

FAQs

If I want to talk to my student's teacher, when is the best time to do so?

If you would like to set up a meeting with a faculty member please contact the School Managers for your child's division. They will set up a convenient time for the faculty member and you to meet in the school office. All communication between a faculty member and parents must occur through the school office. Please do not approach a teacher before or after class to check in on your child's progress. The school office is happy to facilitate meetings between teachers and parents.

We do not give out the teacher's email to maintain their privacy.

What are the options for my student making up a missed class?

***Students in Level 2** and below do not make up missed classes. It is best for them to review material and class exercises at home before the next class.*

***Students in Level 3 and up** are required to make up missed classes. Makeup classes must be done in a similar level and do not count for full attendance but credit is given towards the final evaluation. In order for a make-up class to count, the student must sign in at the front desk prior to the start of class.*

If a student has registered for a class and has a conflict with the ongoing TWSB schedule, the parent must contact the School Managers.

- *Make Ups for missed classes is limited to 4 per semester. (September 1 to December 1/January 1 to May 20)*
- *There are no Make Ups the last two weeks of the school year due to Parent Observations. .*

Excused Absences:

Exceptions may be made with permission from the School Manager. Students must notify TWSB in advance and receive permission for an Excused Absence.

Excused Absences are made under the following circumstances:

- *Student has a one-time mandatory academic school requirement*
- *Family emergency*
- *Religious reasons requiring mandatory attendance*
- *Religious holidays will be counted as an Excused Absence.*

When dropping my student off for class, where should I park?

Surrounding the Main Building, we have a limited number of spaces in the parking lot in front of the building. Please do not block the driveway. There is two hour parking available in the neighborhood behind the building as well as parking on Wisconsin Avenue depending on the time of day. Please check the signs for the most up to date restrictions.

Garage parking is available below the The Joseph C. Coleman Studios. Parking entrances are off of Macomb and Newark Street NW. Up to 30-minutes and under are free, up to 90-minutes validated.

If you are parking at the Van Ness Studios, please park in the neighborhood surrounding the studios. There is a parking garage under the studios, and the studio assistants can validate the ticket with a stamp that reduces the first hour by 50%. Please do not park in the McDonald's parking lot.

Why is there a participation fee for Spring Performance?

Spring Performance is an optional performance for Levels 1A and up. The Performance takes place at THEARC Theatre. There are extra rehearsals beginning in the spring, and full rehearsals at the theatre. The participation fee covers additional faculty hours for rehearsals and performances, the theatre rental, the stage manager, stage hands, lighting designer, sound technician, wardrobe manager and assistants and costume rentals. We are delighted to use THEARC Theatre and help support that community venue. Spring Performance is not mandatory, as we know that many families are busy at this time of year but we do encourage everyone to participate as it is a wonderful culmination of the year.

What is the drop off and pick up policy?

At the Main Building, you may pull up on the driveway and let your student exit the vehicle. Please do not wait on the driveway, as it can back up traffic on Wisconsin Avenue. Also, it is highly recommended that you turn into the driveway by heading northbound on Wisconsin Avenue, and turning right. Students will wait in the vestibule until they see their ride. Only then, are they allowed to exit the building. You may also park in the neighborhood and walk your student into or out of the building.

At the Van Ness Studios, we have studio assistants to help the students prepare for class. During drop off, you may pull up to the large staircase and drop your student off. They should then go to the top of the stairs and wave to you before you pull away. The wave should indicate that the studio assistants are there and classes are on for the day. You may also park and walk them up the door. For dismissal, the students will wait inside with the studio assistants until they see their ride. For our older students, we will let them walk to the ledge and look for their vehicle. They will then in turn wave to the studio assistants to indicate their ride is waiting.

How do I register for the following year?

At the end of each school year, the registration information and the final year evaluation are posted on the Parent Portal under the My Student tab. Within the final evaluation, a specific class level will be assigned. At the bottom of the evaluation there will be an option to register for the following year.

My student was asked to repeat a level. Is this common?

Yes. Each year, students at all levels are asked to repeat. Each student advances at a different pace since they develop physically at different rates. Therefore, sometimes a student is not ready to advance to the next level, and they will be asked to repeat. Although this may be disappointing to your student initially, by the end of the next year they are always thankful to have had that year to develop additional strength and confidence.

At The Washington School of Ballet, we do not want to close one eye and let a student slide to another level. You have entrusted your child to this school because of our excellent training. Please know that we consider each child's development and do not consider repeating a year a failure. We are in fact dealing with the physical body and it is best to take time to ensure that there will not be future injuries. In addition, some students lack the necessary focus and concentration and should move more slowly through the syllabus.