Bridgeman Academy of Performing Arts

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Bridgeman Academy of Performing Arts
Pre-Professional Program Handbook, 2026-2027 Season

Pre-Professional Program Handbook

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Introduction

Welcome to the Bridgeman Academy Pre-Professional Program! We are excited that you have chosen to pursue your passion through our Academy. Regardless of your career path, we believe that everyone can find joy and purpose through dance and it is our mission to help students and parents reap those benefits in a way that is glorifying God.

The objective of this handbook is to keep our students and parents aligned and knowledgeable on all policies and procedures at Bridgeman Academy. Both students and parents should attempt to implement all items included in this handbook during their time at Bridgeman Academy so please take the time to read this handbook thoroughly. We continue to update this document annually to ensure the best possible experience for pre-professional students and their families.

Contact Information

ACADEMY LOCATION & MAILING ADDRESS
Persimmon Pointe Market | 1120 Technology Dr. Ste. 104 | O'Fallon, MO 63368

Tel: 636.244.1530
Email: info@bridgemanarts.com
Website: bridgemanarts.com

Owner/Director
Elizabeth Bridgeman
Email: elizabeth@bridgemanarts.com

Calendar 2026-2027

Dates in the below calendar are subject to change.

Pre-Season Dates

Ballet Production Auditions: May 9, 2026 (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)
Picture Day: June 3, 2026 (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
Parent/Student Meeting: August 17, 2026 (4:00 pm - 5:00 pm)
Required Summer Intensive: August 17-21, 2026 (5:00 pm - 9:00 pm)

Important Dates

First Day of regular courses: August 24, 2026
Busch Stadium Performance: Date To Be Given, Spring 2027
Ambush Performance: Date To Be Given, Winter 2027
Nutcracker Masterclasses: TBD (Dates generally released in May)
Nutcracker Auditions: TBD (Dates generally released in May)
Nutcracker Performance: TBD (Dates generally released in May)
Ballet Production: October 29 - 30, 2026
Mandatory Tech Week: October 26 - 28, 2026
Holiday Showcase: December 10, 2026 (4:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
RSIA (at COCA): January 15-17, 2027 (not confirmed)
Performance with Grand Kyiv Ballet: TBD
Jury Week: February 23-28, 2026
New Works Showcase: March 20, 2026
Recital Week: June 1-5, 2026
Last Day of courses: June 2, 2026
Season End Celebration: June 6, 2026

Academy Closures

Labor Day: September 7, 2026
Halloween: October 31, 2026
Thanksgiving Break: November 25 - 28, 2026
Christmas Break: December 16, 2026 - January 3, 2027
RSIA (at COCA): January 15-17, 2027 (not confirmed)
Jury Week: February 22-27, 2027
Spring Break: March 22 - March 27, 2027
Memorial Day Weekend: May 29 - 31, 2027

Social Activities

Back to Dance Pool Day: August 16, 2027 (2:00 pm)
Christmas Party: December 14-15, 2026
Winter Outing: January 2, 2027 (tentative)
Student Spring Break Event: March 27, 2027 (tentative)
Season End Celebration: June 5, 2027

ABOUT

Part I : About

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This distinguished program is designed to develop young dancers (ages 8-18) in the art of performance and equip them with the necessary tools and technique needed for a successful career as a professional dancer. This conservatory-style training is modeled after prominent schools such as Balanchine's School of American Ballet.

Students in the program are required to train a *minimum* of 7 hours per week for Level 1 and 10 hours per week for Levels 2 and 3. Students attend a schedule of requisite courses specifically tailored to their level and focus, including ballet, jazz, modern, and contemporary dance. Students are also encouraged to join as many elective courses as they can according to their personal schedules.

This program is a launching point for students to experience professional opportunities in the Saint Louis community and beyond. We encourage students to audition and perform with other prestigious organizations and provide them with the resources to be successful.

FACULTY AND STAFF

We believe that a student reflects the knowledge imparted by their teacher. As a result of this philosophy, our instructors are required to have professional experience and training with their course subjects, along with a significant teaching background and appropriate certifications to ensure the highest level of learning for the students. You can read more about the current confirmed faculty members for the 2026-2027 season below.

