

The Dance Handbook



Guide to Parenting a Dancer

Table of Contents

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
	Foreword: Welcome from the Directors	3
Chapter 1:	History	4-5
Chapter 2:	Class Levels	6
Chapter 3:	Registration, Enrollment, and Payments	7
Chapter 4:	What to Do when Classes Begin: FAQ's and Helpful Hints	8-9
Chapter 6:	How Do I Get Involved?	10
Chapter 7:	TWB@THEARC Youth Ensemble	11
Chapter 8:	Rehearsals and Performances	12-14
Chapter 9:	The Evaluation Process	15
	Important Dates Sheet	16
	Staff & Faculty Biographies	17-32
	Confirmation of Receipt	33

thewashingtonschoolofballet

SE Campus @THEARC

Julie Kent, artistic director / Xiomara Reyes, head of school

September 7, 2018

Dear families,

It is my pleasure along with Xiomara Reyes, Head of School, and Donna Glover, Director of School Operations to welcome you to The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus. We are entering our 14th year located at THEARC and look forward to continuing to provide high quality training and performance opportunities to our student body. THEARC is such an incredible and collaborative space for learning that we hope your family will experience the resources of the ten partner organizations to include our Arts partners, the Levine School of Music and Phillips@THEARC.

Beyond the two campuses of The Washington School of Ballet, we also have an educational outreach program, *DanceDC*, across nine public schools in the District of Columbia and the Sitar Arts Center to provide access and future training opportunities at TWSB through our EXCEL! Scholarship program.

The Washington School of Ballet faculty and staff at both campuses and with *DanceDC* work diligently to fulfill the artistic vision of Head of School, Xiomara Reyes and the overarching vision of Artistic Director, Julie Kent. Not only do our experienced teachers follow The Washington School of Ballet's graded curriculum, but they also instill the TWSB philosophy of teaching—that ballet training develops the entire child. It is our belief that the training experience develops work ethic, discipline, perseverance, team work, responsibility, patience, confidence, and self-reflection—skills that will transfer over into all their future endeavors. We look forward to this year together sharing in the beauty and benefits of study in classical ballet. Again, welcome.

Yours truly,



Monica Stephenson
Associate Head of School SE Campus



Donna Glover
Director of School Operations



Xiomara Reyes
Head of School

Chapter 1

History

The Washington Ballet & The Washington School of Ballet

The Washington School of Ballet was co-founded in 1944 by the late Mary Day and Lisa Gardiner. It is recognized nationally and internationally for its classical training and dedication to excellence in dance and dance education. The school trains more than 750 students each year at its Northwest Campus and an additional 350 students at its Southeast Campus at the Town Hall Education, Arts and Recreation Center (THEARC).

The Washington School of Ballet curriculum includes pre-ballet, boy's classes, and a graded program for children through young adulthood, many of whom wish to pursue dance as a career. The school also offers a Professional Training Program, headquartered at the NW Campus, that brings together talented students from around the world for intensive training under The Washington School of Ballet's renowned faculty. Both campuses share a syllabus to ensure the same high-caliber training at each location. Both the NW and SE campuses also offer comprehensive adult programs.

The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus

The Washington School of Ballet Southeast Campus, located at the Town Hall Education Arts & Recreation Campus (THEARC), works to increase the beauty and discipline of dance in Southeast Washington, DC. Inaugurated in summer 2005, the Southeast Campus serves as the headquarters for *DanceDC* and the EXCEL! scholarship.

The Washington School of Ballet SE campus is a pre-professional school, providing training in a serious and focused environment. The mission of the SE Campus is to provide all students with a high level of rigorous ballet training, while incorporating other forms of dance to create strong, versatile, and well-rounded dancers. TWSB students are expected to be dedicated and reflect The Washington Ballet's mission to the art form.

DanceDC

DanceDC is The Washington Ballet's educational outreach program. The program targets first-, second- and third-graders in nine DC public schools and combines elementary dance education with academic integration. Each year, talented students who participate in the *DanceDC* program are awarded the EXCEL! scholarship, which allows them to study at The Washington School of Ballet for a year free of charge.

The Town Hall Education Arts & Recreation Campus (THEARC)

THEARC is a progressive forging ground for The Washington Ballet and its other partners, located east of the Anacostia River. It is a distinctive environment for adults and children of all ages to learn, share, discover, and thrive. With state-of-the-art facilities including a 365-seat theater, art gallery, double gymnasium, and organic garden, THEARC serves its community in innovative ways and with grassroots meaning. THEARC partners include:

- AppleTree Institute
- ArtReach at THEARC
- Bishop Walker School for Boys
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington (FBR Branch)
- Building Bridges Across the River
- Children's National Health Center at THEARC
- Covenant House Washington
- The David Lynch Foundation
- Levine Music
- The Phillips Collection
- The Washington School of Ballet
- Trinity Washington University
- Washington School for Girls

Chapter 2

Class Levels

The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus offers 15 different levels of ballet training to provide all students with the training best suited to their age and technical ability. We offer the following programs: Creative Dance, Pre-Ballet, Leveled Classes 1-6, the Advanced Training Program, and the Teen Program.

Creative Dance is a new class offering this year for 3- and 4-year-olds. There is no audition required for this class. Unlike our other classes, this class runs in 10-week sessions rather than for the duration of the school year. This class allows our youngest students to explore movement and have fun dancing!

The **Pre-Ballet Program** consists of three levels: **Pre-Ballet 1, Pre-Ballet 2, and Pre-Ballet 3**. These cumulative classes help to lay the foundation for 4-7 year olds interested in pursuing dance. All Pre-Ballet classes meet once per week. Beginning ballet steps, elements of technique, musicality, classroom etiquette, and creative movement are introduced to prepare students for the more intensive training they will encounter in Level 1.

Level 1 Foundation is a twice-weekly Level 1 ballet class for students ages 8-10 with little or no prior training in classical ballet.

Our leveled classes, including levels **1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6**, offer a pre-professional technical training program following the Washington School of Ballet syllabus. **Pointe work** begins in Level 3.

