



2021–2022 Student Handbook



A Letter From CD&T

Dance knows no boundaries. It does not discriminate. It inspires, grows and flourishes by touching as many people as it can. It promotes happiness, tells stories, teaches valuable lessons and touches our hearts.

The Conservatory of Dance and Theatre provides quality ballet training in an exciting and encouraging environment for both the serious student as well as those who want to learn and have fun. We believe in teaching the basics of the art form to provide a solid foundation both mentally and physically. This foundation enables the student to understand and perform dance at any level. It allows the student to appreciate the true beauty of the art form.

Our faculty come to The Conservatory of Dance and Theatre from a combined 36 years in dance. Our instructors are currently or have been enrolled in pre-professional ballet companies, collegiate based programs, and have performed in countless productions.

Our greatest goal is to provide the highest quality ballet education in a fun, safe, non-competitive and nurturing environment.

Our classes are designed to stimulate the enjoyment of dance while laying an important foundation for further training. As the student advances, the variety and intensity of the class work increases. Many of our students have gone on to careers in dance, while other students participate in dance for the exercise and pure enjoyment of the art form. We offer classes for beginning through advanced students, ages three to preteen.

The Conservatory of Dance and Theatre Student Handbook is a collection of student and parent conduct standards. It also serves as a resource, including important dates, policies, and procedures that define expectations, and other important documents pertaining to student responsibilities. Please read the Student Handbook and sign the agreement form located on the last page.

We are looking forward to a great dance year,
Ava, Kami & Sophie Beth
The Conservatory of Dance & Theatre Faculty



Children's Division Program

At The Conservatory of Dance and Theatre, nurturing a love of dance at a young age sparks a true passion for the art form. The Children's Division builds a strong dance foundation by focusing on correct posture, placement, discipline, coordination, strength, flexibility and musicality. These classes are designed for our youngest dancers who want to express their independence without the assistance of their parents.

Creative Movement I (Approximate Ages 3-5)

Dancers will have fun learning pre-ballet movement to music through creative movement games. Class sizes are kept small to assure plenty of individual attention for our youngest dancers. Dancers will enjoy learning basic ballet terminology along with fun and engaging creative movement.

Pre-Ballet (Approximate Ages 5-7)

For students entering kindergarten and up. Dancers will enjoy this interactive class that builds on basic movements learned in Creative Movement but is still appropriate for first-time dancers. This class is an introduction to ballet with beginning development of ballet concepts including turn out, coordination, spatial awareness and a specific focus on class etiquette. Students will begin positions of the feet, and introductory movement vocabulary. This also includes an introduction to the ballet barre.

Ballet I (Approximate Ages 7-9)

Beginning ballet student. Students will learn classical ballet techniques and terminology. Each class includes barre exercises, center floor work, and across-the-floor combinations. Dancers will enjoy this interactive class that builds on basic movements learned in Pre-Ballet but is still appropriate for first-time dancers.



Student Attire Guidelines

The dress code is designed so students may be taught with the greatest efficiency. Students are expected to come to class wearing the required apparel. If possible, student's hair should be secured away from their face.

- ❖ Creative Movement: Pink tights and ballet shoes, leotard.
- ❖ Pre-Ballet: Pink tights and ballet shoes, leotard.
- ❖ Ballet I: Pink tights and ballet shoes, leotard.
- ❖ Boys: Black ballet shoes, white t-shirt, and black shorts or pants.

Please write your child's name in each of their dance shoes. The CD&T is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please help us help your children keep up with their dance shoes before and after each class. **We do not recommend wearing dance shoes outside of the studio where damage may more easily occur.**

Following a dress code makes the dancers take the class and themselves seriously by dressing the part. Dress code is important in every class, even the youngest classes, because it helps eliminate distractions. Leotards allow instructors to see the dancers' body lines. Baggy clothes mask these lines, obscuring essential aspects of technique for the instructor's critiques. In the winter months, dancers are permitted to wear tight-fitting ballet sweaters or tops. Ballet shoes are to be worn to each class as they allow for proper movement across the floor. Wearing tights is proper dance etiquette for any style of dance class. Tights are also worn because they protect legs from scratches and floor burn. Hair is to be pulled back and out of dancers faces for any style of dance. It is highly recommended for hair to be worn in a bun to avoid hair hitting the face.

When children wear their proper dance attire, it reminds them of where they are. This gets them in the mindset of learning. Not only does the dress code help with the class, but dressing like a dancer makes you feel more...like a dancer. Students in their proper ballet attire are typically so much more eager to learn and feel like they're a part of a group that has to work together. So please, do your best to observe the ballet dress code. If you need help with any aspect of it, please don't hesitate to ask a staff member before or after class.



Policies & Procedures

Please read the following carefully.

