



# 2026 CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS HANDBOOK

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

Mission Statement & IDEA Statement

04-05

Academy Staff, Faculty & Contact

06 - 07

Workshops offered

08

Summer Calendar

09

Registration Information

10

Tuition & Fees

11

Academy Procedures

- Arrival & Departure
- Attendance
- Injury Policy
- Evaluations/Private Lessons
- Observations
- Academy Rules & Policies

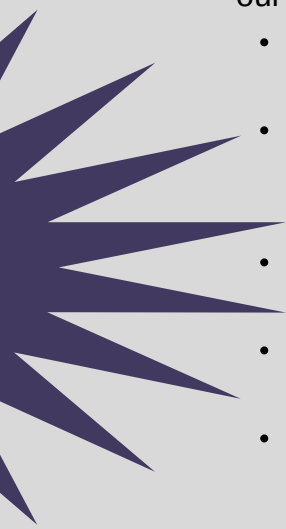
12-13

Class Attire

# HOUSTON BALLET MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire a lasting love and appreciation for dance through artistic excellence, exhilarating performances, innovative choreography, and superb educational programs.

In furtherance of our mission, we are committed to maintaining and improving our status as:

- 
- A **classically trained company with a diverse repertory** whose range includes the classics as well as contemporary works.
  - A company that **attracts the world's best dancers and choreographers** and provides them with an **environment where they can thrive** and further develop the art form.
  - An **international company** that is accessible to broad and growing local, national, and international audiences.
  - A company with a **world-class Academy** that provides first rate instruction for dancers.
  - A company that offers **high-quality dance educational programming** prioritizing historically underserved communities in Houston and the surrounding area.
  - A company with **state-of-the-art** facilities for performances, rehearsals, and ongoing operations.

## Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Statement

Houston Ballet is dedicated to creating meaningful change by cultivating a space that honors what is unique in all of us. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) are instrumental in the fulfillment of our mission and values. We recognize our responsibility to be an inclusive and open organization for students, artists, staff, trustees, and volunteers of all backgrounds.

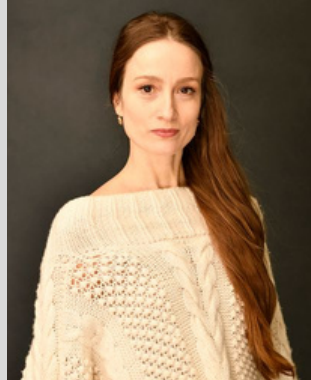
Join us, together we are Houston Ballet.



# MEET THE ACADEMY



**Stanton Welch**  
Artistic Director,  
Member of the Order of  
Australia



**Julie Kent**  
Artistic Director



**Sonja Kostich**  
Executive Director



**Jennifer Sommers**  
Academy Director



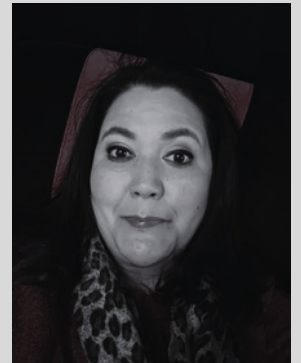
**Yahudi Castañeda**  
Academy Artistic Operations  
Associate Director



**Katie Wesche**  
Academy Administrative  
Associate Director



**Kaitlyn Louis**  
Associate Director  
of Student Life



**Carla Cortez**  
Academy Communications  
Manager



**Jamie Cegelski**  
Academy Programs Manager



**Reagan Quandt**  
Academy Artistic Operations  
Coordinator



**Kaitlyn Watson**  
Academy Administrative  
Coordinator



**Angela Flores**  
Academy Student Support  
Coordinator



# ACADEMY ARTISTIC STAFF



**Beth Everitt**  
Associate Director of  
Programs and  
Performances



**Betsy McMillan**  
Lower School  
Principal

## ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS



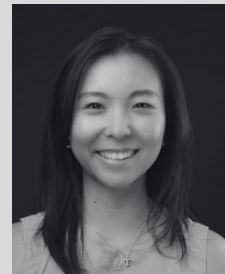
Carla Flores



Lucinda Rohrer



Holda Torres



Jasmine Yoo

## ACADEMY CONTACT INFORMATION

Summer Program classes are held at the Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance.

### **Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance Address:**

601 Preston Street  
Houston, TX 77002

### **Administrative Offices Phone Number:**

713-523-6300

### **Please send all Academy questions to:**

[hbacademy@houstonballet.org](mailto:hbacademy@houstonballet.org)

### **Houston Ballet Summer Programs Webpage:**

<https://www.houstonballet.org/about/academy1/summer-intensive-program/>



# CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

Week-long workshop opportunities for students ages 4-7. No audition required for any of our Children's Workshops.