Boys' classes are offered to all male students in Level 1 and above. Boys in Level 1 or Level 2 are considered **Lower Level**; young men in Level 3 and above should register for **Upper Level**.

Jazz and **Modern** classes are now required for all students in Level 3 and above. These classes are included in the dancers' regular schedule. Dancers in Level 3 and Teen 2 will take one class per week; they will take Modern in the fall semester and Jazz in the spring. Teen 3 students will take Jazz for the full year. Dancers in Levels 4, 5, and 6 will take one Jazz and one Modern class each week for the full year.

The **Advanced Training Program** is offered to students in Levels 5 and 6 who demonstrate the commitment, focus, and technical aptitude to pursue a professional career in dance. This program offers two additional classes per week over and above the students' regular schedule, and includes technique classes, pointe and men's classes, variations, guest choreographers, partnering, and mentoring seminars.

The **Teen Ballet Program** consists of three levels: **Teen Ballet 1, Teen Ballet 2, and Teen Ballet 3**. These classes provide teenaged students with foundational to intermediate training following the Washington School of Ballet Syllabus.

Teen Ballet 1 – For beginning ballet students ages 11 and up

Teen Ballet 2 – For students who have completed Teen Ballet 1 or the equivalent

Teen Ballet 3 – For students who have completed either Teen Ballet 2, Level 3, or the equivalent.

African Dance is offered as an elective to dancers in Levels 1 and 2 who wish to participate. There is no additional cost for this class.

Strength Training is a free drop-in class which is open to dancers in Level 2 and up.

Chapter 3

Registration, Tuition, and Payments

Registration

Registrations may be completed online via the Parent Portal at www.twsbparent.org/se.

By this time, all parents of registered students should have credentials for the Portal. Your username is your email address. Please check with the office if you have forgotten your password.

You must pay the **non-refundable registration fee** for each student.

In order to apply for financial aid for your child, **income verification**—a W-2 or 1040 tax form, or another government-issued income statement—must be presented as proof of annual income. From this information, your financial aid amount, if any, will be determined. Parents who do not present income verification must pay full price.

You must provide a **medical form** signed by your child's physician informing The Washington School of Ballet of any medical or psychological conditions your child has and authorizing emergency medical treatment if necessary. All information will remain confidential.

Following the registration process, your child's spot will be secured in the appropriate class. You may view your child's class schedule and tuition balance on the Portal.

Payments

Payments may be made online through the Parent Portal or in person.

In order to best accommodate our families, we offer four **payment plans**. Throughout the school year, tuition may be divided into 1, 2, 4, or 8 payments. There is a small, one-time **processing fee** associated with each payment plan.

If you choose to save your credit card information in the Portal for automatic payments, your withdrawals will be made on the 15th of each month.

If your child is interested in applying for a **scholarship** (over and above the standard financial aid), you and your child must complete a **scholarship application** and return it to the office. Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of merit and need.

Chapter 4

What To Do When Classes Begin: FAQs and Helpful Hints

Do I have to sign my child in when arriving to class? Yes. All students AND PARENTS are required to apply for a free membership to THEARC. When arriving, you must use your ID card to sign in at the security desk downstairs AND at The Washington School of Ballet's front desk. You must also sign out at both desks when leaving. If you or your child lose or repeatedly forget your THEARC ID, a service charge will be incurred for a replacement ID.

What are the expectations for my child's attendance? Attending class regularly is crucial for your child's continued progress. Students who miss too many classes or rehearsals risk having their performing privileges revoked or not being promoted to the next level at the end of the year. You may view your child's attendance record on the Parent Portal.

If your child is unable to participate in class for any reason, but is able to observe, please bring them in; they will benefit from watching. Students who are sick should stay home to rest and recover. If your child will miss class due to illness, a family emergency, or any other reason, **please call the office in advance at 202.889.8150.**

If my child misses a class, is there a make-up policy? Students in a class that has multiple sections (Pre-Ballet 1 through Level 2) may make up missed classes in another section of the same level. Students in Levels 3 and up may make up missed classes in the next level down, as follows:

- Level 3 – make up in Level 2
- Level 4 – make up in Level 3 OR Teen 3
- Level 5 – make up in Level 4
- Level 6 – make up in Level 5
- Teen 2 – make up in Teen 1
- Teen 3 – make up in Teen 2 OR Level 3

Students in Teen 1 should speak with their teacher to determine which class, if any, would be appropriate as a make-up class.

Make-up classes must be scheduled through the main office in advance and may be declined if space does not permit. Students are limited to 3 make-up classes per semester.

What if my child arrives late to class? If a child arrives after the first 10 minutes of class, he/she may be asked to sit and observe class. Arriving late affects not only your child, but also the teacher and the other students, because the flow of class is disrupted. Furthermore, your child misses very important warm-up exercises and is more vulnerable to injuries.

What should my child wear to class? Each class requires a different uniform. Please refer to our Uniform Requirements list. You may purchase a uniform for your child at Footlights in Silver Spring, MD or Alexandria, VA; at Washington Dancewear in District Heights, MD (no pointe shoes); in advance through the front desk (leotards for Levels 4 & up and Teens only); or online at discountdancesupply.com.

Is there a place for my child to change into his/her uniform? If your child cannot come to THEARC already dressed in his/her uniform, the facility includes a boys' locker room and a girls' locker room. Students should also **bring a lock** to protect their belongings in the locker room during class.

What if my child loses part of their uniform? Uniforms are your responsibility. Lost items, if not found, will need to be replaced at your expense. To help keep track of everything, make sure your child's name is written with permanent marker on each item. If something is accidentally left at THEARC, there is a

lost-and-found; if there is a name on the item, it can be returned to the rightful owner. **The Washington Ballet is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

What does my child need to bring to class every day? Instill responsibility and have your child pack his/her dance bag the night before and leave it by the door. Always include the following items in a dance bag: a clean **uniform**; both **dance shoes**; a mini **hair kit** stocked with hair ties, bobby pins, a hair net, etc.; a small **snack**; a **water bottle**; **deodorant**; and other personal hygiene items. Students on pointe should always carry a **needle, thread, and scissors**.

