classes, performed as a guest artist, and presented numerous school lecture demonstrations. She has performed and choreographed in many community and professional musical productions including Discoveryland Outdoor Dramas, Theatre Tulsa, and the Manatee Players (FL). Her teaching career started at The School of Tampa Ballet and continued at Post School of Ballet (Southwest Virginia Ballet Company), and Jasinski Academy, then the official school for Tulsa Ballet. At the collegiate level, she has served as an adjunct professor for the University of Tulsa, Tulsa Community College, the University of South Florida, and a guest lecturer at the University of Kansas. Ms. Crews joined the Lawrence Arts Center School of Dance in 2004, teaching primarily ballet and pointe. Cynthia Crews founded Lawrence Ballet Theatre in 2010 to serve the needs of the more serious dance students in Lawrence, KS. Ms. Crews has choreographed

original works for the company and is responsible for staging the classical ballet repertory presented each year. Lawrence Ballet Theatre joined Regional Dance America/MidStates in 2011. Cynthia Crews has served on the RDA National Board since 2017.

Gabby McNabb | Tap, Jazz

Gabby McNabb is a multi-dance choreographer, instructor, and performer who is currently based in the KCMO area! Originally born and raised in St. Louis, MO, with 23 years of dance experience, Gabby has performed on many various stages (Fabulous Fox Theatre St. Louis, The Muny, World of Dance Chicago, COCA, Worlds of Fun, etc.) and has enjoyed every opportunity that's come her way! She is also in the works with Music Theatre Kansas City (MTKC), Stage Right Performing Arts (SRPA), and Haus of Divas, both performing and choreographing. When she's not teaching at LAC, Gabby is floating between working full time at KC Pet Project as a Feline Specialist, contracted with Windish Entertainment and being sent to theme parks all across North America to Direct/Choreograph new shows, and teaches/choreographs for various programs across the KC area! She's VERY excited to be returning for her 3rd year as a teaching artist and can't wait to get dancing!

LAC credits: Wonka (2024), The Wizard of Oz SYT (2024), Alice in Wonderland (2025), 2 EOY showcases.

Hanan Misko | Boys Ballet

Hanan studied at the Kansas City Ballet School and received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School under the directorship of Lawrence Rhodes. Hanan has danced with various companies including Storling Dance Theater, Mark Morris Dance Group, the Metropolitan Opera (Faust, Don Giovanni, Orfeo ed Euridice, and Nixon in China), Jessica Lang Dance; and as a company member with Ballet Hispanico, Martha Graham Dance Company, and Nimbus Dance works in New York City. Hanan has served as artistic director for the Fine Arts Summer Academy's Dance Ensemble in Nashville, TN for the past six years. He has taught at the Kansas City Ballet School, the Wharton Music Center, The Culture House, in New Jersey public schools' after-school programs, and in The Juilliard School's C.L.I.M.B. program. From 2013 to 2025, he served as the Dance Program Director at the Lawrence Arts Center and is currently the Education Director at The Lied Center of Kansas.

Juliet Remmers | Ballet

Juliet Remmers is a dance artist, choreographer, and educator dedicated to fostering a lifelong love of movement. She began her training at the Lawrence Arts Center, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from the University of Kansas, and a Master of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Iowa. As an adjunct instructor, Juliet taught modern and contemporary dance at the University of Kansas and ballet at the University of Iowa.

Her professional work spans performance, choreography, research, and artistic direction. Her MFA thesis, Timeless Motion, included a performance of José Limón's The Moor's Pavane alongside new works by Joshua L. Peugh and Janet Charleston. A longtime member of the Lawrence Arts Center community, Juliet's performance credits include A Kansas Nutcracker, Peter and the Wolf, and The Runaway Orchestra. Recent creative projects include My Life is Wind (A Letter), directed by Anahita Ghazvinizadeh; Lex Leto's Dreamscape; Sextet, created during her work as a Research Associate with DanceLAB; Inner Glance, a collaborative work created with Nolte Academy dancers for DanceWorks at the Vineyard; and choreography for Cedar Rapids Opera. Her artistic direction and choreography for youth productions includes Thumbelina at LAC, and A Storybook Nutcracker, An Evening of Saint-Saëns, The Wizard of Oz and Pas de Quatre, and Fairy Tales: Stone Soup and Mother Goose at UI Youth Ballet and Community Dance School.

She is a Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT-200) and a Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT) Level 1 Certified Instructor. Her teacher training also includes the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet Teacher Workshop, Lisa Howell's Level 2 Pointe Intensive, and Training Turnout in Tiny Dancers with Lisa Howell and Beverly Spell of Leap 'N Learn. As Artistic Associate and Curriculum Coordinator for the University of Iowa Youth Ballet and Community Dance School, Juliet has developed curriculum, mentored teachers, and taught youth and adults. She also taught ballet at Nolte Academy in Iowa and is an instructor at Kansas City Ballet School.

