



NEW ORLEANS
SCHOOL OF
BALLET

Nikki Hefko, Director

Class Programs & Descriptions

New Orleans School of Ballet follows a specific graded curriculum, divided by age. Each level is designed to be sensitive to the developmental needs of the age group. Our curriculum combines elements from the classic French, Italian, Russian, and American schools of training. We offer quality training to students who wish to study intensively as well as recreationally.

Our Conservatory Training offers an extensive schedule for young dancers interested in rigorous ballet training. Performance opportunities are available.

Nutcracker in New Orleans: Dancers ages 5+ are eligible to perform for our annual *Nutcracker in New Orleans* performance. This optional performance opportunity is by audition only.

May Matinée: Students in levels Pre-Ballet and higher are eligible to perform in this year-end culminating performance. This performance opportunity is optional.

PRE-BALLET: 3 & 4 year olds. 3 years old by September 1, 2026.

Introduces basic Ballet vocabulary, while continuing to explore the young dancers' creativity, coordination and musicality.

PRIMARY: 5 & 6 year olds. 5 & 6 years old by September 1, 2026.

Provides more basic Ballet vocabulary and technique, with focus on strength and flexibility, while continuing to emphasize coordination and musicality.

Preparatory Ballet: 7 & older

Levels 1-3: 8 & older

Levels 4-7: 11 & older

Focus is on proper Ballet technique, strength, flexibility and body alignment.

Additional attention is given to musicality, movement quality and anatomically correct work.

*Pre-Ballet and Primary are grouped by ages, higher levels are grouped by ability. Age indicators are a general reference and do not determine level placement. **Expect your child to be in each level at least 2 years – this is generally.** Dancers are placed and promoted according to their individual progression. We want all of our dancers to succeed and take great care in placing a student in a level that will progress them in the most effective way possible. All placements and level promotions are made at the sole discretion of the School Director.*

Payment Information

Please make checks payable to New Orleans School of Ballet.

Visa, Master Card, Discover, and American Express accepted via JackRabbit Parent Portal.

Payment Information:

- Tuition is charged per semester. You will receive an emailed statement only if your account is past due. Students with multiple classes may opt for recurring automatic payments. Please contact the School to arrange this payment option.
- **Returned Checks/Declined Credit Cards** A \$30 fee will be charged for any checks returned to our office or declined credit cards.
- We do not prorate tuition for sickness, holidays, or days missed for personal reasons. If your child must miss a class due to an illness or another approved reason and would like to make up the class, please contact NiOSB to make proper arrangements.
- All outstanding fees must be paid in full in order for performance participation.
- All outstanding tuition and fees must be paid in full before a student register for classes.

Withdrawal Policy:

- If your child wishes to withdraw from class, please inform us immediately in writing. One month's notice is required. If tuition is paid in full and the student is unable to attend, or decides to withdraw from classes, a refund of tuition will be made according to the following schedule:
 - Before the first day of class: 100% of total amount
 - Within first month of classes: 75% of total amount
 - Within second month of classes: 25% of total amount
 - After the second month of classes: NO REFUND

Attire

Class uniforms may be purchased at locally Carmel's Dance Wear or [online here](#). For Discount Dance online purchases, please use our studio code, 113663, with purchase. All uniforms and shoes should be labelled with student's first and last name.

GIRLS BALLET:

- Ballet pink or flesh colored tights transition tights. Shoes must align with the color of the tights.
- Pre-Ballet-Level 3 dancers must wear leather full soled ballet slippers. Level 4 and higher may wear canvas or leather split soled slippers.
- Leotard Guidelines: No halter, excessively low or criss-crossed backs, sparkle, Lycra, contrast or patterned materials. Same color velvet allowed as edge trim on leotards.
- Skirts are worn for pointe/variations, observation days, and performances only.
- Hair neatly secured in a ballet bun.
- Undergarments (underwear and bras) should not be visible beneath leotard and tights.

