



April 2021

Dear Parents:

As you may know, the Northwest Florida Ballet's downtown Fort Walton Beach facility is the home of the NFB Académie, NFB Dance School, NFB Company and the NFB Pre-Professional Program. Collectively we house several of the most groundbreaking academic and artistic education programs in the area. The Académie offers opportunity for third through eighth grades and our Pre-Professional training program is for advanced young dancers in grades nine through twelve.

With this in mind, we are pleased to announce auditions for our 2021-2022 Pre- Professional Program for ninth through twelfth grade students will take place on May 22nd, from 11:00am to 12:30pm at the NFB Sybil Leberz Center for Dance Education, located at 310 Perry Avenue SE, at the intersection of Perry Avenue and Brooks Street in Fort Walton Beach. Students should be advanced and have had at least six years of classical ballet training; girls should have at least three years of experience on pointe. Auditions are by reservation only with an audition fee of \$20.

The mission of the NFB Pre-Professional Program is to provide excellent comprehensive dance training complimented by Academic and Fine Art curriculum to students in ninth through twelfth grade who plan on pursuing a career in dance or intend on applying for a university-level dance program. The NFB nurtures those in ballet for careers as professional artists while inspiring all students to pursue an enriched life. Selection is based entirely upon the student's potential and desire to dance.

Students accepted will receive eight fine art credits over four years towards their high school diploma. Dance classes are from 11:45am - 2:30pm Monday-Friday followed by additional training and rehearsals 3pm - 6:30pm Monday-Thursday and Saturday 10am - 5pm. All Dance classes are taught by local professional classical ballet teachers as well as visiting guest artists. Tuition is charged for dance classes. Students receive academic classes either from a participating High School from 7am-11am or from an online provider. All Academic classes provided by local High Schools are free.

In addition, to the rigorous academic and artistic training dancers in the Pre- Professional Program also have the opportunity to perform with the Northwest Florida Ballet Company. NFB Pre Professional Program students have been accepted into prestigious programs at The Juilliard School, American Ballet Theater, School of American Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Houston Ballet and Pennsylvania Ballet. Students have also been accepted into university dance programs at University of South Florida and Florida State University.

An informational meeting will be held over Zoom on May 21st at 5:00pm. This will be a time to ask questions about the program and get more information before auditions.

To audition, please complete and either mail or drop off the attached registration form to our office by Wednesday, May 19th along with \$20 audition fee. All students MUST pre-register before auditions. Students who show up the day of auditions cannot participate in the audition and they will be placed on a wait list. We ask that each student arrive 30 minutes prior to the audition with a parent or responsible adult. The audition will last 1 ½ - 2 hours. Because of limited space, we ask that no more than two family members accompany the student. The prospective students should be prepared in the following manner:

1. Boys should wear a fitted white T-shirt with black tights with white or black ballet slippers.
2. Girls should wear a solid color leotard with skin tone matching or pink tights and pink ballet shoes. Please also bring a pair of pointe shoes.
3. Girls hair should be pulled up in a tight bun and out of the face, Boys hair should be well groomed.
4. Each student should wear an outfit or some "cover-up" with shoes to the building and arrive in good hygiene.

Parents will be asked to remain outside or in their cars, as our lobby will be closed due to COVID. Results will be mailed to you after the completion of ALL auditions. Parents of the students selected will also be sent information for an orientation to address all questions and concerns. Please contact Académie/PPP & Company Administrator, Joy Elpedes, at jelpedes@nfballet.org with any questions.

Respectfully,

Todd Eric Allen, Artistic Director/CEO