Elizabeth Bridgeman (Company Director): Elizabeth Bridgeman is the founder and owner of Bridgeman Academy of Performing Arts. Throughout her career, she performed with prestigious companies such as The Muny, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Broadway Kids, The Canadian Ballet (Les Grands), and Circus Harmony. She also holds certification in Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT). Elizabeth founded and ran a St. Louis non-profit theatre organization for young adults prior to starting Bridgeman Academy. She is passionate about equipping students in the arts to serve God and others and has over 20 years of teaching experience.

Spencer Everett (Ballet, Contemporary, Acro Instructor): Spencer Everett, from Stratford, Ontario, Canada, began his dance training at the age of four, immersing himself in a wide range of techniques. Alongside his regular dance classes, he received valuable mentorship from former Cirque du Soleil artist Meaghan Wegg, who trained him in circus arts and acrobatics. In 2018 he pursued formal education in the joint BFA program between The Ailey School and Fordham University. While earning his degree, Spencer gained diverse performance experiences, including appearances at New York Fashion Week, multiple seasons with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in *Memoria* (2019, 2021, and 2022), and performances at the Guggenheim Museum. In 2022, Spencer graduated summa cum laude with an honorable mention in dance, along with a BA in Visual Arts with departmental honors. He went on to dance with Ailey II for two years, performing in three U.S. tours, four international tours, and prestigious venues like the Holland Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater, and New York City Center. In 2024, Spencer joined the St. Louis Dance Theater. As a choreographer, he has showcased his work at the Young Voices in Dance Program for the 40th Annual Battery Dance Festival, the Ailey Citigroup Theater, and Barnard College in collaboration with the Barnard Movement Lab. He is additionally honored to serve the dance community as a member of Dancewave's Artistic Advisory Council.

Will Brighton (Ballet, Contemporary Instructor): Will Brighton is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher based in St Louis, MO. Originally from Ann Arbor, Michigan, Will holds a BFA in Dance and BA in English from Western Michigan University. While at WMU, Will performed in concerts alongside Taylor 2 and Peridance Contemporary Dance Co. and had the honor of performing both in historical works by George Balanchine, Paul Taylor, and Antony Tudor, as well as original works by contemporary artists Christian Denice, Yin Yue, BAIRA, and others. Upon graduating, Will joined The Big Muddy Dance Company where he is currently a company dancer. Will also performed as a guest artist with Saint Louis Ballet in their 2021 production of Alice in Wonderland by Brian Enos.

Aspen Ross (Ballet, Pointe, Young Dancer Instructor): Aspen trained in the Pre-Professional Program at the Denver Academy of Ballet before earning a full scholarship to the prestigious Kansas City Ballet School. While at Kansas City Ballet, she had the opportunity to train, perform, and teach students ranging in age from 2 to 18. Aspen also worked with Boston Ballet before moving to Saint Louis to pursue her passion for dance at Saint Louis Ballet. With 8 years of teaching experience, she comes highly recommended by the Children's Division Dance Coordinator at Kansas City Ballet. We are excited to have her work with our students during the 2025-2026 season!

Jared Cordova (Ballet, Jazz): Bio Coming Soon!

Lauren Renner (Ballet, Jazz): Bio Coming Soon!

Ella Martin (Ballet and Pointe Instructor): Ella Martin is a Saint Louis native and received her training from Saint Louis Ballet. She augmented her training by attending programs with Miami City Ballet, American Ballet Theater (ABT), Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, and Ballet Chicago, among others. Since 2021, Ella has been a trainee with Saint Louis Ballet under the direction of Gen Horiuchi, and has been given numerous opportunities to perform alongside the company. Additionally, Ella recently began her professional career as a member of the cast of The Raffaella Ballet in South Bend, Indiana. Ella looks forward to teaching at Bridgeman Performing Arts for the 2025-2026 Season.

Angie Thompson (Academic Tutor): Angie Thompson is an educator with 35 years of classroom and administrative experience. She has worked in a myriad of venues with a variety of students from kindergarten through high school. For 20 years she was the Head-of-School for a performing arts school for preschool through high school. Currently, she has started her own micro-school where she personally teaches elementary students.

