



Dear Columbia Dance Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year. We are counting the days until classes begin on September 8th.

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

September 8	Classes begin
First Class	Parent Orientation- your child's teacher will ask you to come into the studio for a
December 18-20	Nutcracker Performances (save the date to come watch the big kids perform)

FACILITY INFORMATION

- Our building is a locked facility. Wait for the receptionist to buzz you in or enter door code (emailed out separately).
- Parents are responsible for escorting their children to and from our building.
- We are located in an urban area and request that dancers enter and exit our building with street clothes over their dance uniform.
- There is metered parking right outside of our door. 1 block away you will find free 2 hour parking.

CREATIVE DANCE AND PRE-BALLET FOCUS

- Etiquette - Teaching our young dancers how to behave in a dance class is a huge focus in a creative dance and pre ballet class! Dancers learn by watching and listening. Dancers communicate through body language. "Dancer manners" are reviewed during the warm-up portion of each class, and help our dancers feel respected and respectful.
- Expression- Giving dancers the time and space to explore movement is essential, but this doesn't mean just turning on music and letting them run around. Our faculty give them prompts like fast/slow, high/low, soft/sharp, etc. These moments in class give the children opportunities to be expressive and individual in their movement, feeling beautiful in their bodies.
- Energy - We encourage the kids to dance BIG, take up space, and use their whole body. We want our dancers to be confident and courageous with their movement! We want them to feel strong. You will see lots of gross motor skills in these classes. Fine motor skills come into focus in Level 1.

FACULTY REQUESTS

- Please have your dancer use the bathroom right before class. Bathroom breaks can be contagious 😊. Once one dancer goes, everyone suddenly has to go.
- Please do your best to have your dancer ready to enter the dance studio on time. Every dancer who enters late is a distraction to the class. Budget in time to park, use the restroom, put ballet slippers on.
- Smalls & Talls is a dance class for little movers (ages 1-3) and their grown-ups. Smalls & Talls introduces creative movement through music, play, and imagination—building coordination, confidence, and connection. Grown-ups participate alongside their smalls in this welcoming, low-pressure class. There is no dress code or performance for this group. Just come as you are, ready to move and have fun together.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Columbia Dance is a non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees. In addition to asking parents to volunteer to help at our Nutcracker and Spring Performances, we have a number of committees that parents are welcome to serve on should they have the time and expertise. Please let us know if you have any interest in joining one of our committees by reaching out to becky.moore@columbiadance.org

- Finance Committee works with the board Treasurer and Director to strengthen the financial standing of Columbia Dance through long-range and strategic planning.
- Fund Development Committee is charged with oversight of Columbia Dance's fundraising efforts, managing relationships with donors, and leveraging opportunities to enhance awareness of Columbia Dance within the broader community.
- Facilities Committee is charged with overseeing the maintenance of the building.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is tasked with the ongoing responsibility of ensuring that Columbia Dance lives up to its value of inclusiveness. They ensure that there is constant awareness, analysis, action, and accountability in regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion as it applies to the Columbia Dance student body and the community audiences that we serve.
- Sewing Assistance our costumes are altered to fit each dancer. All levels of sewing experience can be helpful to our wardrobe team.

Thank you so much for making the decision to enroll your child at Columbia Dance. We are looking forward to a fantastic year. Please read through this packet and reach out to us with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,
Becky Moore
Director, Columbia Dance
becky.moore@columbiadance.org



Training Dancers | Shaping People

At Columbia Dance, we believe that ballet training not only helps you become a good dancer, it helps you be a good person. We feel passionately that art revives us and inspires us, giving children a leg up on loving who they are, and giving that gift back to the world.

Mission Statement

Columbia Dance's mission is to present dance as a life-enhancing experience for our students and our community by setting high artistic standards in classical ballet education and performance, while creating a positive, nurturing, and challenging environment where dance appreciation thrives.

At Columbia Dance We Value:

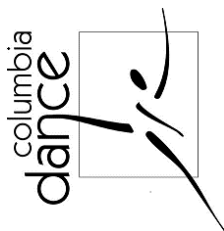
Inclusiveness – children of all ages, genders, and body types are embraced, instructed, and presented as valuable members of our community.

The Whole Dancer – the life skills that dance training cultivates are given as much value as the more specialized technicalities of the dance form. Self-discipline, self-confidence, respect, wellness and teamwork are emphasized in our studios.

