



Pacific Northwest Ballet School

Open Program Handbook 2023-2024

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Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility at PNB School

Pacific Northwest Ballet School has a long, committed history of diversity and inclusion coupled with a willingness to identify the need for systemic change within our School and field. The 1994 founding of DanceChance, the 1997 implementation of community education programs, and the 2019 addition of STG Dance for PD®[®], served as cornerstones of PNB School's commitment to offering dance to all.

Our School recognizes the benefits of dance reaching far beyond movement to music. Dance is a catalyst for confidence, creativity, collaboration, understanding, community, and self-esteem. Dance allows students of all ages to discover themselves and the possibilities of their expression.

In recent years, we have prioritized efforts to advance inclusion, diversity, equity, and access at PNB School, creating policy and programs that ensure every PNB student and family feels a sense of belonging, acceptance, and support. Our School honors students' preferred pronouns, limits gender references in class and in printed materials, provides gender neutral restrooms, offers the option of flesh-colored tights and shoes in all levels, and allows all students regardless of gender to train on pointe. The Mentorship Program, led by Company dancers, supports advanced students and the DanceChance Mentorship

Program pairs upper and lower level DanceChance alumni to foster connection. We serve as an LGBTQ+ safe space and are currently developing a Black affinity group to provide community and a forum for dialogue. Our faculty, staff, accompanists, and professional division students participate in ongoing racial equity training, with additional diversity training specific to instructors.

Additionally, we have established programming that offers focused opportunities for our students to nurture their artistic voices. New Voices and New Voices II provide choreography classes for young women in Levels VII and VIII. Our exchange program facilitates experiences for our students to study internationally and reciprocally hosts students from around the world at PNB School, through partnerships with Canada's National Ballet School, Royal Danish Ballet School, Paris Opera Ballet School and Palucca School in Dresden, Germany. In 2020, PNB School held two virtual open houses to welcome BIPOC students to PNB School's training and culture. Through the addition of Summer Course auditions at Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center, Baltimore School of the Arts, Alonzo King's Lines in San Francisco, two schools in Japan, annual participation in the International Audition for Blacks in Dance, and the opportunity to audition virtually, we hope to welcome a more diverse student population in our upper divisions.

Thank you for walking alongside us as we continue to learn so that we may together build a brighter tomorrow that is more aware, responsive, and inclusive to the needs of our students, families and community.

Please visit our website learn more about PNB's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility initiatives:

[About](#) | [PNB School](#) | [Pacific Northwest Ballet](#)

Pacific Northwest Ballet School offers classes for students age two through adult who enjoy dancing as well as for those who wish to pursue a professional career. Locations in Seattle and Bellevue feature beautiful state-of-the-art studios, sprung floors, regulation-height barres, spacious dressing rooms, a library, Pilates studio, student lounges and a parent waiting area. PNB School schedules 220 classes per week between the Seattle and Eastside locations.

Pacific Northwest Ballet School is a non-profit organization.

Pacific Northwest Ballet School reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this handbook concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, tuition, admission, evaluations and curricula.

Notice of Non-Discriminatory Policy Pacific Northwest Ballet School admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs or any other School administered programs.

OPEN PROGRAM

Open Program classes are offered on a *drop-in basis* to the general public ages 13 and older. Classes run from September-August and follow the PNB School calendar. Each class is 1.5 hours, with the exception of the Fundamentals Course where each class is 1 hour.

Levels & Descriptions

- **FUNDAMENTALS OF BALLET:** This class is a precursor to our Beginner I class and will break down basic ballet positions, terminology, and musicality to slowly build on your learning each week and enhance your skills as a novice dancer. Little to no ballet experience required.
 - This class is a 6 week course designed to be taken all 6 weeks, concurrently. Please note that classes are non-transferable, and there are no refund or make-up classes if you are unable to attend. Exceptions will be made in the case of an injury and corresponding doctor's note.
- **BEGINNER I:** The class is designed for novice dancers and will continue to focus and build on concepts such as ballet terminology, basic positions, and building strength. 1 year of classical ballet training recommended or completion of Fundamentals class.
- **BEGINNER II:** Upon proficiency in Beginner I, this class is the next level for those dancers looking to refine and enhance their skills, introduce new steps, and add a further challenge. 2 years of classical ballet training is recommended.
- **INTERMEDIATE I:** A more complex class than that of the beginner levels, this class is set at a quicker pace with more challenging and lengthier combinations. 2-4 years of classical ballet training is recommended.
- **INTERMEDIATE II:** This class is a middle ground for intermediate and advanced students. 3-4 years of classical ballet training is recommended.
- **ADVANCED I:** Our most challenging class with complex combinations and a focus on strong technique, musicality, and artistry as a dancer. 4+ years of classical ballet training is recommended.

Pricing & Payments

All registration and payment will be done online through Mindbody and pre-registration is required in order to attend class. Enrollment in any of the Open Program classes constitutes an agreement to a waiver of liability for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted while a student at the School.

Pricing Options

- Single Class \$18
- 5 Pack \$85
- 10 Pack \$160
- 20 Pack \$320

If you are a PNB Subscriber, there is a 20% discount. Please contact pnbschool@pnb.org to learn how to apply your discount.

If you have an unpaid balance on your account, after 7 days your card on file will be automatically charged to cover the amount owed.