## **Boys Workshop**

Join us for an empowering dance workshop designed exclusively for boys! This week-long program will equip students with the essential skills to build strength, technique, and confidence on their dance journey.

**Dates: June 1 – 5, 2026**

Group A: Less Than 3 Years Experience: 4:30 – 7:00 pm

Group B: 3+ Years Experience: 4:30 – 7:45 pm

## **Little Dancer Workshops**

**AGES 4 – 6 (MUST BE AT LEAST 4 YEARS OLD BY THE START OF THE WORKSHOP)**

These week-long workshops explore creative movement and discovery alongside learning beginning ballet steps. Each child will gain awareness of music, rhythm, muscular strength, and coordination. This class emphasizes creative self-expression through movement to music.

### **Week 1: Ballet Heroes**

**June 8 – 12, 2026, 2:30 – 4:00 pm**

Dancers will explore movement and choreography through ballet's bravest heroes.

### **Week 2: Ballet Animals**

**June 15 – 18, 2026, 2:30 – 4:00 pm**

Dancers will explore movement and music through ballet's most beloved animal characters.

### **Week 3: Ballet Villains**

**July 27 – 31, 2026, 2:30 – 4:00 pm**

Dancers will explore movement and pantomime through ballet's biggest villains.

### **Week 4: Ballet Magic and Myths**

**August 3 – 7, 2026, 2:30 – 4:00 pm**

Dancers will explore movement and stage decor through ballet's most mystical characters.

# CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

## Elementary Children's Workshop

**AGES 6-7 (MUST BE AT LEAST 6 YEARS OLD AS OF 9/1/2025)**

These week-long workshops are a young dancer's introduction to classical ballet techniques and vocabulary. Students will learn and develop musical appreciation – this includes both quality and rhythm, as well as the coordination of their movements to the music. Classes are structured to provide a strong foundation as students move into the Pre-Professional Program the following year. In addition to physical strength, students also develop memory and patterning skills, as well as following specific directions.

### **Dates:**

Week 1: June 8 – 12, 2026

Week 2: June 15 – 18, 2026

Week 3: July 27 – 31, 2026

Week 4: August 3 – 7, 2026

### **Times:**

Section A: 2:30 – 4:30 pm

Section B: 4:30 – 6:30 pm

## The Nutcracker Workshop\*

**AGES 4-7 (MUST BE AT LEAST 4 YEARS OLD BY THE START OF THE WORKSHOP)**

Step into the magical world of The Nutcracker! In this week-long workshop, students will explore the beloved story while engaging in movement and crafting activities inspired by the ballet.

**Dates: July 20-24, 2026**

### **Times:**

Ages 4 - 5: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Ages 6 - 7: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

\*Enrollment includes a discount code for tickets to a 2026 performance of Houston Ballet's *The Nutcracker* .

# SUMMER CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP CALENDAR

All dates and times are subject to change.

<b>December 15, 2025</b>	Registration Opens for Current Students
<b>January 9, 2026</b>	Registration Opens for New Students
<b>June 1 - 5, 2026</b>	<b>Boys Workshop</b> Less than 3 Years Experience: 4:30pm - 7:00pm 3+ Years Experience: 4:30pm – 7:45pm
<b>June 8 – 12, 2026</b>	<b>Little Dancer Workshop</b> Week 1: 2:30pm - 4:00pm <b>Elementary Workshops</b> Week 1: Section A 2:30pm - 4:00pm Section B 4:30pm - 6:30pm
<b>June 15 – 18, 2026</b>	<b>Little Dancer Workshop</b> Week 2: 2:30pm - 4:00pm <b>Elementary Workshops</b> Week 2: Section A 2:30pm - 4:00pm Section B 4:30pm - 6:30pm
<b>July 20 - 24 2026</b>	<b>The Nutcracker Workshop</b> Ages 4 - 6: 1:00pm - 3:00pm Ages 6 - 8: 4:00pm - 6:00pm
<b>July 27 – 31, 2026</b>	<b>Little Dancer Workshop</b> Week 3: 2:30pm - 4:00pm <b>Elementary Workshops</b> Week 3: Section A 2:30pm - 4:00pm Section B 4:30pm - 6:30pm
<b>August 3 – 7, 2026</b>	<b>Little Dancer Workshop</b> Week 4: 2:30pm - 4:00pm <b>Elementary Workshops</b> Week 4: Section A 2:30pm - 4:00pm Section B 4:30pm - 6:30pm