Should I stay after I drop my child off for class, or should I leave and return to pick him/her up when class is over? There is a waiting area at The Washington School of Ballet for parents and families who wish to remain on the premises. We ask that those using this area exercise “waiting room etiquette”: keep voices quiet, clean up after yourself, and keep young children under control. If you need to use your cell phone, please do so in the common hallway rather than in the waiting area. Parents or families who choose to leave should remember that The Washington School of Ballet is only responsible for children during their scheduled class time. If a child is left at the studio for longer than 15 minutes after their class ends, we will call your emergency contact number and then, if necessary, take the appropriate safety measures.

What are the behavioral expectations for my child? Students are expected to observe dance classroom etiquette at all times. This includes respecting the teacher and other students, being on time, following the dress code, leaving food and cell phones outside the classroom, paying attention, and doing their best work for every exercise.

Students who violate the rules may be asked to sit out or dismissed from class at the teacher’s discretion. Repeated violators may be put on **arts probation**.

Arts probation: A child is placed on arts probation as a consequence for violating rules. Students who have irregular attendance, who display a lack of effort and cooperation, or who conduct themselves inappropriately may be placed on probation. The student is required, along with his/her parent/guardian, to meet with the director and the child’s teacher to discuss the issue and set the probationary period. The student will typically be given 30 days to correct the behavior; otherwise, he/she will be dismissed from the school. No refunds will be given.

Can I watch classes? No; classes are closed. There is a Parent Observation Week in the fall, during which you are invited and encouraged to watch your child’s classes.

Who do I see if I have a question or concern? Please direct general questions to the Administrative Program Coordinator. For questions regarding school policies or financial matters, please see the School Manager. For questions regarding classes or technique, please make an appointment to speak to your child’s instructor. Serious concerns are held in confidence.

Chapter 5

How Do I Get Involved?

Join ABC (ARC Ballet Corps)!

ABC is a parent volunteer committee that works to support the programs of The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus. The goals of ABC include:

- Uphold the Ballet's mission of the highest quality of training to all students who attend The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus
- Participate in the productions and performances held at SE Campus, including *The Nutcracker* and the Spring Performance
- Participate in recruitment of new students
- Raise funds to support the needs of the School

The ABC meeting schedule for this year is as follows:

October 20th, 2018, 10:30am
November 17th, 2018, 10:30am
January 26th, 2019, 10:30am
April 27th, 2019, 10:30am

Volunteer!

There are many opportunities to help The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus. The School can always use help with:

- Locker room supervision
- Front desk/reception
- *The Nutcracker*
- The Spring Performance
- Special events
- Marketing of programs to the greater community
- Chaperoning Youth Ensemble dancers at community events

Please note that all parents of students receiving scholarship assistance are required to volunteer 10 hours per school year. The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus also offers opportunities for students to complete community service hours. Please ask a staff member for details.

Donate!

- **Uniforms:** The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus operates a Uniform Exchange Program. Please visit our office to donate gently used uniforms and shoes, or to check the School's supply of donations for any items you may need.
- **Concessions:** During performance season, the Ballet is always in need of baked goods, snacks, candy, bottled water, etc. to sell. Contribute your favorite delicious item to support The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus!
- **Funding:** Many of the programs and scholarships available at The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus would not be possible without the generosity of our donors. To make a financial donation, please call 202. 889.8150.

Chapter 6

TWB@THEARC Performance Ensemble

What is it? The Performance Ensemble is TWB@THEARC's performing company. This group of students presents performances at a variety of venues outside THEARC. Previous performance sites have included the White House, The Washington Ballet Gala events, the Smithsonian's Phillips Collection, and the Kennedy Center's celebration for National Dance Day.

Is my child eligible? Students in Level 3, 4, 5, and 6, as well as Teen Ballet 2 and Teen Ballet 3, are eligible to *audition* for the Performance Ensemble. Students in levels 4, 5, and 6 will be required to participate in certain performances, including the Fall and Winter Showcases.

How can my child get involved? Auditions for the Youth Ensemble are held at the beginning of each school year. This year's Ensemble auditions will be held on September 8, 2018. Interested students will have the opportunity to audition for a variety of pieces in different disciplines which will comprise the Ensemble's repertoire for the year. Each choreographer will select his or her own cast.

What is the schedule like? This year, we have allotted a dedicated rehearsal block for the Ensemble on Saturdays from 3:30-5:30 PM. Though rehearsals will not be held every week, students in the Ensemble will be expected to keep this time block free. Due to time constraints and tight performance schedules, some individual rehearsals may be scheduled at other times. Students should consider the rehearsal and performance schedules for each piece they are cast in before deciding whether to commit to the piece.

What is required of Ensemble performers? Students in the Ensemble are TWB@THEARC's ambassadors to the greater community. At all events and performances, they are expected to perform at a high level, to conduct themselves in a professional manner, and to represent TWB@THEARC in a positive light. When appropriate, Ensemble students should wear TWB@THEARC attire to all off-campus events.

Students who commit to a piece are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Rehearsal time for Ensemble performances is often extremely limited. Students who miss rehearsals may be removed from the cast. Regular class attendance is also important. Students who have poor class attendance risk having their performing privileges revoked.