PRE-BALLET
PRIMARY
PREP
LEVEL 1-2
LEVEL 3-4
LEVEL 5+

PINK DANCE DRESS
LILAC DANCE DRESS
WHITE LEOTARD; WHITE SKIRT
LIGHT BLUE LEOTARD; LIGHT BLUE SKIRT
ROYAL BLUE LEOTARD; ROYAL SKIRT
BLACK LEOTARD; BLACK SKIRT

BOYS BALLET:

White T-Shirt or Tank Top, Black Tights, Dance Belt (Boys 10 and older) and black full-soled ballet slippers.

MODERN/CONTEMPORARY:

Solid color leotard, long sleeved shirt, black tights/leggings, socks

Placement, Promotion and Evaluations

Advancement through New Orleans School of Ballet is based on many factors including a student's age, strength, commitment, mastery of material, maturity and attendance record. Students are placed in the level that will encourage the most progress. Level placement is at the discretion of the Director. If there are questions or concerns about a student's progress please schedule a conference with the Director.

Students do not automatically advance to the next level at the end of each school year. Students may spend more than 1-2 years in a level. Levels 1-5 will complete a curriculum assessment class at the end of the year which will include an end-of-year evaluation addressing progress, effort, attitude, and recommended improvements.

NOSB Director and faculty continuously assess students' progress. Throughout the year students showing exceptional progress may be invited to take classes at the level above their own level. Students who fall behind their level due to excessive absences may be required to take classes below their level.

Building Etiquette

Please keep noise in the lobby area to a minimum. Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves and disposing of garbage. The facilities and furniture should be treated with respect. No chewing gum is allowed in the building or the studio. Students should not bring valuables to NOSB. If this is unavoidable valuables should be brought into the studio room with them. NOSB is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Students should not dress in the lobby area. Our New Orleans shot-gun style studio has two bathrooms in the rear of the building. Please use these facilities. It is okay to walk quietly through the studio if there is a class in session.

Classroom Etiquette

- Once class has begun, quiet is required of all students.
- Students should use the restroom prior to class.
- Students should raise their hands to ask questions related to class work and acknowledge corrections with a polite response.
- Students must remain standing for the entire class. No sitting on the floor or hanging on the barres will be tolerated.
- No outside shoes, food or beverages other than water are allowed in the studio.
- Disruptive behavior can not be tolerated and students behaving in such ways may be asked to sit down or leave the studio.
- At the end of each class students should individually thank the teacher before leaving the studio.

Observers are not permitted in the classroom. Please understand that this is in the best interest of our students and their learning environment. Parents are allowed to watch class twice a year during our Open School Week Classes.

Harassment and Bullying Policy

New Orleans School of Ballet is committed to maintaining a positive learning environment in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. Discrimination, harassment, and bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, are types of conduct that disrupt our dancers' ability to learn and NOSB's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Such conduct will not be tolerated.

For purposes of this policy, harassment and bullying are defined as any unwelcome or unwanted conduct of an offensive nature, whether verbal, physical, or environmental, that is intended to or actually causes mental or physical harm to the individual at which it is directed or that creates an intimidating, abusive, hostile, or offensive environment. Harassment and bullying also includes misconduct that occurs using electronic equipment and media, such as through email, text, or social media. This policy also applies to misconduct that occurs outside of NOSB hours but that is directed towards NOSB students or staff or that substantially disrupts NOSB's learning environment.

NOSB encourages all individuals who believe they are being harassed or bullied to report misconduct under this policy to the Artistic Director. Retaliation against any victim or person who makes a good faith report of harassment or bullying will not be tolerated and will also be considered misconduct under this policy. Deliberate or knowingly false reports, however, will not be tolerated and are considered misconduct under this policy.