Justin Harbaugh | Tap

Justin Harbaugh is from Emporia, Kansas. He has earned degrees in music from Emporia State University and Kansas State University. Justin traveled the world as a professional dancer on board Holland America Cruise Line for ten years. He has also appeared in several productions at Music Theater of Wichita, and regularly choreographs productions at the Lawrence Arts Center. Justin holds a D.M.A. in clarinet performance from the University of Kansas. Justin currently serves as the Director of Performing Arts at the Lawrence Arts Center.

Liat Roth | Contemporary, Ballet, Modern

Liat Roth, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, began her training under Kathleen Massot and Lisa Nicholas. She furthered her education at the St. Louis Ballet, Kansas City Ballet School, Houston Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet School. In 2021, Liat graduated cum laude from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance and Choreography. Within the dual emphasis Ballet and Modern program, she had the opportunity to dance works by Paula Weber, Christopher Huggins, George Balanchine, Salvatore Aiello, and Tom Gold.

Madison Seelye | Tap, Fitness, Contemporary

Madi Seelye is a versatile performing artist, choreographer, and teacher who brings creativity and passion to every project. Growing up in Kansas, she knew from a young age that she wanted to grow up and continue her career in the performing arts. Madi values community and the people around her; therefore, she strives to be an active participant and advocate of the arts. In May of 2026, Madi graduated from the University of Kansas and received a BFA degree in dance. She was involved in several University Dance Company/ University Theatre shows and was elected for several Executive positions throughout her time at KU. She is excited to be teaching students and to help them grow this dance season.

Maya Tillman-Rayton | Hip Hop, Afrodance

Maya Tillman-Rayton is a KU graduate with a degree in human biology. Maya's teaching career spans 15 years and has included students of all ages in Lawrence and Kansas City. She is married to a "retired" dancer and has two beautiful children. Maya is currently the Director of Dance at the University of Kansas' Department of Theatre and Dance.

Morgan Blanton | Ballet, Modern/Contemporary, Fitness

Miss Morgan loves shaping strong, technically sound, and versatile dancers. Her education began in Newton, Kansas where she trained primarily in Horton technique. As a recent B.F.A. graduate from the University of Kansas, she studied Countertechnique, Graham, Jazz, Ballet, Flamenco, and Hip Hop. Over the course of her career, she has choreographed and taught for dance teams and studios across the United States. In addition to freelance choreography, she currently produces routines for VIROC choreography company, teaches at Radiant Dance Studio, and performs/choreographs works for Kansas City Contemporary Company.

Paige Patterson | Ballet

Paige Patterson started her ballet training in Topeka at age nine at Barbara's Conservatory of Dance. She later danced with Ballet Midwest where she performed several principal roles. Paige continued her ballet training at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth for two years before returning to Kansas University to pursue a degree in Art History. She primarily teaches ballet but also choreographs, directs and costumes dance performances including Elfwyn's Saga, Sleeping Beauty and La Fille Mal Gardee. Paige also teaches ballet for the AIM adult contemporary dance company and youth contemporary company at Point B dance studio. Paige has worked for the arts center in many capacities for more than 20 years.

Sarah Reynolds | Social Dance, Ballet

Sarah began her ballet training at age 12 in Topeka, Kansas. She went on to study as a full-scholarship student at the Harid Conservatory, School of American Ballet, Kirov Academy, and Royal Winnipeg Ballet. After an injury brought her performing career to an early close, she attended the University of Kansas, where she minored in dance and performed with University Dance Company. During this time, she also began teaching ballet and ballroom dance. Following graduation, Sarah spent twelve years teaching a variety of social dance styles in the Kansas City area, including Smooth, Rhythm, and Latin. She currently works as a gifted education teacher serving K-12 students. Outside of teaching, she enjoys spending time with her two children, reading, and walking with her dogs.

Shannon Shuttlesworth | Ballet

Shannon Shuttlesworth received her initial ballet training under Christine Fossemalle in Hot Springs, AR, and Barbara Ebert in Topeka, KS. In high school she began performing with Ballet Midwest, and continued to study dance on scholarship at the University of Kansas with Jerel and Krystyna Hilding, where she performed leading roles with the University Dance Company while completing her B.A. in English. She holds an M.A. in education and teaches at Hillcrest Elementary School. Specializing in ballet, Shannon has served as a performer and instructor locally for the past 20 years.

Wanwan Cai | Chinese Classical Dance

Wanwan Cai began dancing ballet and Chinese classical dance when she was five. She trained with her local art school for many years and continued her dance training in college. During college and graduate school, she also performed with a Shaoxing opera company in Tianjin, China. Wanwan taught yoga at OmTree Shala, and has served as the director and teacher of the Lawrence Jasmine dance group.

Curriculum Overview

****Students should expect to attend each level for a minimum of two years****

LITTLE MOVERS (Ages 3 – kindergarten)

Through exploration and play, students in these classes improve motor skills and self-control, and gain confidence.

BALLET, BOYS BALLET, TEEN BALLET, POINTE (1st grade & up)

Beginning with Intro to Ballet, School of Dance students follow a sequential program in which each level is designed to encourage greater awareness of musicality and coordination as well as increased flexibility and strength. Classes consist of comprehensive training in classical ballet, taught by highly trained professionals.