Marcus Benson (Hip Hop Instructor): Marcus Benson has been dancing continuously for over 15 years. Marcus began teaching at Bridgeman in 2021 and has six years of prior teaching experience. His strengths are step, hip-hop, and mime. With immense competition experience across the United States, he has performed both as a team member & coach. Along with Bridgeman Academy, he currently teaches at Dance Plus & Pointe of Surrender Dance Studio where he also serves on the coaching staff for their competition team.

Teresa Wilmes (Tap Instructor): Teresa Wilmes trained at Virginia James Dance Academy beginning at the age of three. She continued taking classes into her adult years and trained with renowned companies such as Steps on Broadway in New York City. Teresa brings over 20 years of teaching experience and has trained in the subjects of tap, jazz, ballet, baton, pointe, lyrical, and gymnastics. Teresa truly enjoys dance and loves to pass on her passion for the arts to future generations. Her daughters carry on the dancing tradition and are also students at the Academy.

Tracy Weber (Baton Instructor): Tracy Weber is the dedicated baton teacher at Bridgeman Academy, going into her third year of inspiring young twirlers. With a background in professional twirling, she brings a wealth of experience and passion to her students. Ms. Tracy is committed to helping each develop their skills while fostering a love for the art of baton twirling. Her passion and expertise create an engaging learning environment for all.

Any additional 2026-2027 season faculty members will be added to the handbook and website as they are confirmed.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Students enrolled in the Pre-Professional Program participate in a structured weekly training schedule designed to support technical development, performance preparation, and artistic growth.

While certain classes are shared by the entire program, other required classes will vary depending on a student's selected **Focus track**.

Company Class

All Pre-Professional students, regardless of track, attend the same **weekly Company Class**.

Company Class provides an opportunity for the full program to train together while focusing on:
- Foundational technique
- Choreography development
- Preparation for performances and productions

Company Class is a **required component** of the program for all students.

Company class will be divided into four focuses throughout the season.

Focus 1 (AUG 18 - OCT 18): Program Expectations
- The first part of the season focuses on familiarizing students with the program expectations and acclimating them to their weekly schedule.

Focus 2 (OCT 20 - DEC 11): Technique
- The second part of the season focuses on technique to prepare students for audition season beginning in January.

Focus 3 (JAN 5 - MAR 22): Auditions / Student Choreography
- The third part of the season will focus on auditions the students are attending and preparing for the New Works Showcase.

Focus 4 (MAR 31 - JUN 3): Recital
- The last portion of the year will focus on learning choreography featured in the end-of-year recital.

Program Tracks

Students in the Level 1 Pre-Professional Program will have a pre-set schedule. Students in Level 2 and Level 3 will select one of three training tracks based on their primary performance interests and goals.

Available tracks include:
· **Classical**
· **Commercial**
· **Broadway**

Each track includes a different combination of required classes designed to develop the specific technical and stylistic skills needed for that focus area.

Required Courses

LEVEL 1:

- Company Class
- Ballet Repertoire
- Ballet Technique
- PBT
- Jazz
- Lyrical
- 1 Elective Course

LEVELS 2 & 3:

CLASSICAL TRACK:

- Company Class
- Ballet Repertoire
- Ballet Technique
- Ballet + PBT
- Pointe (or Pre-Pointe)
- Contemporary
- 1 Elective Course

COMMERCIAL TRACK:

- Company Class
- Ballet Repertoire
- Ballet + PBT
- Jazz
- Contemporary

- Hip Hop
- Tap
- 1 Elective Course

BROADWAY TRACK:

- Company Class
- Ballet + PBT
- Jazz
- Tap
- Musical Theatre
- Drama
- Voice
- 1 Elective Course

Elective Courses

Elective courses include any courses offered at the studio, but not listed in the requirements above. One elective is included in the price of tuition. Electives outside of the one required elective, have an additional cost.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Part II : Policies and Procedures

ACCEPTANCE AND PLACEMENT

We care deeply about each of our dancers and their development as young artists. Our staff works diligently to select and place each student in the program and level that best suits their individual needs. Student acceptance in the Pre-Professional Dance Program is determined based on a variety of factors, including technique, passion, discipline, strength, flexibility, ability to name syllabus-level vocabulary, punctuality, consistent class attendance, adherence to dress code, observance of classroom etiquette, respectfulness towards instructors and peers, and successful completion of auditions or juries. New students are accepted based on their demonstration of these factors in their audition and application. The determination of level is never based on age or prior dance experience.