Chapter 7

Rehearsals and Performances

The Washington Ballet @ THEARC Performance Ensemble

Who's eligible: Ballet Level 3, 4, 5, Teen Ballet 2, Teen Ballet 3

When: Performances are scheduled by invitation throughout the year. **Not all dancers will be in all shows.**

Where: Various locations throughout the city and community

Audition: September 8, 2018

Rehearsals: Saturdays 3:30-5:30 PM; others as necessary

Tickets: Vary by performance

Fall Showcase

Who's eligible: Level 4, 5, 6

When: Friday, November 2, 2018

Where: TWB@THEARC Studio

Audition: None

Rehearsals: In class and Sept. 29, Oct. 20, Oct. 27

Tickets: Will be available for purchase at the front desk

The Nutcracker

Who's eligible: Pre-Ballet 3, Level 1 Foundation, Level 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Boys 2, Teen 2, Teen 3

When: November 24-25 and November 29-December 28, 2018

Where: THEARC Theater, Warner Theatre

Audition: September 30 at the NW Campus (preregistration required)

Rehearsals: Saturdays and Sundays at the NW Campus

Tickets: On sale now at www.washingtonballet.org

Winter Showcase

Who's eligible: Level 4, 5, 6

When: Sunday, February 10, 2019

Where: TWB@THEARC Studio

Audition: None

Rehearsals: In class and Feb. 2, Feb. 9

Tickets: Will be available for purchase at the front desk

Celebrate Dance! Showcase

Who's eligible: All Modern & Jazz classes, African, Performance Ensemble

When: Saturday, May 4, 2019

Where: Black Box Theatre, THEARC West

Audition: None

Rehearsals: In class

Tickets: Will be available for purchase at the front desk

Children's Spring Showcase

Who's eligible: Pre-Ballet 1, Pre-Ballet 2, Pre-Ballet 3, Boys 1, and others by invitation

When: Sunday, May 5, 2019

Where: TWB@THEARC Studio

Audition: None

Rehearsals: In class

Tickets: Available for purchase at the SE Campus front desk starting in April

Annual SE Campus Spring Performance

Who's eligible: Level 1 Foundation, 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Teen 1, 2, & 3, Upper Level Boys

When: May 17 and 18, 2019

Where: THEARC Theater

Audition: February 9, 2019 for story ballet

Rehearsals: Begin February 16, 2019. In class for all students; Saturdays & Sundays for story ballet.

Tickets: www.washingtonballet.org

Other Performing Opportunities: Periodically, TWSB's SE Campus is invited to participate in community performances, touring opportunities, and other performance-related events. Opportunities for students to audition or participate in these performances are by invitation only.

Rules for Performers

- Students who wish to participate in an audition-only performance **MUST** attend the scheduled audition and callbacks, if applicable. Make-up auditions will not be held.
- Attendance at an audition is **NOT** a guarantee that your child will be cast.
- Students in any performance must commit to attending all rehearsals, including technical and dress rehearsals. Students are allowed **ONE** excused absence per production (except for *The Nutcracker*); students who miss more than one rehearsal are subject to being removed from the cast. If you anticipate that your child will miss a rehearsal, please call the office as early as possible to let us know.
- If you must withdraw your child from a performance, please let the office and your child's teacher know **IMMEDIATELY** so appropriate arrangements can be made.
- Students who are participating in the Spring Performance or the Showcases will be rehearsing in class, and should therefore make every effort to attend all classes. Teachers may remove, at their discretion, students who have missed too many classes and are therefore unprepared to perform.
- **Students whose tuition payments are not up-to-date will not be eligible to perform. To ensure performance opportunities for your child, please make all tuition payments on time.**
- Some performances incur a performance fee. This fee, if applicable, must be paid on time to ensure your child's spot in the production.
- To save time and help prevent lost items, students should arrive on the day of the performance **ALREADY DRESSED** in their class uniform. Ladies should have their hair already fixed in the style requested by the choreographer.
- **EVERYTHING** a child brings to the theater should be marked with his/her name.
- In order to prevent illness or allergic reactions, students should not share makeup or makeup applicators.

Chapter 8

The Evaluation Process

The evaluation process at The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus exists to track development and help students achieve their best. Students are evaluated twice during the academic year (once for Pre-Ballet students).

Progress Reports: Progress reports are issued to students in Level 1 and above at the end of the first semester. They will appear online on the Parent Portal.

Evaluations: Evaluations are issued to ALL students, including Pre-Ballet students, at the end of the school year. The evaluation, which also appears on the Parent Portal, will contain a similar graded progress report, as well as the student's class placement for the following year.

Progress Meetings: If your child's teacher deems it advisable, he/she may reach out to you for a progress meeting to discuss your child's progress before the evaluation process begins. Please make every effort to attend these meetings, as they will provide you with valuable insight into your child's progress and enable you to help your child if necessary. If you have concerns about your child's progress, you may also reach out to your child's teacher or the front office to schedule a meeting.

Early Enrollment: Returning students have the privilege of registering and enrolling in classes early. You can find your child's class placement and new class schedule on the evaluation form. Complete this process in June to reserve a spot for your child before new students arrive!

Open Registration: Registration is opened to all students, both returning and new, in June. New students will need to complete the entire audition, registration, and enrollment process.

**The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus
IMPORTANT DATES
2018-2019 School Year**

Labor Day - CLOSED	Monday, September 3, 2018
First Day of Classes	Tuesday, September 4, 2018
TWB@THEARC Performance Ensemble Auditions	Saturday, September 8, 2018
REQUIRED Parent Orientation Meeting	Saturday, September 15, 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Pre-Ballet - Level 1A: 4:00-5:00PM • Level 1B - Level 6 and ALL Teen Levels: 5:00-6:00PM 	
Nutcracker Auditions (held at NW Campus) (Optional- this is a Company Production)	Sunday, September 30, 2018 rehearsals begin the following weekend
Columbus Day - CLOSED	Monday, October 8, 2018
Parent Observation Week	Monday, Nov. 12– Saturday, Nov. 17
Thanksgiving Break— CLOSED*	Tuesday, Nov. 20- Sunday, Nov. 25
Nutcracker Performances @ THEARC	Friday, Nov. 23- Sunday, Nov. 25
Winter Break— CLOSED Classes Resume	Tuesday, Dec. 18–Tuesday, January 1 Wednesday, January 2, 2019
Martin Luther King Jr. Day— CLOSED	Monday, January 21, 2019
Auditions for Spring Performance	Saturday, February 9, 2019
Spring Performance Rehearsals Begin	Saturday, February 16, 2019
Presidents' Day— CLOSED	Monday, February 18, 2019
Spring Vacation— CLOSED Classes Resume	Tuesday, April 16– Sunday, April 21 Monday, April 22, 2019
Children's Spring Showcase (Pre-Ballet & Boys 1)	Sunday, May 5, 2019 <i>This will be the last day for participating classes</i>
Spring Performance Rehearsals Rehearsals 4:30-8:30PM, both days	Monday, May 13 & Wednesday, May 15
Spring Performance Show #1	Friday, May 17, 2019, 7:30PM
Spring Performance Show #2	Saturday, May 18, 2019, 11:00AM
Last Day of Classes (1A & up)	Friday, May 24, 2019