Enrollment requirements per class:

Intro to Ballet: 1 technique class per week

Ballet I-II: 1 technique class per week

Ballet III-IV: 2 technique classes per week

Ballet V-VI: 3 technique classes per week

Ballet VII: 4 technique classes per week

Pointe: 2 technique classes per week in addition to 3 Ballet technique classes.

MODERN

These classes explore circular and grounded movements by teaching the fundamentals of various contemporary and modern dance methods.

CONTEMPORARY MOVEMENT

Based on the philosophy that every person can and should dance, these classes teach movement exploration and encourage play, structured improvisation, balance, and body conditioning within a social peer group.

JAZZ

The jazz program includes various styles of jazz such as classic, Broadway, and contemporary. Beginning students focus on building rhythm, coordination, and character skills until they are ready for syncopation movements, body isolations, dynamic leaps, suspended turns, and stylized choreography.

TAP

These classes combine rhythm, musicality, and coordination into a fun percussive movement session for your feet. Starting with Level I, students remain in each level until they've mastered the required material to progress to the next level.

SOCIAL DANCE

Whether it be at home, in a club, or at a wedding, this course will teach you basic skills needed to dance with your partner. Learn the fundamentals of social dance to become a master of the dance floor. Tuition is priced per person so be sure to enroll and bring a partner. See the course for more details.

CONDITIONING AND WELLNESS FOR DANCERS

Focusing on the full body, this class provides conditioning, stretching, and meditation exercises to promote a sense of self and wellness.

YOGA

Inside Flow is a joyful and dance-like style of Yoga developed by Young Ho Kim. Innovative in connecting Yoga postures in a fluid, graceful and seamless manner, Inside Flow is founded on the principle of Spanda, a Sanskrit word referencing the divine vibration of the Universe. In each class, we will build the choreography for the flow to a variety of music. If you enjoy Yoga and dance, you will love Inside Flow.

HIP HOP

Designed to be fun and energetic, hip-hop combines stylized movements and complex body rhythm with witty, compelling choreography. Students explore various styles of hip-hop including intricate percussive movements, pop, lock, break and lyrical hip-hop

CHINESE CLASSICAL DANCE (2nd grade & up)

These classes teach the fundamentals of the graceful, fluid, and breath-based movements of Chinese Classical Dance.

IRISH DANCE (2nd grade & up)

These classes are upbeat and involve choreographed traditional and non-traditional classes. Beginning-level students will learn the basic Jig and reel steps. Intermediate-level students will include more complicated steps and preparations for hard shoe. All are welcome to join the Irish Step Dance program and enjoy this cultural dance form.

MASTER CLASSES & SEMINARS

The School of Dance hosts classes with distinguished master teachers throughout the year to give students exposure to the highest levels of dance.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons with the dance faculty are available depending on studio and instructor availability. Cost varies based on instructor and type of class. A \$15/hr fee is charged in addition to the instructor fee. To schedule a private lesson, reach out to the instructor directly. Payment for individual private lessons will be paid directly to the instructor. The studio rental fee will be posted to your account.

General Policies And Expectations

Anti-bullying Policy

The Lawrence Arts Center's vision is that everyone has a right to pursue their artistic interests in a safe, caring, equitable, and inclusive environment. Bullying behavior inhibits artistic development and is in direct opposition to a welcoming culture. At the Lawrence Arts Center, we describe bullying as any physical, verbal, or relational/social behavior that causes physical, emotional, financial, or social harm to another person. We follow up on all concerns expressed by children, caregivers, and staff. We address bullying behaviors in a timely, constructive way and continue to communicate with all parties until the conflict is resolved.

Arrival/Student Drop Off & Dismissal/Student Pickup

- Students are encouraged to arrive 10 minutes prior to the start of class. Dancers should arrive wearing dance attire under their street clothes. For those who need to change clothes:
- 10th & Mass Studios offers individual bathrooms/changing rooms
- 940 New Hampshire provides a newly renovated gender-neutral dressing room with 3 changing stalls, lockers, and benches.
- Dancers are dropped off outside of their classroom.
- Caregivers of students Pre-K through 5th grade must come into the Arts Center to drop-off their children.
- It is important that students use the restroom prior to class to avoid students having to use the restroom during class time.
- Dancers are picked up outside of their classrooms.
- Caregivers of students Pre-K through 5th grade must come into the Arts Center to pick up their children. Students 6th grade and up are permitted to leave the building.
- Parents are encouraged to call the front desk at (785) 843-2787 to let staff know when they will be late. This is reassuring to both staff and students. All pick-ups are considered late after 10 minutes for all ages.
- Upon a second late pick-up, parents will be billed \$10 for every 10 minutes late to cover the attending staff time. After a third late pick-up without prior notification, we may ask the family not to return and issue a refund for the remainder of the class. With habitual lateness, or if a parent is over an hour late at any time, or staff is unable to reach a parent or emergency contact via telephone, we may call the police to report an abandoned child.
- If your child is in 5th grade or below and you would like to permit them to be dismissed from a class or camp on their own, please contact dance@lawrenceartscenter.org for the permission form.

