



Bridgeman Academy of Performing Arts

# **PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

Bridgeman Academy of Performing Arts

Pre-Professional Program Handbook, 2025-2026 Season



# Pre-Professional Program Handbook

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Calendar .....	5
<b>Part I   ABOUT</b> .....	7
• About the Program	
• Faculty and Staff	
• Course Schedule	
◦ Elective Courses	
◦ Company Class	
<b>Part II   POLICIES &amp; PROCEDURES</b> .....	13
• Acceptance and Placement	
• Attendance	
• Dancewear & Equipment	
◦ Essential Program Items	
■ Dancewear	
■ Equipment	
• Dress Code	
◦ Weekly Class	
◦ Company Class	
◦ Performances and Events	
◦ Dress-Down Days	
◦ Dress Code Cards	
◦ Purchasing dancewear through the studio	
• Dance Journals	
• Electronic Devices	
• Dinner & Study Hall	
• Code of Conduct	
◦ Students	
◦ Parents	
• Financial Information	
◦ Tuition	
◦ Private Lessons	
◦ Scholarships	
◦ Other Fees	
• Termination of Contract	
◦ Emergency	
◦ Non-Emergency	
<b>Part III   PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES</b> .....	20

- Auditions
- Master Classes
- Pre-Pro Summer Intensive
- New Works Showcase
- Student Teaching
- YAGP
- Performances
- Photo Shoots
- Volunteer Opportunities

**Part IV | STUDIO RULES** ..... 24

- Communications
- Building & Safety
- Use of Equipment
- Food & Drink

# 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](mailto:info@bridgemanarts.com)

Website: [bridgemanarts.com](http://bridgemanarts.com)

Owner/Director

Elizabeth Bridgeman

Email: [elizabeth@bridgemanarts.com](mailto:elizabeth@bridgemanarts.com)

# Calendar 2025-2026

*Dates in the below calendar are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated via the Pre-Professional Group on our Studio App.*

## Pre-Season Dates

Ballet Production Auditions (Unlimited, the ballet): May 10, 2025

Picture Day: May 28, 2025

Parent/Student Meeting: August 12, 2025 at 5:00 pm

Pre-Pro Summer Intensive: August 11-15, 2025

## Important Dates

First Day of regular courses: August 18, 2025

Nutcracker Masterclasses: September 18-19, 2025

Nutcracker Auditions: September 20-21 (**Performances Dec. 21-22, 2025**)

Ballet Production, Unlimited the Ballet: October 30 - November 1, 2025

Mandatory Tech Week: October 27 - 29, 2025

Holiday Showcase: December 11, 2025

RSIA (at COCA): January 16-18, 2026 (not confirmed)

Jury Week: February 23-28, 2026

New Works Showcase: March 20, 2026

Busch Stadium Performance: May, 2026

Picture Day: May 26-27, 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 1, 2025

Halloween: October 31, 2025

Thanksgiving Break: November 26 - 29, 2025

Christmas Break: December 15, 2025 - January 4, 2026

RSIA (at COCA): January 16-18, 2026 (not confirmed)

Jury Week: February 23-28, 2026

Spring Break: March 23 - March 27, 2026

Memorial Day Weekend: May 23 - 25, 2026

## **Social Activities**

Back to Dance Pool Day: August 9, 2025 (2:00 pm)

Christmas Party: December 9-10, 2025

Winter Outing: January 3, 2026

Student Lock-In: March 27, 2026

Season End Celebration: June 6, 2026

## **Dress-Down Days (Company days only)**

Last Class of the month September-November, January-April

# 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 9 hours per week for Level 1 and 13 hours per week for Levels 2 and 3. Students attend a schedule of requisite courses specifically tailored to their level, 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 to ensure the highest level of learning for the students. You can read more about the current confirmed faculty members for the 2025-2026 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 18 years of teaching experience.

**Spencer Everett (Ballet, Contemporary, Acro 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.

**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!

**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.

**Juliana Witiuk (Ballet and Pointe Instructor):** Bio coming soon!

**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.

**Vesta Harris (Lyrical Instructor):** As a teacher at Bridgeman, Vesta brings with her a Bachelor of Performing Arts degree from the American Musical Dance Academy (AMDA) with special focuses in Musical Theater and Dance. Musicals in which Vesta has performed include: Legally Blonde, West Side Story, High School Music, Annie, Little Shop of Horror, and Aida. She has also done work for The Badgers Kompany and Commonality Dance Company. Her professional experience also includes dancing in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the LA Opera, and the Carnival Choreographers Ball (LA).

**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.

**All above instructors are confirmed for the 2025-2026 season. Any additional faculty members will be added to the handbook and website as they are confirmed.**

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Required classes will be held on **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:30–8:30 PM**. In addition, students must attend classes on **either Friday or Saturday**—they may choose their preferred day, as the same classes will be

offered on both. Individual schedules will be provided upon acceptance into the program.

**Elective classes** will also be available on these days. Students are required to either **enroll in at least one elective class** or **serve as an assistant teacher** during an elective time slot. This additional hour of training is a mandatory component of the pre-professional program, while all other electives remain optional.

## ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses are offered in the subjects of Hip Hop, Tap, Musical Theatre, Tumbling, Leaps & Turns, Choreography and Composition, Contortion, and Baton. One elective is included in the price of tuition. Electives outside of the one required elective, have an additional cost.

## COMPANY CLASS

*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): Ballet Technique**

- The second part of the season focuses on ballet 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.

# 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 select 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 four 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)** students will still be required to pay the tuition for the program and participate as much as they are able to throughout the remainder of the season. The student will be moved to an “Alternate” role in the company and will not perform.