PLACEMENT IN THE IGNITE PERFORMANCE COMPANY

- The Ignite Performance Company is composed of pre-professional students who demonstrate exceptional technique, presence, and work

ethic. Students in the Performance Company have the opportunity to perform at various high-profile venues throughout the year.
Pre-professional students who are placed as a Member or Apprentice are required to attend all performances. Students placed as an Alternate are still required to attend company class each week, however they are not required to attend performances. All pre-professional students will be assigned one of the following titles:

- **Alternate:** A pre-professional student who attends company class, but does not actively perform with the company unless a company member is unable to perform.
- **Apprentice:** A pre-professional student who performs with the company, but either needs more company experience or did not perform at the level required to be accepted as a full member.
- **Member:** A pre-professional student who actively performs with the company and has both the experience and technique to be accepted as a dedicated member of the company.

ATTENDANCE

Pre-professional students must maintain consistent attendance in all courses associated with the program. Elective courses that are not a part of the program do not affect a student's status as a pre-professional student. If a student misses a significant number of courses or an instructor notices a lack of effort within the program, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the student's placement. **Students may miss up to three company classes per academic year. Additionally, students may miss five non-company days per academic year.** Exceptions may be made for severe illness, family emergencies, or other necessary circumstances. All absences beyond the accepted absences will result in removal from the program (unless approved by the director). Students who are enrolled as Members or Apprentices in the Company are required to attend all performances. Students may be dismissed from the program at any time at the discretion of the director. Students may also change between Member, Apprentice, and Alternate at any point that it becomes necessary during the year. Tuition and Registration fees are non-refundable in any circumstances, including dismissal due to behavior or lack of commitment.
Should a student be unable to commit to the program mid-year (due to non-emergency circumstances), the student will be moved to an "Alternate" role in the company and will not perform. All withdrawal and financial obligations are outlined in the Termination of Contract section.

PROFESSIONAL HABITS PROGRAM

Students in the Pre-Professional Program are expected to develop the habits and discipline required of serious performing artists. To encourage these standards, the program includes a **Professional Habits Program** that recognizes students for consistent professionalism and preparedness.

Students may earn recognition through demonstrated excellence in areas such as:

- Consistent attendance
- Dress code compliance (appropriate attire, hair, shoes...etc.)
- Preparedness for class (water bottle, journal...etc.)
- Positive attitude and effort in class
- Respectful conduct toward faculty and peers

Students may receive **recognition points** throughout the season for demonstrating these professional habits.

Accumulated recognition points are rewarded through incentives such as:

- Dress-down privileges
- Studio merchandise or small prizes
- Special recognition within the program
- End-of-season awards

The goal of this program is to help students develop the **discipline, reliability, and professionalism expected in pre-professional training environments.**

Points Reward System

Students receive 5 points (in the form of a stamp in their journal) for each area of demonstrated excellence.

- ➔ **How to get points:** Students must bring their journal to class with them and present it to their teacher at the conclusion of class to receive stamps for the day. ***Stamps may not be backdated***, students must have their journal with them in class to receive their stamps. *Instructors may also award points at their discretion without student request*.
- ➔ **Rewards:**
  - 500 Points: Dress Down Pass (any color/style dance wear and warm ups for the day, must be appropriate attire for class)
  - 1,000 Points: Prize from the small prize bucket
  - 5,000 Points: Prize from the large prize bucket
  - 10,000+ Points: WOW Item, Recognition at the Recital

ESSENTIAL PROGRAM ITEMS

The following dancewear and equipment are required for each member of the pre-professional program. For specifics, please reference the full dress code list online (bridgemanarts.com/admissions). Students should keep as many items as possible at the studio in their locker for easy access. Please label all of them with the student's name.