# Registration

*\*Times are subject to change.*

<b>Boys Workshop</b> Ages 8-15 - must be at least 8 years old as of 6/1/2026 Birthdate Range: 6/2/2010-6/1/2018	
<b>Group A</b> (under 3 years experience) 4:30pm - 7:00pm	<b>Group B</b> (3+ years experience) 4:30pm - 7:45pm
<b>Little Dancer Workshops</b> Ages 4-6 - must be at least 4 years old as of 9/1/2025 Birthdate Range: 9/2/2019-9/1/2021  2:30pm – 4:00pm	
<b>Elementary Workshops</b> Ages 6-7 - must be at least 6 years old as of 9/1/2025 Birthdate Range: 9/2/2018-9/1/2019	
<b>Section A</b> 2:30pm - 4:00pm	<b>Section B</b> 4:30pm - 6:30pm
<b>The Nutcracker Workshop*</b> Ages 4-7 - must be at least 4 years old as of 7/20/2026 Birthdate Range: 7/21/2018-7/20/2022	
<b>Ages 4-5</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm	<b>Ages 6-7</b> 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Registration and payment (tuition and fees) are due at the time of registration to secure their enrollment. Registration will close once level/section caps are reached.

\*Registration and payment for the Children's Workshops, *The Nutcracker*, include a discount code for a selected Houston Ballet company performance. The discount code will be sent during the week of The Nutcracker Workshop.

## Withdrawal Policy

If a student wishes to withdraw from the Preschool Summer Classes, the Academy Administrative Office must receive a completed Withdrawal Form available in your PowerSchool Parent Portal. Verbal notification of withdrawal will not be accepted. Please refer to the refund policy on the next page.

# Tuition & Fees

Elementary Children's Workshop Week 1: June 8 – 12, 2026: **\$300.00**

Elementary Children's Workshop Week 2: June 15 – 18, 2026: **\$250.00**

Elementary Children's Workshop Week 3: July 27 – 31, 2026: **\$300.00**

Elementary Children's Workshop Week 4: August 3 – 7, 2026: **\$300.00**

Boys Workshop Group A Less Than 3 Years Experience: **\$300.00**

Boys Workshop Group B 3+ Years Experience: **\$325.00**

Children's Workshop - *Ballet Heroes* Week 1: **\$300.00**

Children's Workshop - *Ballet Animals* Week 2: **\$250.00**

Children's Workshop - *Ballet Villains* Week 3: **\$300.00**

Children's Workshop - *Ballet Magic & Myths* Week 4: **\$300.00**

The Nutcracker Workshop Ages 4-5: **\$300.00**

**Enrollment includes a discount code for tickets to a 2026 performance of Houston Ballet's *The Nutcracker* .**

The Nutcracker Workshop Ages 6-7: **\$300.00**

**Enrollment includes a discount code for tickets to a 2026 performance of Houston Ballet's *The Nutcracker* .**

**Registration fee and tuition are due at the time of registration.**

Houston Ballet accepts checks\*, cashier's checks, cash, ACH<sup>+</sup>, or credit cards<sup>+</sup>.

Payments may be mailed, hand-delivered, completed online, or phoned into the Academy office.

\*If a check is returned for any reason, a \$25 fee will be charged. The fee must be paid in cash within one week from the time the owner of the account is notified.

<sup>+</sup>ACH payments incur a processing fee of \$1.50 per transaction. Credit card payments incur a processing fee of \$2.75 per \$99.99.

**Refund Policy:** All fees and ¼ of tuition are nonrefundable and nontransferable. The remaining tuition is refundable before May 1, 2026. Formal withdrawal must be received before May 1, 2026, to be eligible for any refund. All fees and tuition are nonrefundable and nontransferable after May 1, 2026.

## **Houston Ballet Academy Rules & Policies**

Houston Ballet Academy rules and policies can be found [HERE](#). We recommend reviewing this document in addition to the Summer Program Handbook. This document includes overall rules for the Center for Dance, proper student/employee engagement, non-discrimination/non-harassment policy, anti-bullying policy, media & social media policies, health policies, and releases included in the registration form.

# Academy Procedures

## Arrival & Departure

- Parking options are listed [HERE](#).
- Families may use the driveway, entering from Congress Street.
  - Students being dropped off should use the far-left lane
  - Students being picked up should use the far-right lane
  - The middle lane should be clear for those to pass



## Driveway Policies

- Students will not be allowed into the building until 15 minutes prior to the start of class.
- Please do not arrive to pick up your student until the end of the student's class. For example, if your student's class ends at 10:00AM, please do not enter the driveway until 10:00AM.
- Do not drop off or pick up students on the roads next to the Center for Dance.
- Families cannot park in the driveway.
- If you are in the driveway, do not drop off your student near the underground garage entrance or make the student walk up the ramp. They must be dropped off near the Preston Street entrance.

