

# DANCER HANDBOOK

2024–2025

Irina Makkai Classical Ballet  
and Dance School  
(Ballet Makkai)



# WELCOME TO BALLET MAKKAI

Welcome to the official handbook of Ballet Makkai! We're so glad to have you as a dancer with us this season! This handbook is meant to be your go-to resource whenever you have questions about dress code, class etiquette, communication, and general studio guidelines and expectations. Our goal is to foster a positive dancing environment for growth and part of that process is making sure we're all on the same page so we can grow together!





# OUR PROMISE

We're so glad you've joined us!

At Ballet Makkai we're proud of the environment we've created to train dancers in excellence and promote a positive studio culture.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to instill a love of dance, while inspiring self-confidence, discipline and respect for dance.



# REGISTRATION

## How long is my registration good for?

When you register for Fall semester classes it is for a nine month period from August to May of the next year. When you register for Fall, it is assumed, unless we receive notice otherwise in writing, that your dancer will continue those same classes in the consecutive Spring semester. If you register in the Spring semester, your registration is only for one semester. The classes registered for in a Fall or Spring semester DO NOT carry automatically into the Summer. Summer camps, intensives, and master classes are open for registration separately and usually during the months of April and May each year.

**Please note: Classes may be canceled or changed due to enrollment numbers or sickness. Teachers will use the first week of classes to assess level placements. Teachers and directors have the right to move a child if they feel a different level would be more suited to their abilities and strengths.**



### HOW DO I ADD CLASSES?

You may add a class by visiting our website at [www.balletmakkai.com](http://www.balletmakkai.com).

### HOW DO I DROP CLASSES?

Only studio administration will be able to drop a class from your schedule.

## **Ballet Makkai has the right to drop a student from a class if:**

- There have been four consecutive absences with no communication from the student's family
- Tuition has not been paid for a certain period of time.

**Make-up Classes:** Per our Tuition Policies, we do not prorate tuition for missed classes or holidays. If your dancer misses a class due to illness or being out of town, they may come to a make-up class of the same level and similar style. To sign up for a make-up email or call the school.

## **Siblings & and Young Dancers**

To keep everyone's wait comfortable in the lounge, please watch siblings closely. Older siblings may not run or be too loud. Keep a close eye on younger children by our exterior door. We don't want any younger children wandering outside without a parent.

## **Getting a Dancer Early**

Parents - if you need to get your dancer from class, please send a note with your dancer or call or email before class starts. Parents should not go into a class already in session without permission.

## **Students may not dance at other studios**

Students may not dance at other dance schools without the express written consent from the director of Ballet Makkai.

# COMMUNICATION

## AT BALLET MAKKAI

The preferred choice of contact for communication with studio administration is by email at [lilla@balletmakkai.com](mailto:lilla@balletmakkai.com). Please allow 48 hrs for replies.

Instructors are available to answer concerns via email, NOT between their classes.

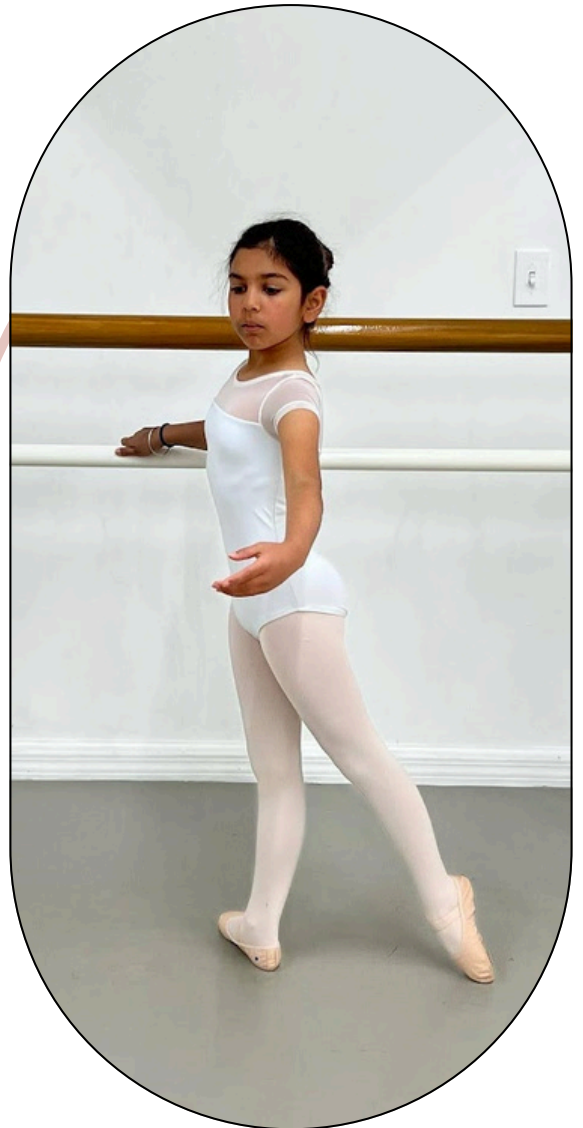
### **When you have a question:**

Please check the studio website FIRST.

