



BERKSHIRE PULSE PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

INFORMATION AND POLICIES

2009-2010

Class and Level Placement

Placing students correctly is a foundational part of our mission. We deeply consider a wide variety of factors—physical skill, peer group, emotional maturity, years of previous study, and age. Be assured that we always give careful consideration to placing each student where we believe he or she will have the greatest potential for growth. Placement classes are required for all NEW students ages 10+ who may participate in the Advanced Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced level classes AND FOR RETURNING students ages 10+ who are interested in being considered for advancement. Placement classes are held during our registration period (see registration information for placement class schedule). Students under 10 are placed according to age and interest. For these students occasionally adjustments in class placement may be necessary after initial attendance.

Interdisciplinary Requirements

All Intermediate and Advanced level Modern or Jazz dance students are required to participate in a Ballet class, and all Intermediate and Advanced level Ballet students are required to participate in a Modern or Jazz dance class. Please refer to Intermediate and Advanced level class descriptions for further requirements.

Payment

We accept payment in checks, cash or all major credit cards. We are unable to accept BerkShares. Full payment or a completed tuition assistance application is required at registration before a student can be enrolled in a class. Tuition of \$600 or more may be made in 3 monthly installments, 1/3 of which is due at registration. Though tuition for late registration is pro-rated, students registering after our regular registration period may be charged a late registration fee of \$30. We are unable to guarantee placement for late registrations.

Refunds

Up to the end of the second week of classes, we will offer pro-rated refunds. After the first two weeks of class, pro-rated refunds or credit will only be offered in the case of a serious injury with a physician's note for confirmation, or when an entire semester's class is cancelled by Berkshire Pulse. Otherwise, no refunds are offered.

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance application forms will be available at registration, or can be requested ahead of time by calling Berkshire Pulse at (413) 274-6624.

Work Study

Please contact Managing Director, Bettina Montano at 413-274-6624 if you have an interest in a Work Study arrangement.

Discipline Policy

We support a classroom environment in which students are encouraged to maintain their focus, respect, and best effort. If any student is consistently demonstrating behavior that is lacking in these qualities, and is unresponsive to instructor intervention, the following progressive actions will be taken:

The teacher will ask the student to sit out and observe for the rest of the class.

The parents will be called and made aware of the student's behavior. A parent/teacher conference will be requested to evaluate whether or not the student should continue in class.

If the decision is made to allow the student to remain in class, the student will be given a probationary period and if the behavior occurs again, the student will be asked to leave. No refunds will be given.

The student may apply for the next semester only after a parent/teacher conference.

Dance Class Attire

Please see our Dress Code information handout for details.

Punctuality

If a student is more than 15 minutes late for a class, teachers reserve the right to ask that student to observe rather than participate in class.

Attendance

Students are allowed three absences per session due to illness or other unforeseeable circumstances. Consistent attendance plays an essential role in the student's experience of learning, improving, and performing. Absences which exceed these allowances will affect a student's opportunity to perform, and /or to move to a more advanced level. A courtesy call is expected when a student will be absent.

Student Pick Up

Students should be picked up directly after class. Please notify us in advance if you will be late for pick up. Also, if a student is being picked up by someone other than their primary care giver or parent, they must either bring a written explanation or have notified a Berkshire Pulse representative directly by phone prior to class dismissal. Students waiting for rides are required to wait inside the building. Students will not be allowed to wait outside or leave the premises on foot for any reason without written permission from a parent or primary care giver. No exceptions. This policy is in place to protect the safety of your children.

Class Cancellations

We do not close with the school holidays except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, February and April break. These dates are listed on the class schedule. Unexpected Cancellations: Classes will only be cancelled due to inclement weather, or if an instructor is unable to attend and a substitute cannot be arranged. In the case of an instructor's absence we will always make an effort to contact you. However, for weather related cancellations we suggest that you call Berkshire Pulse at 413-274-6624 for verification. Berkshire Pulse children's classes will always be cancelled when the Berkshire Hills School District has a full day weather cancellation or early dismissal. We offer one make-up class, time permitting, for those classes cancelled due to instructor absence. We do not offer make-up classes for weather related cancellations.

Class Observation by Parents/Guardians

We generally discourage parents/guardians from observing classes. It is our firm policy that class time be "student time" (learning as opposed to performing). If, however, you have a justifiable need to observe a particular class, please let us know in advance and an "open class" time can be arranged, pending the instructor's approval.

Parent /Teacher Communication

Our instructors are usually unable to have conversations with parents directly before or after class. Therefore, we ask that you please contact Artistic Director, Bettina Montano at (413) 274- 6624 regarding any concerns you may have about your child's participation in the program. Please do not call our instructors at their homes.

Performances

The Berkshire Pulse Performing Arts Program holds its annual Dance and Music Celebration at the end of each Spring Session. Since Fall session classes do not culminate in a performance, Fall classes will be open for observation during the last two weeks of the semester. Advanced level students may be invited to participate in additional performances throughout the year.

Welcome to Berkshire Pulse Performing Arts!