Discipline and Conduct: The CD&T students and parents should always conduct themselves in an appropriate, respectful, and professional manner. Adequate supervision must be given to siblings visiting The CD&T. It is dangerous and distracting to have young children running in the hallways or lobby. The CD&T reserves the right to suspend or dismiss any student, parent, guardian, or caregiver who chooses not to follow policy.

Harassment and Bullying: The CD&T is enriched by the diversity of its members. We recognize and respect individual differences in culture, race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, and sexual orientation. CD&T provides a welcoming environment of respect and sensitivity. It is important that all members of the community, (faculty, staff, students, and families) recognize that behavior, either verbal or physical, which disregards or demeans the self-esteem of others, is unacceptable. Such behaviors are unacceptable regardless of how they are communicated.

Enrollment: Enrollment is on a first come, first served basis. All registrations are processed in the order received. We reserve the right to cancel any classes due to insufficient enrollment. A minimum of 4 pupils are required. A \$25 registration fee is required upon enrollment and is nonrefundable.

Tuition: All tuition payments are due within the first week of each month. Tuition is considered late if it is not received in full by the 15th of the month. A \$15 late fee will be applied.

Attendance: Attending class is the responsibility of each student and family. No refunds are issued for absences.



Valuables: Students should not bring valuables to the CD&T. The CD&T cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen valuables in our facilities. Items found at the end of class will be stored in our “Lost and Found” box located in our dressing room. “Lost and Found” items will be donated to Goodwill after two months.

Contact Information: Please keep your email and phone number current with the office so that we can best communicate.

Important Studio Notices: You will receive notification of important studio notices and closings (in the case of inclement weather.) We will follow the Galax City Schools for weather and holiday closings.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Teachers and staff are available for private conferences. Please contact the studio office to request and schedule an appointment. Our schedule does not allow adequate time for private discussions between classes. Should you have a question that requires attention from staff, please email galaxballet21@gmail.com

Public Relations: The CD&T may take photographs or videos of your child in class or in performances during the dance season. This may be used for promotion videos and photographs for our social media. Please let us know if you’d rather us not share photographs of your student.

Observations: Parents and siblings are not allowed in the dance studios during any classes or rehearsals. Instructors may invite families to observe their dancers in class - only at the discretion of the instructor.

Class Etiquette: No food, gum, candy or drinks, with the exception of water in a sealed bottle. No cell phones. Proper dance attire must be worn in class– please refer to the student attire guidelines.



Agreement: The Conservatory of Dance & Theatre's Student Handbook This form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian if the student is under 18.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY: I do hereby release The Conservatory of Dance and Theatre and its staff from any liability occurring on or around the studio premise, or at any function held at other locations in connection with the dance class in which the student(s) named below is/are enrolled. I declare that the student(s) name below is/are in good health and can participate in dance education classes. Given the nature of dance classes I acknowledge that injuries sometimes might occur. In the event of an injury or emergency when I cannot be contacted, I give permission for you to obtain medical services for the student(s) name below. _____ (initial)

AUTHORIZATION FOR ENROLLMENT: I authorize The Conservatory of Dance and Theatre to enroll the student(s) named on this form in dance classes and I accept responsibility for the payment of tuition for these classes for which the student(s) is/are registered. I understand that classes with an enrollment of less than four pupils are subject to cancellation. _____ (initial)

I understand that the \$25 registration fee for classes are nonrefundable and that there are no refunds or deductions for classes not attended. _____ (initial)

I understand that I am responsible for being with my child before class starts and immediately after class ends. The CD&T does not have the staff to watch unattended children. _____ (initial)

I understand that the CD&T may take photographs or videos of my child in class or in performances during the dance season. I give my permission for the studio to make use of these materials as desired. _____ (initial)

I understand that students, parents, or guardians who do not follow the studio's policies or procedures will be dismissed and tuition forfeited. Please read the policies and procedures carefully as we enforce all rules. _____ (initial)

I have read, understood, and agreed to all terms of The CD&T Student Handbook Fall 2021. _____ (initial)



COVID-19

Our instructors and staff will...

- Clean/Disinfect frequently touched surfaces thoroughly and at regular intervals.
- Wash/Sanitize our hands before and after each session.
- Follow appropriate CDC Guidelines concerning masks.
- Maintain a safe distance at all times.
- Accommodate a limited number of students in each class to ensure physical distancing.
- Schedule classes so as to allow time for cleaning/disinfecting surfaces and allow students to finish and leave the studio before the next set of students arrive.
- Provide sanitizers in the reception area and other locations within the premises.

We are requesting that each of our students, please...

- Check temperature before entering the studio.
- Follow appropriate CDC Guidelines concerning masks.
- Maintain a safe distance from others at all times.
- Use the hand sanitizer before entering and while exiting the studio.
- Carry their own bottle for drinking water.

By signing below, I agree to each statement above and release CD&T from any and all liability for the unintentional exposure or harm due to COVID-19.

CD&T agrees to abide by these standards and affirms the same.

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed

Name: _____



Signature: _____

Date: _____