Required Dancewear

- **Company Leotard** (One provided at the season start, additional must be purchased through the studio)
    - Students must wear this leotard each time they attend Company Class. This leotard can be worn to all of their courses for that day.
- **Class Leotard** (must be in the correct color for their Level)
- **Ballet Pink Convertible Tights**
- **Company Warm-Up Jacket** (must be purchased from the studio)
- **Ballet Shoes** (MUST have the correct style for their level)
- **Jazz Shoes (Skin-Tone)**
- **Turners (Skin-Tone)**
- **Black Socks (crew not ankle), Black pants, and a Dress code appropriate long-sleeve shirt or jacket (for contemporary).**
- **Pointe shoes (if applicable)**

Required Equipment

(all items must be labeled with student's name)

- Yoga Block
- Resistance Band
- Ankle Weights

Dance Journals

Pre-professional students will be provided with a dance journal to use throughout the dance season. This is a great tool to track health aspects (such as hydration) and also identify key corrections to help improve technique. Dance journals ***must*** be filled out on studio days and are optional to fill out during at-home days. Journals will never be turned in to an instructor, but Ms. Elizabeth will check to ensure students are utilizing them effectively.

HOW TO FILL OUT YOUR JOURNAL

Record the following information:

- Your current high-level focus area for your dancing
    - Ex: Turns, Flexibility… (pick one and keep it for at least 1 month)

- Important corrections given during class that day
    - Try to only focus on major corrections - not the little things
- Compliments given during class that day
    - List your current strengths - build on the best!
- Exercises/stretches given by your teacher to do outside of class
- Your water intake and notes on your sleep schedule

DRESS CODE (abbreviated, see **bridgemanarts.com/admissions**)

For Weekly Courses

- Level specific leotard and dress code appropriate items.

For Company Class

- Company leotard, ballet warm-up attire (neutral or academy colors), and dress code appropriate items.
    - *Company leotards may be worn to all courses on the same day as their company class.*
    - **Hair must be in a nice ballet bun for all Company classes**.

For Performances & Events

- Company Costume, Company Jacket, tan tights, and jazz shoes. Black dance pants should also be worn to and from events.

Purchasing Dancewear

Bridgeman Academy partners with Nimbly to make purchasing dress code items seamless and simple for parents. Visit shopnimbly.com/bridgemanarts to view and purchase dress code items for each level. Select dancewear items are also available for purchase through the studio app/website (bridgemanarts.com/shop). If dancewear is purchased outside of the studio it **must be approved by a teacher. Dancewear colors must match EXACTLY.**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students may not wear fitness watches or bands during any courses. They may only bring electronic devices such as phones if given permission by their instructor.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- **Students:** Pre-Professional students at Bridgeman Academy are expected to exemplify exceptional behavior, attitude, and work ethic at

all times. Students must follow all studio policies and rules, maintain a positive attitude, encourage and value all other students at the studio, refrain from derogatory conversation or gossip, and demonstrate respect for all instructors, staff members, as well as, their parents and guardians. Students must respect others belongings (including lockers).

- **Parents:** Pre-professional parents play a significant role in the atmosphere and environment at Bridgeman Academy. As such, all parents are expected to avoid gossip and negative or unsavory conversation relating to their student, other students/parents, Bridgeman Academy staff, studio evaluations and casting results, studio events...etc. Personal issues should be addressed outside of the studio and any issues directly relating to Bridgeman Academy should immediately be brought to the attention of the staff or director.

As examples of Christ, we take the above code of conduct very seriously in regard to both students and parents. Unacceptable or malign behavior (inclusive of bullying) will not be tolerated and will result in a student's dismissal from the pre-professional program and potentially the studio. Previously paid tuition is non-refundable in these circumstances.

ENROLLMENT & COMMITMENT

Part II : Program Enrollment & Financial Commitment

The Bridgeman Academy Pre-Professional Program is designed as a **full-season training program** intended for students who are serious about pursuing advanced dance training. Participation requires a commitment to the program for the entire season in order to ensure consistency in training, choreography, performances, and program planning.

Enrollment in the Pre-Professional Program indicates that both the student and parent/guardian understand and agree to the expectations outlined below.

PROGRAM CONTRACT

Students accepted into the Pre-Professional Program participate as members of a **full-season** running from **August through June**.

Because choreography, casting, costumes, guest instructors, studio scheduling, and performance venues are planned months in advance based on program enrollment, all students are expected to commit to the full season.