Monica Stephenson, Associate Head of School SE Campus
Pre-Ballet 3 Red (Interim), Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, Level 5, Level 6

Monica Stephenson is originally from Fayetteville, North Carolina. She is a high school graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and the Professional Training Program at the Houston Ballet Academy. In 2002, Monica received her first professional contract with The Washington Ballet. She went on to perform with the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble from 2003-2005. During this time, Monica also performed in *The Nutcracker* with Pennsylvania Ballet and Ballet New York and as a guest artist with Ballet Black in London, England. In 2006, Monica joined the Los Angeles Ballet as an inaugural season company member. She performed with the LA Ballet through 2010 and enjoyed the opportunity to dance in classical and contemporary repertory and in many of Balanchine's ballets. Additionally, Monica has performed in professional musical theatre as a cast member in *Ragtime* at the Westchester Broadway Theatre and *Footloose* at the Fireside Theatre.

Monica has completed her Master of Arts in Dance Education from New York University with a concentration in American Ballet Theatre Ballet Pedagogy. She is certified in all levels of the ABT National Training Curriculum, Pre-Primary through Level 7 and Partnering. Monica previously worked for the Education Department at American Ballet Theatre as a Teaching Artist and as the Project Coordinator for *Project Plié*, an initiative to increase diversity in classical ballet.

In 2016, Monica joined The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus as a Full-time Faculty Member. She is currently the Associate Head of School at the SE Campus.



Sonitra MacRall, School Manager

Sonitra MacRall is a resident of Takoma Park, MD. Her passion for dance began at age 10, when she received training in ballet, modern and lyrical at Joyce LaVerne School of Dance and Music (JLS) in Temple Hills, Md. Following her training at JLS, Ms. MacRall joined the Stoddard Dance Initiative as a company member and secretary, performing various modern and contemporary ballet pieces.

Her love for travel led her to continue her education at Trinity Washington University, where she received her BA in International Affairs and Spanish Language & Cultural Studies. She went on to receive her MA in Mass Communications from the same university.

Sonitra is a member of Coração Do Samba, a travelling Brazilian dance company, where she is a performing member and teaches Afro-Brazilian Modern and Orixa Movements. She has performed with artists such as Tonho Matéria and Rosangela Silvestre in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil and Rio de Janeiro. This is her ninth season with The Washington Ballet.



Shawna J. Williams, Education Program Manager
Pre-Ballet 2 Red (Interim), 1B Red (Interim), Level 5/6 Modern, DanceDC

Shawna J. Williams began dancing at age five with Mrs. Davis at LaRue Montessori Academy. She then received her formal training at The Russell School of Ballet, home of the Fairfax Ballet, in Chantilly, VA, where she was a member and lead dancer of both the Junior and then Senior Companies under the direction of Thomas and Ilona Russell. Afterwards, she received a BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Some highlights of her dance education include participating in Repertory Performance Groups, workshops and summer programs with prominent artists such as The Dance Theatre of Harlem, Suzanne Farrell, Nicholas Leichter, Ronald K. Brown, Gus Solomons, Coyaba Dance Theater, Blacks College Dance Exchange and the International Blacks in Dance Conference.

Mrs. Williams has taught in various settings that include dance studios, after-school programs, summer programs, private lessons, corporate fitness gyms and a number of locations throughout the metropolitan area. She has written, created, choreographed, and performed in many liturgical works for various churches, ministries, programs, and venues. Mrs. Williams was also a member of ReVision, a resident modern company of Dance Place.

This marks her seventh year at the Washington School of Ballet, and her sixth year teaching in the *DanceDC* program. She enjoys teaching and motivating students to dance to the best of their ability while boosting confidence and self-esteem. She also desires to create work that will educate, uplift, entertain and inspire audiences of all ages to fall in love with dance!



Kelsey Arrington, Administrative Program Coordinator

Kelsey Arrington is an arts administrator and artist who specializes in dance/movement, portraiture and fashion photography. She is a graduate of the College for Creative Studies where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography in 2015. She continued her art studies after college; earning a certificate in *Modern Art & Ideas* from MoMA and a certificate in *Curating On The Web: Exhibiting Internet-Based Art* from the Node Center for Curatorial Studies.

Prior to her employment with The Washington Ballet, Kelsey worked as a Photographic Services Assistant in the Photo Archives at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art. In her current role, she provides administrative assistance, acts as the marketing liaison for the Southeast Campus and in-house photographer when needed.

In her free time, Kelsey attends adult ballet and yoga classes at TWSB@THEARC and creates artwork with professional dancers. Kelsey's goal is to expand the brand image of The Washington School of Ballet SE Campus and promote the beauty and strength of the amazing dancers!



Margaret Giragosian Williamson, Full-Time Faculty
Pre-Ballet 1 Blue, Pre-Ballet 2 Red, Pre-Ballet 3 Red, 1A Red, 1B Red, Level 4, Teen 3

Margaret Giragosian Williamson received her early training at The Washington School of Ballet, the Maryland Youth Ballet and the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. Mrs. Williamson was fortunate to spend three summers studying with American Ballet Theatre. She received her BFA in Dance from George Mason University, where she was a regular performer and choreographer with the GMU Dance Company, represented the university at the American College Dance Festival and Chautauqua Dance Festival, was the recipient of the 2008 Chris Thaiss Award for Excellence in Writing in Dance, and also earned a BA in English.

Following her graduation, Mrs. Williamson completed the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet Teacher Training Workshop. She has taught ballet and pointe technique to students of all ages and levels at American Dance Institute in Rockville, MD, and has taught creative movement and pre-ballet to young children at Tiny Dancers LLC in Northern Virginia.