Caregiver Waiting-Areas

- 10th & Mass Studios: caregivers are welcome to wait in the lobby.
- 940 New Hampshire St: Seating is available outside the dance studios for arriving/dismissing students and short-term waiting. For long-term waiting and during high times of foot traffic, we encourage the use of the main and lower lobbies.

Class Attendance

Attending class regularly is essential for proper development. Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared to dance. Students who arrive tardy may be asked to participate through observation. If a student isn't feeling well, they are welcome to request to attend virtually.

Class Observation Week & Final Class Showings

Class Observation Week and Final Class Showings offers friends and families an opportunity to witness the achievements of our students. Event dates are available in the semester calendar and event details will be communicated through email.

Communication

Email is the main way we communicate with our dance families. Please confirm that all contact information is up-to-date. Via email, you will receive class announcements, monthly newsletters, and upcoming event reminders. Additional emails can be added to your students account to ensure emails are being sent to all relevant caregivers.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion + Belonging Policy

As an arts organization whose vision is that art is for everyone, we at the Lawrence Arts Center are committed to cultivating a safe, inclusive and welcoming community for anyone who steps through our doors and to take action when this ideal is not upheld. Any instance of discrimination, racism, misogyny or aggression will not be tolerated, will be addressed immediately and may have consequences of being removed from our community. This aims to create the healthy boundaries we need to protect decency, be open to dialog in teachable moments, be actively antiracist, and be decisive with egregious behavior.

How to Reserve a Dance Studio:

Inquire about studio availability by sending an email to dance@lawrenceartscenter.org. Please note that:

- Reservation requests must be made at least 2 days in advance during 9-5pm, M-F. Studios can't be reserved more than 3 weeks in advance.
- Students under the age of 18 require an adult to reserve studio space. The adult will be liable for damage to sound equipment or the studio.
- Studio usage CAN ONLY be used for individual practice by a currently enrolled student. Group practice is not allowed without prior permission from the program director.
- Studio use CANNOT be for any activity that may compete with Lawrence Arts Center programming without permission from the program director (such as in-person/virtual group lessons, teacher training sessions, etc...).
- LAC reserves the right to cancel room reservation and refund the rental fee.
- Studio rental fees will be posted to the account of the primary contact.
- Account balances should be paid promptly and can be done by contacting the front desk.

Inclement Weather

- When conditions are unsafe for travel for students and faculty, the Lawrence Arts Center will announce cancellations and closures via social media, our website, the Lawrence Journal-World, KPR 91.5FM, and KLWN 1320AM. All registered students will be informed by email.
- Daytime class cancellations will be announced by 10:00 pm the night before when possible, and no later than 7:00 am the morning of. Evening class cancellations, including production rehearsals, will be announced by 2:00 pm the day of. Event rentals and Arts Center performances will only be canceled if KDOT closes highways due to inclement weather or a state of emergency is placed in our area. Arts-based preschool and kindergarten will automatically be canceled when USD 497 classes are canceled. The Lawrence Arts Center will offer make-up classes when possible. If there is no announcement, classes will be held as scheduled!

Lost & Found

The School of Dance keeps Lost & Found in the Dressing Room outside of the studios for the following items: dance attire, dance shoes, and miscellaneous items. Please note that items left in the Lost & Found after four weeks will be donated to area charities.

Progress Reports/Level Placement

- Progress Reports are intended to communicate where a student is developmentally and to encourage growth. Students should expect to remain at the same level for a minimum of 2 years. Students develop at different rates and level placement is not an indicator of their talent and personal growth.
- Student level placement is tentative during the first two weeks of Fall classes. We reserve the right to adjust a student's placement in order to provide the best training possible. Progress reports are delivered electronically at the end of Fall and Winter-Spring sessions. The Winter-Spring report

includes the recommended level placement for the following year. Please note that level placement is only applicable for skill-based classes. For age/grade-based classes, enroll accordingly.

Studio Use Policy

****Dance Studio Rentals Managed By School Of Dance**

Rental: \$15/hr (for associated instructors and students only. Studio use cannot be for group classes or events but only for private practice with or without an instructor).

Student Code of Conduct

SEEK opportunities to challenge yourself and grow.

HAVE the courage to create and ask questions.

ARRIVE at each class on time and properly attired.

RESPECT the instructors and others.

ENGAGE in the learning process.

Studio Etiquette

Only students, instructors, and Arts Center staff are permitted inside the studios unless otherwise invited. A staff member must be present in a studio for children to enter the room. All studio equipment, including multimedia equipment and the pianos, is for staff use only. No food or drink in the dance studios. Sealed water bottles are permitted. No street shoes. Hip Hop shoes must be clean.