Tuition for the Pre-Professional Program represents the **annual cost of the full training program**. Monthly payments are installment payments toward the annual tuition and are not based on individual class attendance.

NEW MEMBER PROGRAM DEPOSIT

All **new students entering the Pre-Professional Program** are required to submit a **non-refundable program deposit** at the time of contract signing.

The deposit:

- Confirms the student's place in the program
- Secures participation in choreography and performances
- Helps cover early program expenses such as guest instructors, choreography development, and production planning

The program deposit will be **applied toward the student's annual tuition** but is **non-refundable** once the student has been accepted into the program.

Returning Pre-Professional students who remain in good standing are not required to submit a deposit in future seasons.

Provisional Membership for Transfer Students

Students who are **new to Bridgeman Academy or transferring from another studio** may be admitted to the Pre-Professional Program under an **8-week provisional membership period**.

During this time, students will:

- Participate in all scheduled classes and rehearsals
- Train with the Pre-Professional Program
- Learn choreography alongside the group

The provisional period allows faculty to evaluate:

- Attendance and reliability
- Work ethic and professionalism
- Positive studio culture alignment
- Commitment to the full program

During the provisional period, students may not yet receive certain program privileges, such as:

- Final casting in major roles
- Participation in Professional Habits Program
- Participation in certain special performance opportunities

At the conclusion of the provisional period, students who demonstrate strong commitment and professionalism will be fully confirmed as Pre-Professional Program members.

Once a student has successfully completed a season in the program, provisional membership will **not be required in future seasons**.

Bridgeman Academy reserves the right to make adjustments to choreography, casting, class structure, and program elements as needed based on enrollment and participation.

Termination of Contract

Participation in the Pre-Professional Program represents a **full-season commitment**. Because the program relies on consistent enrollment to plan choreography, productions, and guest artist opportunities, withdrawals create significant disruption for the entire ensemble.

For this reason, the following policies apply.

Withdrawal Notice Policy

Families choosing to withdraw from the Pre-Professional Program must provide **60 days written notice** to the studio.

Written notice must be submitted via email to the studio office.

Tuition payments remain due during the 60-day notice period regardless of class attendance.

Early Termination Fee

If a student withdraws from the program before the end of the season, the family will be responsible for either:

- Completing the remaining tuition payments for the season

OR

• Paying an **early termination fee equal to three months of tuition**

This policy helps offset the financial impact of mid-season withdrawals after choreography, costumes, and production planning have already been finalized.

Additional Financial Responsibility

Families remain financially responsible for:

• Costumes already ordered
• Production or performance fees
• Guest choreography expenses already committed on behalf of the student

Emergency Withdrawals

Exceptions may be considered in cases of serious injury, relocation, or other significant circumstances

Requests for withdrawal due to significant emergency situations may be reviewed and approved on a **case-by-case basis** at the discretion of the studio administration.

Should an emergency situation arise in which a student is no longer able to participate in the program and needs to break their contract, a request should be made in writing to the director of the program. Once reviewed, the director will either void the student's contract or follow up with the student regarding their dismissal.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION

Tuition for the pre-professional program is $2499 per year with the option to split into 11 equal monthly payments of $249. There are also pay-in-full and family discounts that apply toward tuition.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students enrolled in the pre-professional program receive a discounted rate for private lessons. Please note that select teachers do not offer this discounted rate for their lessons. Prior to signing up for lessons, check with the teacher directly to receive their private lesson rate.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Limited scholarships are available and students wishing to apply should submit their application as soon as possible at the start of enrollment each season.

OTHER FEES

Outside of tuition, students are responsible to pay for the Summer Repertoire Intensive ($199/week) and purchase all dancewear needed for their classes, inclusive of a custom company jacket ($60) and Company Costume ($80). Students are also responsible for paying all audition fees, sample class fees, production fees, costume fees, and fees related to company performances (such as tickets for the St. Louis Cardinals performance).

PAYMENT POLICY

Monthly tuition is automatically deducted from your account between the 1st and 7th of each month for the following month's classes.

Changes to your payment method must be submitted by the 15th of the month (online or at the front desk). If a credit/debit card is declined, resolve the issue by the end of that week; otherwise, a $25 late fee will apply. Accounts not current by month-end may result in dancers being unable to attend class until payment is received.