For the past nine years, she has been a full-time faculty member at The Washington Ballet @ THEARC, serving as teacher, choreographer, and repetiteur to over a hundred students each year. She is excited to embark upon her tenth year with the School and looks forward to continuing to impart her love of dance to her students. In the words of Ulysses Dove, "There is nothing to prove, only to share."



Damien Johnson, Faculty

Level 3, Level 4, Level 5, Level 6, Upper Level Boys, ATP

Damien Johnson is from Dallas, Texas. He received his early training from Kitty Carter, Dallas Metropolitan Ballet, and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts.

He then went on to study at the Rock School of the Pennsylvania Ballet and The School of American Ballet, the official School of New York City Ballet.

Damien has danced with the American Repertory Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, New Chamber Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet, Madison Ballet, U.K. based Ballet Black, and most recently The Suzanne Farrell Ballet.



April Lawyer, Faculty
Creative Dance, Level 1 Foundation, 1A Red (Interim)

April Lawyer has been dancing for over 20 years. She studied dance primarily as part of the Towson University Dance Department. At Towson, she worked with several notable dance instructors, including Linda Denise Fisher, Nancy Romita, Vincent Thomas, Stephanie Powell, and Jayne Bernasconi.

She specializes in Modern Dance Techniques, but she also has extensive knowledge in several other dance forms, such as Ballet, Contemporary, Lyrical, Hip Hop, and Jazz. In the past, she performed mostly as part of church and religious ensembles. From 2005 to 2016, she was a member of the highly acclaimed Full Circle Dance Company, a multi-cultural dance company located in Baltimore, Maryland.

April has significant experience in teaching dance to students of all ages. From 2012 to 2017, she taught at Ballet Petite at studios in Maryland and Virginia. At Ballet Petite she taught students of ages ranging from 18 months to 18 years old in Creative Movement, R.A.D. form Ballet, Hip Hop, Jazz, and Beginner's Tap. She also involved in Ballet Petite's Performance Company and was the Artistic Director for the Company's 2017 Nutcracker performance. While teaching at Ballet Petite, April taught at two other schools. She taught Creative Movement, Modern, and Hip Hop to students (ages 2-10) at Local Motion Studio (2014-2017) and Ballet, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Jazz, and Modern to students (ages 10-18) at The James School of Dance.

Currently, she is teaching at the Washington School of Ballet and Dance Dynamix. At the Washington School, she teaches Ballet at THEARC, the southeast campus. She is also part of the Washington School's DanceDC program, where the school reaches out to the community by holding classes at local schools. At Dance Dynamix, she teaches a variety of classes including: Modern, Ballet, Hip Hop, Lyrical and Jazz. She recently started her own dance instruction company, Destiny Dance, where she hopes to provide private instruction and enrichment to interested students.

April enjoys being able to introduce the joy of dance to the lives of young people and to watch them grow as they explore everything that the art form offers. April's broad background in dance and dance education and her love for watching students grow bring a rich and rewarding experience to her classes. As a teacher, she strives to inspire each of her students to use a love of dance to explore, interact, and perform.



Saki K. Scheller, Faculty
Pre-Ballet 1 Yellow, Pre-Ballet 2 Yellow, Pre-Ballet 1 Green

Saki K. Scheller is originally from Hyogo, Japan and was trained in jazz, tap, modern, ballet, ballroom, and Japanese traditional dance. She came to the United States to study Performing Arts at Southern Utah University and graduated with a BA in Dance Education with the honor of Outstanding Graduate.

In this time, she worked with Larry Keigwin, Charlotte Boye-Christensen, Murray Louis, Alberto Del Saz, Dianne Markham, Joe Alegado, Peter Chu, Douglas Nielsen, and others. She won many scholarships and academic awards, including the Who's Who National Honor Program, the San Christopher Scholarship, and the Michael Leavitt Scholarship, among others.

She started working with The Washington Ballet in 2008, where she served thousands of children and community members as the Education Programs Manager. She is a mother of two fun girls and now works as a faculty member. This is her 10th season with the company.



Caroline Rocher, Faculty
Level 5, Level 6, Teen 3, ATP

Caroline Rocher trained at the Conservatoire de Montpellier with Madame Claparède, and later studied at the Rudra Béjart art school in Lausanne, Switzerland. In 1998, she moved to America to study at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center in New York. Her professional career extends internationally - she danced with The Dance Theatre of Harlem in New York, The Bavarian State Ballet in Munich, Germany, The Lyon Opera Ballet in France, and Alonzo King's Lines Ballet in San Francisco. In 2001 Caroline was named among the year's "25 to Watch" in Dance Magazine. She also collaborated with international ballet star Vladimir Malakhov at the Career Transition for Dancers Gala in New York, and was invited to perform at "Le Gala des Etoiles du 21ème siècle" in Paris in 2004. Caroline has performed works from acclaimed choreographers such as Maurice Béjart, William Forsythe, Jiri Kylian, Arthur Mitchell, Michael Smuin, Glen Tetley, Alonzo King, and Dwight Rhoden.

In July 2014, Caroline retired from dance and has since relocated to Maryland. She teaches at the NW, SE and Alexandria campuses of The Washington School of Ballet. She is also a certified GYROTONIC® instructor and teaches at Elements Fitness & Wellness Center in Washington, DC.

Robbin Tasha-Ford, Faculty
Teen 1, Teen 2, Teen 3 (Interim), Adult Ballet

Robbin Tasha-Ford was born in New York and raised in Washington, D.C. She started dancing when she was six. She was a scholarship student at The Jones-Haywood School of Dance and later danced with the school's company, The Capital Ballet. That same year, Robbin also joined the D.C. Black Repertory Company, where she met Laverne Reed; she was a principal soloist with Reed's dance company until she left D.C. for college. Robbin also danced and toured with The Washington Ballet under the direction of Mary Day and performed in the premiere of a ballet choreographed by Choo-San Goh.