Social Media

Students and families should exercise the utmost caution when participating in any form of social media or digital communication. We strongly encourage parents to speak with their children before the start of the semester and periodically throughout the year about the appropriate use of social media and digital communication. No photos or videos in dressing rooms and restrooms.

How To Join The School Of Dance

FIND A CLASS OR EVENT

Class and events listings can be found on our website and in our Course Catalog (released each fall, winter-spring, and summer sessions)

TRY IT BEFORE YOU BUY IT!

- Give any dance class a try before enrolling. Call the front desk for more information about discounts and trial classes.
- Prospective students can trial select classes at no cost.
- New students enrolling in classes level II and up might require a level placement.

ENROLL & PAY

Available online:

- Enrollment for members and non-members (requires full payment at checkout)
- The Dance Bundle Discount is eligible whenever there are 3 or more dance classes in your cart at check-out.

Available at the Front Desk:

- A minimum of 10% of the total tuition cost is due as a down payment.
- Payment Plans are available and must be paid in full before the end of each session.
- Payment by paper check. Must be made payable to "Lawrence Arts Center".
- The Dance Bundle Discount can be applied to additional classes.
- Financial Aid & Scholarship Applications and Award Processing
- Transferring classes and applying credits: Students may transfer between classes of the same or lesser level/age requirement at their discretion. However, all discretionary transfers are subject to space availability and a \$10 transfer fee. Payments toward tuition are transferable. In cases where previously made payments exceed the tuition of the class being transferred to, the balance will be returned as a credit. Credits can only be applied to class tuition and cannot be applied to ticket sales or merchandise such as DVDs or T-shirt order sales. Class/level transfers at the recommendation of the Dance Faculty and School of Dance Director will not incur a transfer fee.

Dance Bundle Discount (20% off tuition)

Individuals and families who enroll in three or more weekly dance classes receive a 20% discount. Cannot be combined with any other discount or proration. After initial enrollment, those who wish to add consecutive classes at the discounted rate must do so via the Front Desk.

Drop-In Class Cards

Introducing the School of Dance Drop-In Class Cards! Want to try out a class or two? Can only attend 3 classes during the session? Want to mix and match classes? This is for you! Drop in to any of our class card-eligible classes! Stop by the front desk to get your class cards.

Scholarships

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available for students who qualify based on household income. Financial aid is awarded throughout the year for youth and adults as funds are available. Applications and more information are available at the front desk and online.

Boys Dance

The School of Dance offers scholarships for young men who demonstrate an interest in the field of dance. To be eligible, applicants must be between 2nd-12th grade, have trained at the School of Dance for a minimum of one year, and are endorsed with a reference from a School of Dance faculty member. In addition, scholarship awardees agree to meet with the Dance Program Director each semester. Scholarships awarded can be used to cover 50 percent of dance class tuition during the Fall and Winter-Spring semesters. Interested applicants should contact Claire Buss, Dance Program Director, at claire@lawrenceartscenter.org for more details

Carmin Balletto

Established in 1997, the Carmin Balletto Scholarship is awarded to students who have demonstrated excellence and commitment in dance. Encouraging the study of ballet and a lifelong devotion to dance, the scholarship covers the cost of four ballet and pointe classes per week, as well as all production and participation fees during the Fall & Winter/Spring semesters. Awardees are required to serve as teachers' assistants for one Preschool/Kinder class per week, and must currently be enrolled in Ballet IV-VII to audition. To apply, students must attend a scheduled in-person audition.

Class-Specific Attire And Policies

General Policies and Information:

- During the Summer Session, any color leotard is permitted.
- Gender Non-Conforming Attire: Permitted to mix-matched listed attire options for each class to create a uniform that feels comfortable and productive.



LITTLE MOVERS - PRESCHOOL DANCE

Female-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** Black leotard (any style), white footless tights or footless dance leggings
- **SHOES:** Barefoot
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the eyes

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** Athletic shorts or pants and T-shirt
- **SHOES:** Barefoot
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the eyes

Policies:

- Caregivers should **take their child to the bathroom** prior to each class.
- Students are expected to be potty-trained.
- Students should be able to follow two-step instructions.
- Students and caregivers must follow strict drop-off/pick-up policies.



LITTLE MOVERS - KINDER BALLET

Female-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** Pink leotard (any style), pink ballet tights
 - (Suggestions: Capezio - CC100c, Eurotard - 4464c, 44527c or 1064c)
- **SHOES:** Pink ballet slippers
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the eyes

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** White T-shirt, undergarments, black dance tights/fitted pants/shorts
- **SHOES:** Black ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the eyes

Policies:

- Caregivers should **take their child to the bathroom** prior to each class.
- Students are expected to be potty-trained.
- Students should be able to follow two-step instructions.
- Students and caregivers must follow strict drop-off/pick-up policies.