In-person payments (check or cash) are accepted on or before the 7th. If unable to pay during class hours or if the studio is closed: pay online via the emailed invoice or mail check to Bridgeman Academy of Performing Arts, 1120 Technology Drive, Suite 104, O'Fallon, MO 63368.

Any account with an outstanding balance as of midnight on the 15th will be charged automatically on the 16th.

All outstanding tuition balances must be paid in full to receive costumes, participate in recitals/performances, or purchase recital tickets. This policy is strictly enforced.

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Part III : Program Opportunities

AUDITIONS

Students are required to attend professional in-person auditions and will also be prepared for additional optional in-person and virtual auditions.

RSIA hosted at COCA (required)
Students are required to participate in Regional Summer Intensive Auditions at the Center of Creative Arts. They are also required to attend the RSIA Sample Classes offered by the renowned companies attending RSIA.
To learn more, **CLICK HERE**.

Other Auditions:

- **Nutcracker at the Fox Theater (required)**
- **Bridgeman Academy Ballet Production Auditions (required)**
- Grand Kyiv International Tour **(required for Classical Track)**
- Weissman Dancewear Model Call **(required for Commercial Track)**
- The Muny Kids/Teens **(required for Broadway Track)**
- Other Touring Auditions (encouraged)
- Summer Intensives such as SAB and ABT (encouraged)

MASTER CLASSES

Bridgeman Academy offers students a top-tier dance education by hosting exclusive master classes with renowned professionals and companies from around the globe. This unique approach ensures students receive exceptional training and exposure to diverse dance and teaching styles.

SUMMER REPERTOIRE INTENSIVE

Each year, Pre-Professional students are required to participate in a Summer Intensive featuring guest artists and choreographers. During this week, students will take classes and rehearse repertoire for the fall ballet production.

The intensive will also include a **Student Teaching Certification course** as well as a **mandatory program meeting** to review expectations and discuss important events taking place during the **2026–2027 season**.

This required intensive is titled **“Repertoire Intensive”** and is **$199 for the full week**. The **2026 Repertoire Intensive** will take place **August 17–21 from 4:30 PM – 9:00 PM**.

Students may also elect to attend our **Pre-Professional Summer Intensives** during the weeks of:

- **July 27–31** (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)
- **August 3-7** (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)
- **August 10–14** (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

Pre-Professional students receive a **discounted rate of $349 per week**, or **$999 for all three weeks**.

NEW WORKS SHOWCASE

Bridgeman Academy is thrilled to introduce a dynamic addition to its pre-professional program. Students in the program will have the opportunity to create and perform in original student-choreographed works, fostering a collaborative and expressive learning environment. These student-created pieces will be showcased in a theater performance which friends and family are invited to attend. Bridgeman Academy remains dedicated to cultivating versatile performers, and this new initiative adds an exciting new dimension to enhance students’ training.

Student Teaching

Pre-Professional Students who have been certified through the Bridgeman Academy Student Teacher Training course are eligible to assistant teach classes outside of their requisite course schedule. If selected, students spend the year teaching alongside a Bridgeman Academy faculty member who will continue to train them with hands-on learning and offer opportunities to lead the class throughout the year. Students may assistant teach any day or time when no requisite courses are offered for their Focus Track. Students may not assistant teach classes in their current level, classes must be at a lower level. All students will be given an opportunity to express their interest and availability for assistant teaching once they have been accepted into the Pre-Professional Program. Only one student will be selected to assistant teach each class and the students selected will be notified in June. *Assistant teaching is considered a learning experience and is not a paid position.*

YAGP

Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is the world's largest non-profit international student ballet and contemporary dance competition and

scholarship program, open to dance students of all nationalities, 9–19 years old. YAGP annually conducts regional auditions in the United States and around the world, with the Final Round of the competition held every year in Tampa, Florida, United States. Through the Pre-Professional Program, students may elect to attend the Youth America Grand Prix with Bridgeman Academy. Students must follow all Bridgeman Academy guidelines to participate. Some of these guidelines include, participating in a private lesson with an approved instructor prior to the competition, and covering all fees and expenses associated with the event. Full guidelines are available upon request.