Quality Instruction – professional dance instructors work as a cohesive faculty to provide a nurturing learning environment where high expectations are set, aspired to, and ultimately met through student dedication and faculty mentorship.

Performance Opportunities – our dancers are given the platform to share their art form with their community and to be a part of something bigger than themselves by participating in large productions with public audiences. They interact with choreographers and teachers, stage crew, volunteers, and their fellow dancers to contribute to the magic of our Nutcracker and Spring Performances.

Promotion of the Arts – via partnerships with area corporations, businesses, schools, private enterprise and other community arts organizations, we are invested in keeping art alive and well in our community.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027

Classes Begin	September 8
Observation Week	November 2-7
Veterans' Day Holiday	November 11
Thanksgiving Holiday	November 25-28
Nutcracker (Level 1 and up at Skyview High School)	December 18-20
Winter Holiday	December 21 - January 2
Classes Resume	January 4
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	January 18
President's Day Holiday	February 15
Observation Week	February 22-27
Spring Break	April 3 - 10
Memorial Day Holiday	May 31
Last Day of Classes	June 18

General School Information

Inclement Weather Policy:

In the event of inclement weather, Columbia Dance will announce any closures by 1pm for weekday classes and by 8pm the evening prior for weekend classes. Announcements will be sent via email. As our hours are very different from public schools hours, our decision to remain open or closed may differ from those of the academic schools. On occasions when Columbia Dance is able to be open during inclement weather, we will respect any family's decision to keep their child home and will happily excuse them from classes.

Parent Observation Weeks: We have found from experience that students make better progress without parents in the studio. Parents and friends are invited to observe classes twice a year during Parents Observation Week. These weeks are listed on the annual calendar.

Performances All students have the opportunity to perform at the end of the year in our *Spring Showcase*. Students in Level 1A and up, are invited to participate in our annual holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, performed in December. Our Creative Dance and Pre-Ballet students have the opportunity to take part in an informal studio performance in late November.

Notices & Messages: Email is our primary form of communication. Important school notices and schedules will also be posted on the school bulletin board in the lobby. Students and parents are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Lobby Area: Parents are welcome to watch classes from the lobby. The level of noise in the lobby must be maintained at a low volume. Excess noise can be heard through the classrooms and disrupts the dancers' ability to concentrate. Parents are expected to keep a close eye on their children and not allow them to run around the studios. Please help us keep our lobby clean: pick up after yourselves and dispose of trash and recycling in the respective receptacles.

'No Dogs' policy: All dogs must be on leash or in a carrier and must not pass the slate entryway of Columbia Dance.

Lost and Found: The Lost and Found basket is located in the lobby. Clearly labeled clothing and shoes help to prevent their loss. Please do not leave valuables unattended.

Dressing Rooms: Men's and Women's changing rooms are available. Company members have access to unlocked lockers for dance-related personal items. Please do not leave valuables unattended. That said, all dancers will use only what belongs to them and respect the possessions of others. Behavioral expectations extend across all physical spaces in Columbia Dance—from the studio to dressing rooms; we are an inclusive community of respect and collaboration.

Conferences: Students and parents are welcome to call the school at any time they have questions or concerns. Conferences with faculty can be arranged. Teachers are often scheduled to teach consecutive classes. Instead of talking with faculty members after class, please schedule a separate meeting or phone conference time.

Absences: If your student needs to miss class, we ask that you call (360-737-1922) or email us (info@columbiadance.org) to let us know. If you would like your student to make up the missed class, our front desk staff can advise you as to which classes would be appropriate to make up in.

Tuition: Our tuition price for the 10 month school year is divided into 10 monthly payments. Tuition is withdrawn between the 1st and 5th of each month through our automatic payment system.

Outstanding Balances: Students who carry an unpaid balance on their account for more than 60 days will not be allowed to participate in classes unless payment of the outstanding balance is made in full, or unless suitable arrangements have been made with the School Manager and a good faith effort is being made to pay the balance. Families are welcome to apply for financial aid at any time during the school year if tuition payments become a hardship.

Building Access: Students and parents are only permitted to be in the building when a Columbia Dance staff member is present or if they have made prior arrangements with a staff member (for studio rental or volunteer services). We ask that you do not drop your student off before the building is officially open. Monday-Friday we open at 3:30pm. Saturday we open at 8:30am.