Following her graduation from Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Robbin received a scholarship to attend The Julliard School, where she earned a BFA in dance. While dancing at Julliard, Robbin had the opportunity to study with some of the original dancers in the Martha Graham and Limon companies. Outside of school, she kept busy dancing with the Paul Taylor Company, Eleo Pomare, Otis Sallid, Keith Lee, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. After completing her degree, Robbin moved to Los Angeles to pursue a more commercial side of the dance business. She has danced and choreographed with some of the Hollywood elite, including Earth, Wind, and Fire; Michael Jackson; Stevie Wonder; the Isley Brothers; and Debbie Allen.

Between her dance jobs, Robbin has always enjoyed teaching. She has taught and choreographed at Loyola, Marymount and Spellman Universities. For two years, she served as Assistant Artistic Director and Ballet Mistress for "The Robinson Project," an LA Performing Arts Company. For the last year, Ms. Tasha-Ford has been traveling the country, teaching dance and dance education seminars to children and adults.



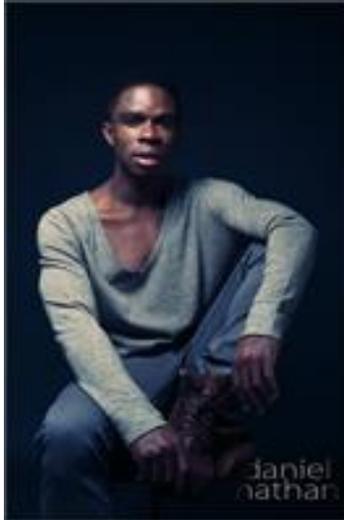
Christy Bartholomew, Faculty

Jazz

Christy Bartholomew is a teaching artist and communications specialist from Louisiana. Approaching movement as a technical and holistic art form, she developed an early cultural appreciation with roots in musical theatre, jazz, modern, Hip-hop, Afro-Caribbean, and contemporary African. She acquired her B.A. in mass communication and theatre from Louisiana State University and A&M College. As a full time student and company member with Of Moving Colors Productions, she trained in acting, improvisation, stagecraft, Pilates for dancers, Limón Technique, Graham Technique and dance history. Further advancement in performing arts led her to Walt Disney World and Universal Studios, appearing on *The Today Show*, *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* and a host of others. Fusing athletics and dance as a former NBA Dancer for the Orlando Magic NBA Team, she was also a member of the 'Dunking Dancers.' Notably, her choreography has been featured during the 2008 & 2009 NBA Semi-Finals, in addition to performing the national anthem and co-designing music for several home games. She toured as an ambassador with *United Service Organizations* and *Armed Forces Entertainment* tours to Germany, Poland, Iceland, Norway, The Netherlands, Japan, Korea and Singapore hosting various dance clinics to enhance arts outreach programming in military based schools. As a teaching artist, she toured the U.S. and Canada with Honeywell and NASA's award-winning interactive STEM education concert, *FMA Live!* delivering solid lessons that support the learning objectives of the National Science Education Standards.

She received prestigious honors from Grenada's Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture for her collaborative works in Grenada's Biennial West Indies Dance Festival with Connecting Vibes USA/UK. Recent accolades include The Warner Theatre, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Latin American Youth Center STEM Program, The Washington Ballet at THEARC, Levine Music, Atlas INTERSECTIONS, VelocityDC Dance Festival, Breaking Glass Project (NYC), WAVE Rising Series (NY) and The Howard Theatre with Maverick Lemons Dance Project, *What's Going On - The Marvin Gaye Project* (Dance Place), DEVIATED THEATRE, Derek Brown Productions, Taurus Broadhurst Dance, VanHook Productions, and Douglas Yeuell's *Summer Stock*, featuring a solo work. Notably, she trained under Ralph Glenmore (Alvin Ailey), Tabitha and Napoleon D'umo (FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance*), Sisaundra Lewis (NBC's *The Voice* and Cirque du Soleil's *La Nouba*), Jeff Higuera (Coach JDH) and a host of others. Her experience and expertise led her to adjudicate various regional, collegiate, international and professional dance and cheer competitions for *Turn it Up Dance Challenge*, Walt Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports *Pop Warner National Cheer & Dance Championships*, *Black College Cheer and Dance Championship*, and ESPN Asia/NBA Madness Asia. Previously, she worked in risk management for educational institutions and managed arts' nonprofit sectors.

With experience working for performance companies and educational institutions (both private and public schools), she has a keen interest in scouting and training talented performers, teaching musical theatre and movement techniques, creating works and dance curricula with the solid understanding of the human body and the physics of voice and movement as it concerns sound anatomical realignment, proper movement execution, and correlations to developing the body and mind. She is influenced by her studies in dance science, theatre, Plyometrics, Dunham Technique and Gyrokinesis Method. As Co-Director of the Classical Dance program at Bishop McNamara High School, her aim is to fuse performing arts and the science of dance by advocating social equality and injury prevention methodologies into her trajectory.



Yao Odamtten, Faculty
Lower Level Boys, Level 5/6 Modern

Fondly known as “Mr. Yao”, Yao E. Odamtten (pronounced oh-DAM-tin) is passionate about the healthy physical and psychosocial power of dance to transform both lives and society.

Mr. Yao’s rich interdisciplinary career has always been a dance – spanning the fashion world of Yves Saint Laurent, to international development with the UN/World Bank/IMF, to brand development with Fortune 100 companies, to integrative medicine and dance. Throughout his career, communications, education, and storytelling have been central themes. His most transformative experience involves using dance education with young children in under-resourced communities grappling with the crippling effects of generational poverty and systemic racism. The expression and resilience of these children and their families have to be understood in the context of their experience with health and psychosocial wellness.

Mr. Yao began training in West African movement in his native Ghana. He then trained in classical ballet, modern, Afro-Caribbean/Asian movement styles, and dance pedagogy at Hamilton College under Bruce Walczyk, Elaine Heekin, and Leslie Norton. There, he explored the socio-historical, technical, scientific, and creative elements of dance and the human body. At Hamilton, he also gained expertise in curriculum development from Prof. Barb Tewksbury. He credits additional coaching from Vincent Williams and Dr. Rima Faber. Later, he expanded his technical training in Horton, Limón, Bartenieff, and Release Techniques with Desmond Richardson at The Ailey School, Garth Fagan (Tony Award-winning choreographer, *The Lion King*), and Dr. Elana Anderson. He was the Youth Dance Manager for Bono’s *Heartland of America Tour*.