OTHER PERFORMANCES

Other potential performances include:

- Disney World/New York City (bi-annually)
- Busch Stadium - Cardinals Game (annually)
- The Family Arena - Ambush (annually)
- Fox Theatre - Nutcracker (annually)
- Grand Kyiv Ballet National Tour (annually)
- Varies - Community performances (annually)
- MUNY - PreShow (annually)
- The Purser Center - Full Length Ballet Production (annually)
- Chesterfield YMCA Theatre - Holiday Showcase (annually)
- The Purser Center - End-of-year Recital (annually)

PHOTO SHOOTS

Pre-Professional students will be invited to take part in an artistic photo session that takes place in June prior to the dance season starting in August. They will also have the opportunity to be involved in additional studio photo shoots throughout the year.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Students are encouraged to take part in the Operation Christmas Child outreach that takes place at the studio each November. They will also perform for various community events and retirement homes throughout the year.

STUDIO RULES

Part III : STUDIO RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Parents and students must be available to receive and respond to communications sent through the following channels.

- **The studio app, Spaces** (code: W3KBST)
    - Parent Group
    - Pre-Professional Student Group
      Please ensure app notifications are enabled
- **Email**
- **Phone**

BUILDING & SAFETY

- All students must be dropped off and picked up inside the studio or directly outside the studio front door. Students will not be dismissed to leave the studio unless a parent is visible.
- Street shoes are not allowed on the Marley flooring.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the dance studios with the exception of water bottles and food for dinner and study time.
- All water bottles must be non-spill if tipped over. Stanley Cups are not allowed unless they are spill-proof.
- In the case of an emergency, you may call the front desk at 636-244-1530.

USE OF EQUIPMENT

Students may use studio-owned equipment while at the studio. All equipment **must be returned** to its original place after it is done being used. Misplacement or mistreatment of equipment will result in this privilege being revoked. Students may store their personal equipment at the studio as long as all of the items are labeled.

FOOD & DRINK

Food and drinks are not permitted in the studios unless communicated by the director. No milk-based beverages are allowed inside the studio. All drinks must be in leak-proof bottles/containers and must remain closed when not drinking. Students are responsible for cleaning up any messes created when eating food (trash, crumbs/food...etc.).

AND FINALLY. . .

Thank you for reading this handbook and welcome to the pre-professional dance program at Bridgeman Academy of Performing Arts!

We look forward to working with you to advance your technique, artistry, and passion for dance in the coming dance year. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the dance year, do not hesitate to reach out to us. It is going to be a great season!

We have supplied a copy of the Acknowledgement Form below.

Please be sure to sign, date, and return this form to the director after reading the Pre-Professional Student Handbook!

Acknowledgment Form

This Pre-Professional Student Handbook has been prepared to enhance your understanding of the policies, practices, expectations, and benefits of Bridgeman Academy; it is important that you read this entire handbook. We reserve the right to make changes at any time without notice and to interpret these policies and procedures at the discretion of the director.

After reading this handbook, please sign, date, and return this Acknowledgement Form within seven (7) days of receipt of it. Make a copy of these pages for your records before submitting them.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the policies outlined in this Pre-Professional Student Handbook. You agree to comply with the policies contained in this handbook and to read and understand any revisions to it and be bound by them. You understand that this handbook is intended only as a general reference and is not intended to cover every situation that may arise throughout the year. This Pre-Professional Student Handbook is not a full statement of Bridgeman Academy policy. Any questions about its contents can be discussed with the director.

Student Name_____

Signature_____ Date_____

Parent Name_____

Signature_____ Date_____

Student Photograph & Video Release Form

I grant Bridgeman Academy of Performing Arts and all its representatives and employees the right to use photographs of me, my child, and/or my property in connection with Bridgeman Academy of Performing Arts. I authorize the above company to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically. I agree that the above company may use such photographs of me, my child, and/or my property with or without our names for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertisement, and web content.

By signing this form I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the above release and agree to be bound thereby. I hereby release any and all claims against any person or organization utilizing this material for educational or promotional purposes.

Student Name_____

Signature_____Date_____

Parent Name_____

Signature_____ Date_____