## DANCEWEAR & EQUIPMENT

Each year, Bridgeman Academy partners with a local store or website to provide students with their dance essentials. The information for our 2025/2026 dancewear partnership is not yet available.

## ESSENTIAL PROGRAM ITEMS

*The following dancewear items are required for each member of the pre-professional program. For specifics, please reference the full dress code list online ([bridgemanarts.com/admissions](http://bridgemanarts.com/admissions)). **Students should keep as many items as possible at the studio in their locker for easy access.***

### REQUIRED DANCEWEAR

- **Company Leotard** (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**
- **Turners**



- **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 *New*

#### **DRESS CODE** (abbreviated, see [bridgemanarts.com/admissions](http://bridgemanarts.com/admissions))

##### **WEEKLY CLASS**

- Level specific leotard and dress code appropriate items.

##### **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.**

##### **PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS**

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

##### **DRESS-DOWN DAYS**

- Dress-down days occur during the last company class of each month. On these days, students may wear ballet-appropriate dancewear of any

color to class. Students may wear their non-dress code leotard to any other courses they have that day.

### **“DRESS DOWN PASS” CARDS**

Students will be given three dress code cards to use throughout the year. These cards should be kept in their locker and given to their teacher if they arrive to class out of dress code (ex. wrong tights, no pointe shoes, hair not in a secure bun...etc.). Outside of these three occasions, students will be required to observe class if they are not following the dress code in its entirety.

### **PURCHASING DANCEWEAR THROUGH THE STUDIO**

Select dancewear items are available for purchase through the studio app/website ([bridgemanarts.com/shop](http://bridgemanarts.com/shop)). If dancewear is purchased outside of the studio it **must be purchased through our dancewear partner or approved by a teacher. Dancewear styles and colors must match EXACTLY.**

## **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.

→ *Dinner & Study is a great time to make sure your journal is completed.*

### **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/stretchers given by your teacher to do outside of class
- Your water intake and notes on your sleep schedule

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

**Students may not wear fitness watches or bands during any courses.** They may only bring electronic devices such as phones and laptops into the studio during Dinner and Study time if given permission by their instructor.

## DINNER & STUDY HALL (not optional)

Dinner and Study Hall takes place from 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm each day (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) directly following the elective course of the day. All students are encouraged to bring a protein-rich snack or meal to eat during this class period. They may also bring homework to complete or use this time to practice choreography, or fill out their dance journal. This class period will be supervised by an academic tutor. Electronic devices may be used by special permission when needed for homework or practice.

***PBT (Progressing Ballet Technique) class will be offered during the 30 minute dinner & study period. Students are required to attend at least one PBT class per week and are encouraged to attend as many PBT classes as their schedule allows.***

## 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.***

## **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 Pre-Professional Summer Intensive (discounted to \$249/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).

## **TERMINATION OF CONTRACT**

### **CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENT**

It's imperative that all students carefully deliberate before signing their pre-professional program contracts. These contracts symbolize a year-long commitment, meaning students cannot simply choose to discontinue attendance at any juncture within the year.

## **TERMINATION - NON EMERGENCY**

If a student expresses intent to drop out of the program after signing their contract prior to the end of the season, they will still be responsible for all fees required for the program. **Tuition, Costume fees, Performance fees, Audition fees, and all other expenses will not be refunded should a student choose to break their contract and drop out of the program.**

Additionally, students may be responsible to pay for items acquired as a result of their year-long commitment (including but not limited to company leotards, tights, merchandise, headshots...etc.) and may also be asked to pay fees that occur during the remainder of the year that the studio has already committed to on the student's behalf.

- ❖ **Unless approved by the director, students who break their contract mid-year are ineligible to reapply for the Program in future years.**

## **TERMINATION - EMERGENCY**

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. Once a student's dismissal has been approved and their contract is void, students will not be responsible for paying any fees dated after the nullification of the contract.

- ❖ ***If a student's emergency and consequent dismissal is approved by the director, their dismissal will not prevent them from applying for the program again in the future.***

# 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)**
- Touring auditions (encouraged)
- Summer Intensives such as SAB and ABT (encouraged)
- The Muny Kids/Teens (encouraged)
- Weissman Dancewear Model Call (encouraged)
- Bridgeman Academy Ballet Production Auditions (required)

### 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.

## **PRE-PRO SUMMER INTENSIVE**

Each year, pre-professional students will attend an exclusive dance intensive with guest teaching artists and choreographers. During the intensive students will attend classes and rehearse for the fall ballet production. This week will also include a student teaching certification course and mandatory program meeting to review expectations and discuss events taking place during the 2025-2026 season. This intensive is \$249 per week and is required for all students enrolled in the pre-professional program. The 2025 required intensive will take place August 11-15 between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Students may also elect to take the Pre-Professional intensive during the weeks of July 28 and August 4th (9:00 am - 4:00 pm) for the same discounted price. Pre-Professional students must register for their summer intensive weeks via a private link that will be emailed out once their registration is received.

## **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 have the opportunity to assistant teach in place of any elective class taking place from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm. Students may also teach on Wednesdays and Saturdays when no requisite courses are offered. 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**

Students in the pre-professional program will have the opportunity to perform at the venues listed below.

- Lund Auditorium (Chi), Folly Theatre (KC), Tennessee PAC (Nash) - YAGP
- Disney World/New York City (bi-annually)
- Busch Stadium - Cardinals Game (annually)
- The Family Arena - Ambush (annually)
- Fox Theatre - Nutcracker (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 May 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
  - General App notifications on
- 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 (other than water bottles) are only allowed in the studios during dinner and study time. 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.). There will be a sign up sheet for students to take turns sweeping the studio after the Dinner & Study period. If there are any food allergies within the program, there will be a message sent out on Spaces at the beginning of the year.

## 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\_\_\_\_\_