INTRO TO BALLET

Female-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** Light pink leotard, pink ballet tights
 - (Suggestions: Capezio - CC100c, Eurotard - 4464c, 44527c or 1064c)
- **SHOES:** Pink ballet slippers
- **HAIR:** Must be secured away from the face in a bun or ponytail

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** White T-shirt, undergarments, black dance tights/fitted pants/shorts
- **SHOES:** Black ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Caregivers should **take their child to the bathroom** prior to each class.
- Students are expected to be potty-trained.
- Students should be able to follow two-step instructions.
- Students and caregivers must follow strict drop-off/pick-up policies.
- During the winter/spring semester, this class **will perform in the end-of-year showcase**, in May 2027.



BALLET I

Female-Identifying:

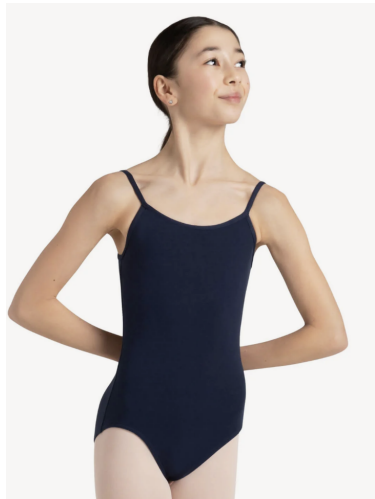
- **ATTIRE:** Light blue leotard, pink ballet tights
 - (Suggestions: Capezio - CC100C or CC01C, Eurotard - 4419c, 44527c, 1089)
- **SHOES:** Pink ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Must be secured away from the face and in a bun, if possible

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** White T-shirt, nude dance belt, black dance tights
- **SHOES:** black ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Ballet I follows a strict drop-off/pick-up policy.
- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.



BALLET II

Female-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** Navy blue leotard, pink ballet tights
 - (Suggestions: Capezio - CC100CEurotard - 44822c, 44819c, 10527c)
- **SHOES:** Pink ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Must be secured away from the face and in a bun, if possible

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** White T-shirt, nude dance belt, black dance tights
- **SHOES:** black ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Ballet I follows a strict drop-off/pick-up policy.
- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.



BALLET III

Female-Identifying:

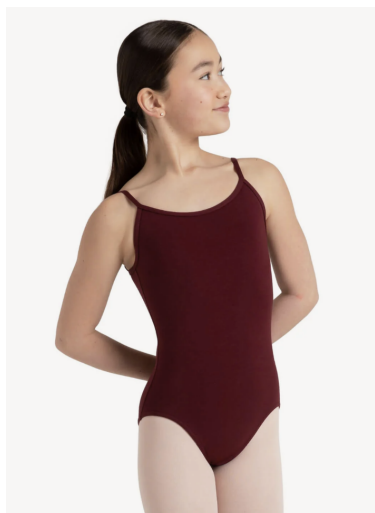
- **ATTIRE:** Hunter green leotard, pink ballet tights
 - (Suggestions: Capezio - CC201c, CC102c, Eurotard - 10527c)
- **SHOES:** Pink ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Must be secured away from the face and **in a bun**

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** White T-shirt, nude dance belt, black dance tights
- **SHOES:** black ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Students at this level are required to take **two** ballet classes per week.
- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.



BALLET IV

Female-Identifying:

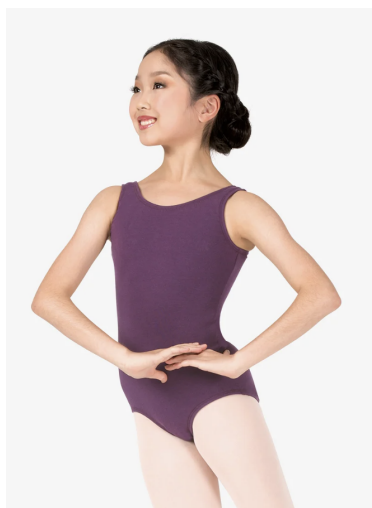
- **ATTIRE:** Burgundy leotard, pink ballet tights
 - (Suggestions: Capezio - CC102, Eurotard - 44822c, 44822, 44819c, 44819, 10527c, 10527)
- **SHOES:** Pink ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Must be secured away from the face and in a bun, if possible

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** White T-shirt, nude dance belt, black dance tights
- **SHOES:** black ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Students at this level are required to take **two** ballet classes per week.
- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.



BALLET V

Female-Identifying:

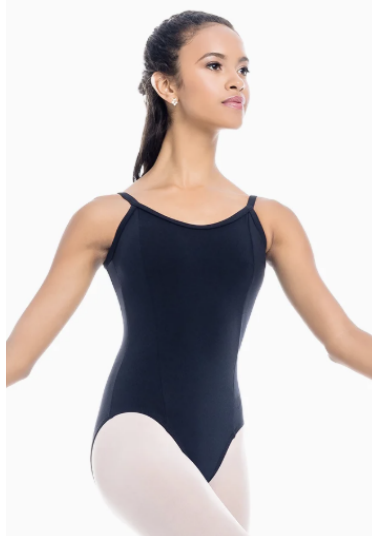
- **ATTIRE:** Eggplant leotard, pink ballet tights
 - (Suggestions: Eurotard - 44819, 44822, 4464)
- **SHOES:** Pink ballet shoes
- **POINTE SHOES:** Teacher consultation is required before purchasing pointe shoes.
 - Beginning Pointe students should refrain from purchasing pointe shoes until given further instruction.
- **HAIR:** Must be secured away from the face and **in a bun**

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** White T-shirt, nude dance belt, black dance tights
- **SHOES:** Black ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Students at this level are required to take **four** ballet classes per week.
- Starting at level V, students are eligible to enroll in pre/beginning pointe classes.
- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.
- During the winter/spring semester, this class will perform in the end-of-year showcase in May 2027.