Mr. Yao has a BA in World Politics from Hamilton College, an MA in International Affairs and from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and received his license as a Chronic Disease Health-Nutrition educator from the Stanford University School of Medicine. Currently, he is the Health-Nutrition/Disease Risk Reduction Specialist and Psychosocial-Physical Therapist in the Pediatrics/Child Health Department at Howard University School of Medicine and Howard University Hospital. He concurrently teaches for The Washington School of Ballet, Maryland Youth Ballet, Joy of Motion Dance Center, and for the District of Columbia Public School system.

Whether on a stage, in a studio, classroom, or medical exam room, Mr. Yao prides himself on helping to mold better human beings – who think critically, creatively, and compassionately about the world inside and outside of themselves. He dares to believe that we can heal the world – one dancer at a time.



Royce Zackery, Faculty
Level 4 (Interim), Advanced Training Program

Royce Zackery received his Masters of Arts at N.Y.U. Steinhardt/American Ballet Theatre in Higher Education: Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions and is certified in the ABT National Teaching Curriculum with a concentrated degree in Ballet Pedagogy. He received a B.F.A from Southern Methodist University and is a proud member of American Ballet Theatre's Project Plié, International Dance Council (IDC), International Association of Dance Medicine and Science (I.A.D.M.S.) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (U.N.E.S.C.O).

Currently an Assistant Professor and Head Coordinator of Dance Arts for Howard University's Department of Theatre Arts Program, Mr. Zackery has more than 20 years of experience as a professional dancer and educator. He has performed in Broadway shows including *My One and Only*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Anything Goes*, along with classical ballet and contemporary companies including Ajkun Ballet Theatre, Rioult Dance, Rebecca Kelly Ballet, Thomas/Ortiz Dance, and Ballethnic Dance Company, to name a few.

Mr. Zackery's choreography, teaching, coaching and directing experience crosses all levels of dance from beginner to professional. He has served as faculty for several professional/pre- professional training facilities and programs, including Broadway Dance Center, Ailey Extension, and The School at Steps. He has also taught dance at public schools, academies, universities, professional companies and at festivals across the U.S. and abroad. Teaching idioms include classical/contemporary ballet technique, contemporary movement, jazz, tap, and partnering (classical/ contemporary technique).

Mr. Zackery has received choreographic notoriety for works commissioned by Dixon Place, Ajkun Ballet Theatre, Hofstra University, Irondale Center, Verb Ballets, Staten Island Ballet, Open Look White Nights Festival (St. Petersburg, Russia), Loteria Performing Arts, and Nomad Contemporary Ballet. He has also created works for international festivals, galas and governmental functions.

Mr. Zackery is a strong believer and advocate for giving back to the community and youth of the world through teaching. He has traveled to Africa to work with Mind Leaps and train native teaching artists of Kigali, Rwanda. While in Kigali, he also mentored orphans and homeless children in order to help them get into boarding schools, trade schools and IT programs.

Mr. Zackery's teaching philosophy is to enrich students' cognitive development. He believes that unconditional caring, patience, and mentorship of young people will ensure leaders of tomorrow.



Alice Howes, Faculty
Modern

Alice Howes is a dance artist and educator who is currently a full-time faculty member in dance at Coppin State University (CSU). She also has served on the dance faculties of UNC Charlotte, American University, Lamar University, and Salisbury University. In addition, she served from 1995 to 2004 as artistic director and resident choreographer of Washington, D.C.'s Sister's Trousers Dance Company, a modern dance ensemble based in the D.C. area. Sarah Kaufman of *The Washington Post* described Howes' performance as "riveting, thrilling and deeply mysterious." Howes' choreography has appeared in selective showcases at venues such as D.C.'s Dance Place, The Booth Theater in Charlotte, North Carolina and the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater and Millennium Stage. She holds an MA in dance from American University and an MFA in dance from Sam Houston State University. Howes also has earned a Certificate of Movement Analysis (CMA) from the Laban Institute of Movement Studies in New York City. She is currently the director of *Trajectory Dance Project*, a modern dance ensemble based at Coppin State University in Baltimore, MD.

Antoinette Connell, Faculty
African

Antoinette Connell is a dancer and teacher. She has danced with KanKouran West African Dance Company since 1984. She is also a personal trainer and facilitates opportunities for special needs students in the educational system.

She is excited to join the faculty of The Washington School of Ballet.



Tiffany Maqubela, Faculty
Adult Yoga

Tiffany Maqubela is a RYT-200 vinyasa yoga instructor registered with Yoga Alliance, who received her certification at the Buddha B Yoga Center in Washington, DC. Tiffany discovered yoga through a free class in Southeast taught by Sariane Leigh. Inspired by Leigh's soulful flow, as well as the immediate connection she felt to the practice on a spiritual and physical level, Tiffany sought to learn more by dabbling in different styles of yoga, including vinyasa, Hatha, Ashtanga, Jivamukti and Kundalini.

As a yoga teacher, Tiffany hopes to contribute to the diversity of instructors and encourage all people, regardless of size, age, ability, or color, to feel a part of the world of yoga. In her classes, she intends to help students embrace themselves within their individual practice and to find a moment of peace on the mat that can be carried into their daily lives.

Tiffany has completed training in Restorative yoga and Prenatal yoga, and will be completing her 85-hour certification as a registered prenatal yoga teacher in the winter of 2015. She is an alumna of Howard University, holding a B.A. in History and a M.Ed. in Educational Administration and Policy. Currently residing in Silver Spring, MD, Tiffany is a stay-at-home mother who enjoys watching movies with her husband while eating oven-made chocolate chip cookies with soy milk.

Confirmation of Receipt

I certify that I have received the Parent Handbook
and that I have read it in its entirety.
I agree to abide by the rules and regulations outlined in this Handbook.

Print Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____