Always follow instructions provided by HPD officers, security guards, and class monitors at the Center for Dance and all City of Houston driving/parking regulations.

## Attendance

- Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late to class may not be permitted to participate in class. This is at the teacher's discretion and for the safety of the student.
- If a student is absent, complete the absence notification form found in your Power School Safe Arrival School Messenger application. Please note that we are unable to accommodate make-up classes during the summer.
- Tuition will not be prorated for missed classes.

## Injury & Illness

The Houston Ballet Academy employs thoroughly trained instructors and utmost care is given to all students; however, the Academy cannot be responsible for any injuries sustained by a student. If a student becomes ill or injured, the student or instructor should notify an Academy staff member immediately. If a student is ill or injured, the parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the student for the remainder of the day.

## Evaluations & Private Lessons

There are no formal evaluations/assessments given during the summer program.

Private lessons or studio use for private use during the summer program are not allowed.

## Observations

On the final day of each workshop session, families will be invited to attend a class observation for the last ten minutes of class. Please keep guests to a maximum of 2 per student.

# Class Attire

## Little Dancer Workshops Elementary Workshops The Nutcracker Workshop

**Leotard:** Wear Moi style Coralie - cap sleeve leotard  
**Tights:** CONVERTIBLE TIGHTS Bloch T0982G| T0982L

**Color:** Pink or Skin Tone

**Shoes:** S0205g/S0205L Full Sole Leather Ballet Shoe

**Color:** Pink or Skin Tone

**OR**

**Shirt:** Wear Moi style Conrad - white

**Shorts:** Eurotard 33440C/33440 Unisex Long Legged Dance Short

**Color:** Black

**Shoes:** Bloch: S0205g/S0205L Full Sole Leather Ballet Shoe

**Color:** Black

**Socks:** White

## Boys Workshop

**Shirt:** Wear Moi style Conrad

**Color:** White

**Shorts:** Eurotard 33440C/33440 Unisex Long Legged Dance Short

**Color:** Black

**Shoes:** Bloch S0205g/S0205L Full Sole Leather Ballet Shoe

**Color:** Black

**Socks:** White

## Sample Skin Tone-Inclusive Shoes & Tights Matching Guide

	Blendz Tights	Shoe Options
Confident Cocoa		Blendz Confident Cocoa  Spray Fashion Brown 
Brazen Brown		Blendz Brazen Brown  Capezio Mocha  Spray Tan 
Maven Mahogany		Blendz Maven Mahogany  Spray Bark 
Tenacious Tan		Blendz Tenacious Tan  Capezio Light Suntan  Capezio Nude  Spray Chamois 

# Attire Procedures

- Students should have their hair pulled back away from the face and secured neatly in a ballet bun. Students with short hair should wear a headband and secure their hair at the back. For more information on Houston Ballet Academy's hair requirements for most students, please see our bun tutorial [HERE](#).
- Students should have their hair neatly groomed and pulled back away from the face.
- Students with hair that is in braids, twists, or locs should secure hair back, without loose ends, and off the nape of the neck.
- Leg warmers and sweatpants are not allowed to be worn in class.
- Students may wear one pair of earring studs. No other jewelry may be worn.
- Students should not wear dance clothes as street wear outside the Houston Ballet Center for Dance
- Students should not apply lotion in the studios or apply lotion to the skin on days when they will be doing floor work. Lotion and oils can create slick spots on the studio floor.

## Purchasing Attire

Houston Ballet does not have a dance supply store on-site. Students should arrive at the start of the program with all required attire and shoes.

Uniform leotards and shirts can be purchased through our online site and in person at [Dance Trends](#) or [Apollo Dancewear](#). Leotards and shirts purchased via our website before May 15th will be shipped to the student, except for students with international addresses. Leotards and shirts purchased on or after May 15th will be held at the Center for Dance for pick-up.

For questions and concerns about HB Academy uniform online orders, contact Leslie Goodrum at [lgoodrum@houstonballet.org](mailto:lgoodrum@houstonballet.org).

For additional supplies, including tights and shoes, items may be purchased via online stores or one of the dance store options in the Houston area listed below. We recommend calling any store before arriving to ensure they have the needed items in stock.

Dance Trends  
14520 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 558-1400

Apollo Dancewear  
1502 Sawyer St #132,  
Houston, TX 77007  
(832) 205-1524

Jazz Rags Dancewear  
25701 Interstate 45 N #10a  
Spring, TX 77380  
(281) 364-1600