BALLET VI and VII

Female-Identifying:

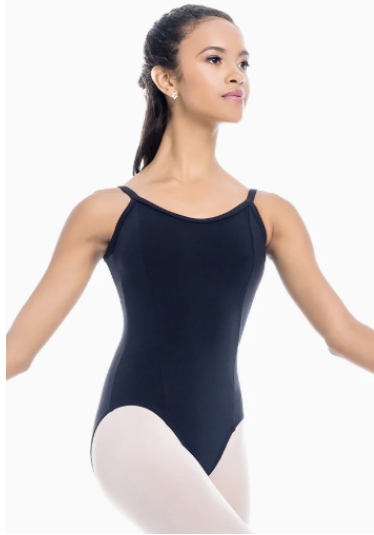
- **ATTIRE:** Black leotard, pink ballet tights
 - (Suggestions: Eurotard - 44822, 4488, 44726m)
- **SHOES:** Pink ballet shoes
- **POINTE SHOES:** Teacher consultation is required before purchasing pointe shoes.
 - Beginning Pointe students should refrain from purchasing pointe shoes until given further instruction.
- **HAIR:** Must be secured away from the face and **in a bun**

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** White T-shirt, nude dance belt, black dance tights
- **SHOES:** black ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Students at this level are required to take **four** ballet classes per week.
- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.
- During the winter/spring semester, this class will perform in the end-of-year showcase in May 2027.



TEEN BALLET CLASSES

Female-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** Black leotard of any style, pink ballet tights
- **SHOES:** Pink ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Must be secured away from the face and in a bun, if possible

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** White T-shirt, nude dance belt, black dance tights
- **SHOES:** black ballet shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.
- During the winter/spring semester, this class will perform in the end-of-year showcase, in May 2027.



CONTEMPORARY MOVEMENT & MODERN

- **ATTIRE:** Any color leotard leotard (or required ballet level leotard) or tight fitting shirt/tank top, black jazz pants or leggings that are easy to move in
- **SHOES:** Bare feet or socks
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Dancers 5th grade and under follow a strict drop-off/pick-up policy.
- During the winter/spring semester, this class will perform an end-of-year showcase in May 2027.

JAZZ & TAP

- **Attire:** Black top (leotard or athletic shirt), and black jazz pants
- **SHOES (TAP):** Oxford style tap shoes
- **SHOES (JAZZ):** Soft soled jazz shoes
- **HAIR:** Secured away from the face

Policies:

- Level I follows a strict drop-off/pick-up policy.
- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.
- During the winter/spring semester, this class will perform in the end-of-year showcase, in May 2027.

HIP HOP

- **ATTIRE:** Comfortable dance clothing (T-shirts, tank tops, jazz pants, etc); NO jeans.
- **SHOES:** Clean, soft-soled jazz shoes or sneakers

Policies:

- Level I classes follow a strict drop-off/pick-up policy.
- Shoes must be clean. Students with dirty shoes will be asked to remove them.
- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.
- During the winter/spring semester, this class will perform in the end-of-year showcase, in May 2027.

IRISH DANCE

- **ATTIRE:** Black shorts or athletic pants; solid color T-shirt
- **SHOES:** black Irish, ballet, or other soft-shoes; hard shoes optional for Level II-III student

Policies:

- Intro and level I classes follow a strict drop-off/pick-up policy.
- Students at this level will receive a progress report after the fall and winter/spring semesters.
- During the winter/spring semester, this class will perform in the end-of-year showcase, in May 2027.

CHINESE DANCE

Female-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** Any style leotard; jazz/yoga pants
- **SHOES:** Soft ballet shoes

Male-Identifying:

- **ATTIRE:** Solid color shirt; jazz/yoga pants or footless tights
- **SHOES:** Soft ballet shoes

Policies:

- Intro and level I classes follow a strict drop-off/ pick-up policy.
- During the winter/spring semester, this class will perform in the end-of-year showcase, in May 2027.

ADULT DANCE ATTIRE

- There is no required attire for our adult dance classes. Adults may wear any athletic/dance wear they feel comfortable dancing in. Adults may wear any specific dance attire for the class (Leotard, tights, jazz pants, etc) but are not required to by any means. Adults may wear style specific shoes, socks, or barefeet. Any additional questions? Send us an email at dance@lawrenceartscenter.org and we are happy to help!