Registration

Pre Registration through Mindbody is required in order to attend classes. You will not be permitted to attend class if you have not pre registered. Registration closes 1 hour prior to the start of class. If you have any questions, please email us at pnbschool@pnb.org or give us a call at 206.441.2435 (Seattle) or 425. 451.1241 (Bellevue).

Cancellation Policy

PNB requires a 12 hour notice of cancellation. You have the option to cancel your reservation yourself via MindBody or you are welcome to email us at pnbschool@pnb.org and we will cancel your reservation on your behalf.

Dress Code

All students are required to wear ballet appropriate clothing that allows for fluid movement during class. Jewelry and other accessories should be minimal: small earrings and watches at the teachers' discretion. All students are expected to follow proper hygienic care. Ballet technique shoes are required. Pointe shoes are permitted as desired by the student. PNB does not offer Open Program classes specific to pointe work.

FACULTY & STAFF

Pacific Northwest Ballet School's faculty are dedicated to the success of each student. They are carefully selected for their expertise in the dance and education fields, as well as their ability to motivate and nurture students. Our faculty is acclaimed nationwide. They come from many professional dance backgrounds and have performed for some of the world's most renowned ballet companies. Many are current and former Pacific Northwest Ballet

Principal dancers. To read our faculty bios, click [here](#).

All PNB School faculty members adhere to the Balanchine-based School syllabus, while bringing their unique background to the studio, giving students a broad dance background designed to meet the eclectic needs of dance companies today.

CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the policy of Pacific Northwest Ballet School to maintain a positive, healthy and productive learning and working environment for all students, staff and company dancers.

As part of their training, PNBS students are expected to behave in a responsible and disciplined manner and to adhere to the School's rules and regulations, both inside the PNBS facility and outside in the greater community as representatives of PNB. Students are expected to treat PNB staff with respect and maintain a positive attitude. PNBS strives to ensure that all rules are clear and reasonable, and students are expected to observe the established Code of Conduct. PNBS reserves the right to suspend or dismiss any student whose conduct or attitude is found to be unsatisfactory. Please respect the expertise and decisions of the PNB School faculty and staff.

The following are absolutely forbidden at all Pacific Northwest Ballet facilities:

- Firearms/Weapons: Any student possessing a firearm, explosive, knife, incendiary device, or any other weapon of any kind will be expelled.
- Alcohol and Drugs: Any student possessing, buying/selling, using, or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (including marijuana), or any student providing alcohol or drugs (including prescription drugs) to another student will be expelled.
- Physical or verbal intimidation/threats or injury
- Self-destructive behavior
- Sexual harassment
- Smoking: PNB is a non-smoking facility. Washington state law makes possession of tobacco by anyone under the age of 18 a misdemeanor. PNB School prohibits smoking on all PNB property and all Seattle Center grounds.
- Theft
- Verbal abuse, racist comments, microaggressions, bullying, intimidation, or harassment of any kind
- Improper use of the internet and/or posting questionable and/or disrespectful content to any social media site
- Willful destruction or misuse of PNBS or another person's property
- Photography and/or video recording in PNB studios at any time without prior written permission from PNB staff.

Any of the above actions will be reported immediately to the Managing Director, who will, in consultation with the Artistic Director, decide appropriate disciplinary action.

Consequences and penalties may include but are not limited to:

- Dismissal from the School

- Suspension from classes
- Fines
- Probation

If appropriate, students may also receive a referral to counseling in response to a report of any of the above behaviors.

Additional Building Rules

- Be respectful of the administrative staff by keeping noise to a minimum in the lobby areas.
- Food and drinks are restricted to the student lounge; gum is not allowed.
- Students are responsible for the disposal of their garbage and are expected to treat the facilities, furniture and equipment with respect.
- Use of Hot Stuff or “jet glue” for pointe shoes is prohibited inside the building
- Students are asked to remain on the main floor of each School. Students are expected to wait for class in the student lounge or quietly at their designated waiting area.
- All PNB pianos are off-limits for students.
- No fabric softener, baby powder, lotion, hot glue, or gum is permitted in the studios.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Cameras & Photography

Photography and/or videotaping of any kind is not allowed by students, guardians, and other visitors in the Phelps Center, the Francia Russell Center, and McCaw Hall without first obtaining written permission from PNB’s Media Relations Manager (or PNB School office for School-related events), notifying the dancers and/or students in advance, and – in the case of our union performers – getting approval for usage of said images, including internet and social media usage.

PNB prohibits photography and video recording for personal, educational or commercial use without written permission and/or accompaniment by PNB’s Media Relations Manager or other authorized PNB personnel. This applies to ALL still-camera and video photography (including cell phone cameras), anywhere in the building, whether or not they include company dancers, PNB School students, or PNB Conditioning clients. If you notice someone taking pictures or filming in our hallways or studios and you don’t feel comfortable confronting them directly, please notify the front desk and/or media relations manager Gary Tucker immediately.

Registration forms for all PNBS programs include an agreement which gives PNB and its authorized photographers permission to take photos of students in classes and/or performances to use in perpetuity for purposes of promoting Pacific Northwest Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet School.

Lost & Found

Lost and found bins are located outside of Studio G and in the school office at The Phelps Center and in the dressing rooms at The Francia Russell Center.

Parking

Metered street parking is available in the streets surrounding the Phelps Center. There is also a parking garage across the street for a fee as well.

Free parking is available at the Francia Russell Center.