"Like" and follow our Facebook page at:  
**[www.facebook.com/irinamakkai.classicalballetanddanceschool](https://www.facebook.com/irinamakkai.classicalballetanddanceschool)**

And although we do check our Facebook messages, we respond to email faster.

We are on Instagram: @balletmakkai





# FOR PRE- DANCE STUDENTS

Please label your dancer's bags, attire, shoes, and accessories with their name. We have a "Lost and Found" in the Pre-Dance Dressing Room.

If a Pre-Dance student is disruptive to the point of distracting classmates, we will send a helper to come get a parent to retrieve their dancer. If this continues over several weeks, the Directors will talk to you about a possible class change.

Please remind Pre-Dancers to use the bathroom before class begins.

Please don't change young dancers around other patrons. If you need to get the child completely undressed, do it privately in the bathroom.

# DANCER EXPECTATIONS

## RESPECT

Dancers will treat all choreographers, instructors, and peers with respect and use their words to uplift and encourage each other. We will address unkind words and any potential bullying that comes to our attention directly.



In every performance opportunity, dancers will conduct themselves with self-control and treat facilities and venues with respect, leaving them in the same condition, if not better than when we arrived.

**Dancers should be in the studio on time for class.** If you arrive to class late, you must ask the instructor's permission to join class. Please send your dancer with a note explaining why they are late.

Do not talk while the teacher is talking. Listen first and then ask relevant questions.

Please label dance bags, shoes, and accessories with a first and last name or initials.

Refer to each class's specific dress code to make sure you dress accordingly.



# DRESS CODE

No gum and no smart watches or loose jewelry during class.

## BALLET

Correct level  
colored leotard  
Pink Tights with  
no runs  
Ballet Shoes  
Hair in a Bun

## CONTEMPORARY

Correct level  
colored leotard  
Pink or Tan Tights  
or leggings

## JAZZ

Any colored  
leotard/tank top  
Pink or Tan Tights  
or leggings  
  
Tan split sole jazz  
shoes

## TAP

Correct level  
colored leotard  
Pink or Tan Tights  
or leggings

Tan Tap shoes  
with no heel

# TUITION POLICIES



Tuition is nonrefundable and due in three installments: upon registration, October 31 and November 30. Registration is not complete until the first installment of tuition is received.

Tuition may be paid via PayPal (3% Fee added), check payable to Irina Makkai Classical Ballet School, or via Zelle payable to [irina@balletmakkai.com](mailto:irina@balletmakkai.com)

**No credits or refunds** will be issued for missed classes, including those missed for holidays. However, your dancer is welcome to attend makeup classes for any lessons missed.

# CASTING POLICIES

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**Casting is determined by each choreographer with great thought and discussed within the administration. It is the dancer's responsibility to come to class to learn the material, review choreography on their own time in addition to rehearsal, and inform the choreographer if an absence will be taking place. It is the choreographer's right to withdraw a dancer from a piece or role if he or she does not attend classes/ rehearsals on a continuing basis or displays an attitude or behavior that is unbecoming of a young artist.**

Casting for a role may be determined by technique requirements & ability and artistry..

**Casting is NOT determined by age or seniority alone.**





## WHY ARE DRESS REHEARSALS MANDATORY

The purpose of a dress rehearsal is to see the choreography in the performance space for the first and final time before performing. To maintain the professionalism of our performances, we must have every dancer present in order to ensure that all elements are working together for a beautiful final product. Dancing is very much a team sport and each dancer deserves to have their fellow dancers present to get a successful final practice before the show.

Your dancer may have quick changes, partner choreography, last minute placement changes on stage due to space, lifts, costume issues that need to be worked out, or any other number of technical components that must be practiced before they are allowed to perform. For that reason, if a dancer does not attend dress rehearsal, they may be removed or their part changed in a piece.

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September 3

Classes Begin

Sept 7

Ballet Makkai Youth  
Company Audition

Sept 13

Nutcracker Audiiton

Dec. 7–8

Nutcracker

April

Student Choreo  
Showcase

May 24–25

Recital

IMPORTANT  
            
*Dates*

# THANK YOU



It's going to be a wonderful season!  
We appreciate you taking the time to  
read, understand, and accept our  
studio's policies and procedures.