Where To Buy Dance Attire/Equipment

LAWRENCE

At the beginning of each semester, the School of Dance in partnership with Dance Shoppe of Kansas City hosts a pop-up store with various dance attire items for sale. This option is recommended for ballet, contemporary, jazz and tap genres. Information about this event is delivered via email.

KANSAS CITY

Dance Shoppe | danceshoppeinc.net
512 NW Englewood Road, Kansas City, MO 64118
(816) 455-1995

ONLINE

School of Dance Shop via Eurotard: <https://www.eurotard.com/v4/classes.aspx?studio=S-La2787>

Performance Opportunities & Pre-Professional Training

October 9-10 | LBT Presents *Transcendent: Excerpts from Giselle and Other Works*

Lawrence Ballet Theatre kicks off the season with an inspiring evening of dance on the Mainstage. Showcasing a variety of choreographic voices and styles, the Fall Mixed Bill celebrates the talent and artistry of LBT dancers in a compelling program of innovative and engaging works.

Dec. 4 | Winter Dance Sharing

Join us for a celebration of dance! The Winter Dance Sharing brings together students from Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Irish Dance, Chinese Dance, and Hip Hop classes for a special evening performance. This informal showcase offers dancers the opportunity to share their progress and artistry with family and friends while celebrating the joy of movement and community. We look forward to sharing the season with you through dance.

Dec. 11-13 | Lawrence Arts Center's *The Nutcracker, A Kansas Ballet 2026*

December 11 | 7 PM

December 12 | 2 PM & 7 PM

December 13 | 2 PM & 7 PM

Experience the sensation and charm of the Lawrence Arts Center's original production. A winter family favorite, this ballet is based on E.T.A. Hoffman's original story and set in Kansas during the Civil War. Witness the magic and wonder of this story as Drosselmeyer and Clara defeat the Mouse King and liberate the Nutcracker from his enchanted form.

School of Dance Spring Production (Title TBA)

Mar.

Every spring, the School of Dance presents dynamic multi-genre dance production on the main stage. Details will be announced by December.

School of Dance's *End of Year Showcase*

May 21 & 22

During the Winter/Spring semesters youth classes prepare a dance piece to be performed in the School of Dance's End of Year Showcase. This event is a crucial component of the dance curriculum and demonstrates the artistic growth of every student and class.

Showcase Attire

To keep costume prices low, the School of Dance carefully considers costume assignments for each class. Usually, students will use part of their class's dress attire as a base costume and/or will be provided a costume. If necessary, the students will be asked to purchase specified items. Students are responsible for purchasing their own hair/makeup supplies as assigned by class.

Dress Rehearsal

Dress rehearsals occur during class time during the final week of Winter/Spring classes. It is crucial for every student to attend. Detailed information will be made available in the spring via email.

Graduating High School Seniors

Graduating seniors who have attended the School of Dance for at least two years and are currently enrolled in Ballet V-VII, Irish Dance III, Hip Hop III, Jazz III, Modern II, and Tap IV are provided the honor of performing a solo at the End of Year Showcase. If you are an interested senior, you must contact the School of Dance Director directly for more information. Seniors who are not eligible for a solo can still be featured in the lobby with a Senior Board.

Choreography Showcase | SUMMER 2027

This event is for choreographers to showcase self-choreographed dance works in a supportive and encouraging environment. Choreographers are responsible for selecting and rehearsing their dances for the show.

Lawrence Dance Intensive

Since 2016, the Lawrence Dance Intensive (LDI) has connected regional dancers with distinguished instructors and guest artists to enrich students' skills and artistry. This summer, LDI returns to host a series of summer programs for contemporary and ballet dancers ages 10-21 years. Based on a diverse and well-balanced curriculum, this program strives to develop the artists of tomorrow. No pre-screening or audition is required to attend. Dancers must meet the age requirement by the start of the intensive and dance at an Intermediate/Advanced level. Senior Intensives may include a level assessment on the first day of the program.

Lawrence Ballet Theatre

Lawrence Ballet Theatre Company Lawrence Ballet Theatre (LBT) is the resident pre-professional ballet company of the Lawrence Arts Center. The mission of Lawrence Ballet Theatre is to provide extensive training and performance opportunities and to broaden connections to the dance community. Led by Artistic Director Liat Roth, company members gain exposure and experience through numerous performances of classical ballet repertoire and original works. LBT dancers work directly with professional guest choreographers in addition to their work with the artistic director. Lawrence Ballet Theatre is a member company of the prestigious Regional Dance America/MidStates. Each year, Lawrence Ballet Theatre attends the annual RDA/Midstates Festival held in various cities across the Midwest.

Auditions and Participation

Auditions are held each year for company members and apprentices. To be considered for LBT, applicants must attend a formal audition. Members are expected to meet requirements set by the artistic director and commit to a full year as a company member.

Requirements

Company members & apprentices are required to:

- Be at least 11 years of age or older.
- Take three ballet technique classes per week.
- Take one additional dance technique class of any style per week.
- Attend all weekly company rehearsals (4-5 hours per week) and additional rehearsals during production weeks.
- Be available to perform at scheduled events/concerts



lawrenceartscenter