NOSB will respond promptly and investigate all good faith complaints of misconduct. If NOSB determines that misconduct has occurred, the parent or guardian for the student(s) involved in the misconduct shall be notified. NOSB reserves the right to take appropriate corrective action based on the severity of the misconduct, including removal from the School.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their classes. Good attendance is essential to students' progress. If a student is unable to attend a class or will be tardy, NOSB must be notified by text, phone, or email BEFORE the scheduled class. Reported absences for the following reasons are considered 'excused' absences: illness, injury, family emergency, religious holiday observance. Only 'excused' absences are eligible for make-up lessons. Up to two make-up classes can be scheduled per semester. Classes must be made-up in the same month as the absence. Please report your child's absences or tardies via email and schedule make classes with the Director.

Arrivals

Students should arrive at least five minutes prior to class time and be dressed and ready for class at the appointed time. Students that arrive more than 10 minutes late disrupt the class and may not be allowed to participate but asked to observe class and record notes. Students that arrive after the class has started must quietly approach the teacher and ask permission to join the class.

Class cancellations/holiday schedules

Please refer to our School Calendar at the end of this packet. Call/text NOSB at 504-866-0652 with any questions related to class cancellations. Our school year is padded with days to accommodate cancellations. Days canceled due to inclement weather will not be rescheduled. School information, updates, reminders and announcements are sent by email to the designated contact.

Please upload our NOSB app from the App Store or Google play and turn on notifications, provide a current email address in the parent portal and check it regularly. You may also include email addresses of those who bring your child to class in your Jackrabbit contact listing. It is a good practice to periodically check our app and New Orleans School of Ballet Facebook & Instagram pages for cancellations and holiday reminders.

Medical concerns and emergencies

Faculty and staff are aware of any medical concerns specified in your child's registration information via Jackrabbit. If changes arise, please notify the staff in writing so that all medical records are up to date. In case of an emergency, all attempts will be made to contact the student's parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached the emergency contact will be utilized. Communication with faculty
If you would like to speak to the faculty or director regarding your child please email or call the studio to arrange an appointment.

Student drop-off & pick-up

Students should be dropped off and picked up in a timely manner, within 5 minutes of their class time. NOSB personnel cannot be responsible for students left beyond this time. **Students, regardless of age, must wait inside the studio for pick-up.**

Students, Levels 1 and higher, are required to wear street clothes over their leotards as they enter and exit the studio.

School Calendar Highlights 2026-27

All important dates, closures, and events can be found on our website:

[Online NOSB Calendar](#)

- Aug 24, 2026 – Fall Classes Begin, Levels 1-7
- *Aug 31, 2026 – Fall Classes Begin, Pre-Ballet, Primary & Prep Fall*
- Sept 7, 2026 – Labor Day (No Classes)
- *Sept 12-13, 2026— Nutcracker Auditions*
- Oct 12-13, 2026 — Fall Break
- *Nov 16–21, 2026 – Open School Week*
- Nov 23–28, 2026 – Thanksgiving Break
- *Dec 7, 2026 – Jan 3, 2027 – Winter Break*
- Dec 12–13, 2026 — The Nutcracker in New Orleans performances
- *Jan 4, 2027 – Spring Classes Begin*
- Jan 18, 2027 – MLK Day (No Classes)
- *Feb 3–10, 2027 – Mardi Gras Break*
- Mar 15–20, 2027 – Open School Week
- *March 26 — April 2, 2027 – Spring Break*
- May 23, 2027 – May Matinée performance; End of Semester
- *June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2027 – Summerdance Pre-Ballet Mini Session (Ages 3–5)*
- June 1-24, 2027 — Ballet Blueprint Evening Intensive (Ages 12+)
- *June 7–132 2027 – Ballet Blueprint Intensives (Ages 10-13)*
- June 14–18, 2027 – Summerdance Ballet Camp (Ages 7–10)

**New Orleans School of Ballet follows the Orleans Parish School System for weather related closings.
Please call the studio for more information.**