

**MADISONBALLET**

SCHOOL OF MADISON BALLET

**Parent and  
Student Handbook**

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## **ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF MADISON BALLET**

The School of Madison Ballet (SMB) is the official training institute of Madison Ballet. The School of Madison Ballet is designed to take students from their very first steps through a comprehensive curriculum of classical ballet and related studies. Ultimately, students completing the SMB curriculum will be fully prepared for careers within the professional dance field. SMB also has a goal of providing quality training for those who will not become career dancers but who will gain the poise, confidence, discipline, and fundamental life skills inherent in the study of classical ballet. With a strong focus on discipline and respect, the school prepares students for accomplishments in dance as well as other areas of life.

The SMB faculty features experienced teachers with professional backgrounds in education, the performing arts, and youth development. SMB focuses on providing students with a unique experience in a professional atmosphere that allows each student to develop to his or her highest possible level of individual achievement.

The Children's Division introduces students (ages 18 mos. – 7 yrs.) to music, movement, and group interaction. The curriculum also exposes the students to basic shapes, positions, and postures of classical ballet. Motor skills become more defined and refined as children are challenged to mold their bodies to these specific positions. Musicality and dynamics of movement are stressed as the students gain more control of their bodies.

The School Division offers five levels of instruction. Evaluations are required for admission, and placement of dancers is based on technical ability, strength, and physical development. Students follow a structured sequence of training stages designed to increase their technical skills,

stamina, and discipline in accordance with their physical development. The program includes classes in technique, pointe work, pas de deux, men's technique, contemporary, modern and various master classes. A ballet class specifically for boys is offered to develop male dance skills and help build self-esteem. All ballet technique classes in the School Division include live piano accompaniment – a crucial element in developing the student's understanding of the relationship between music and movement.

The Trainee Division offers advanced instruction for those students planning a professional ballet career. This intensive dance instruction includes all aspects of classical ballet technique. The School's staff and professional consultants provide students with physical and nutritional information, guiding them towards choices which will maintain their health and fitness.

SMB's Open Division attracts older teens and adults who wish to pursue recreational dance instruction in a supportive and encouraging setting. Beginner and Intermediate Ballet instruction is offered in separate classes. Ballet 101 is offered to bridge the gap into ballet classes for adults with little to no experience. No audition is required for participants in the Open Division.

Students whose paths lead them to non-dance careers gain immeasurably from their study of ballet at SMB.

## MISSION & VISION

### Mission

The School of Madison Ballet is dedicated to providing high-quality technical training in the art of ballet alongside encouraging the artistic and moral growth of dancers.

### Vision

The vision of the School of Madison Ballet is to engage all students and provide them with a dance education that:

- ❖ Builds a strong technical foundation based on the aesthetics and methodology of classical ballet.
- ❖ Prepares them for the technical, artistic, and mental challenges of ballet by introducing them to the vast repertoire of classical, neoclassical, modern, and contemporary ballet.
- ❖ Emphasizes a strong foundation focusing on proper placement, technical precision, musicality, strength, and artistic confidence.
- ❖ Provides workshops and classes in technique, pointe, and variations that set immediate and long-range goals with an end goal of technical and artistic mastery.
- ❖ Creates the optimal conditions for learning by building and nurturing a mentoring relationship between student and teacher that is based on trust and respect.

❖ Provide students a brave space to express themselves fully, regardless of age, race, class, religion, country of origin, immigration status, (dis)ability, gender identity or sexual orientation. All are welcome.

❖ Share the teachers' passion for ballet with students in a way that inspires each of them to pursue their own passions and goals.

## **FACULTY & STAFF**

The SMB faculty features experienced teachers with professional backgrounds in education, the performing arts and youth development. For a complete listing of current staff, visit [www.madisonballet.org/school/faculty](http://www.madisonballet.org/school/faculty).

## **ANNUAL PROGRAMS**

The School of Madison Ballet offers two different terms during the year. Please refer to our website for the most current information on the calendar, specific class times, and tuition rates.

### **Academic Year Term**

The Academic Year term runs from September through June. Students at various levels have different commitment requirements with respect to the number of classes they must take each week.

### **Summer Term**

Summer programming takes place June through August. We offer Children's Division, School Division, and Open Division classes, and the Summer Intensive during this term.

## **STUDENT DIVISIONS, LEVELS & CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

Classes and instruction at the School of Madison Ballet are divided into four different divisions that each have different levels and classes. Below is an overview of the divisions and levels offered.

### **CHILDREN'S DIVISION**

#### **Levels**

Me and My Parent (18 mo – 3 years old)

Creative Movement (4 - 5 years old)

Pre-Ballet (6 - 7 years old)

Bravo Boys (5 - 8 years old)

#### **Goal**

Introduce children to basic steps and terminology, music, rhythm, and movement, while encouraging creativity and group interaction.

#### **General Description**

The Children's Division is the prelude to formal dance instruction that introduces students to the basic shapes, positions, and postures of classical ballet in a positive environment. Musicality and dynamics of movement are stressed as the students gain more control of their bodies. The curriculum developed for SMB is designed to integrate the creative and academic experiences of students entering their primary school years by introducing elements of geometry, anatomy, and linguistics.

#### **Requirements / Prerequisites**

Children must be 18 months of age on or before registering for classes. Auditions are not required for the Children's Division. Upon completion of the term in which a child has reached the age of 7, they may advance into the School Division Level 1.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN'S DIVISION LEVELS**

### **Me and My Parent – Ages 18 mo. – 3**

Me and My Parent allows young dancers to stretch and move alongside the comfort of a parent or guardian. Students practice fine and gross motor skills as the children leap, stretch, coordinate, isolate, and move to music.

### **Creative Movement – Ages 4 – 5**

Creative Movement teaches rhythm and coordination through a variety of engaging movement exercises. The curriculum is carefully designed to gently introduce these students to a structured and brave classroom environment while instilling in them the confidence to imagine and explore. Creative play enhances the development of fine and gross motor skills as the children leap, stretch, coordinate, isolate, and move to music. Social skills are developed through activities that reward collaboration and cooperation.

### **Pre-Ballet – Ages 6 – 7**

Pre-Ballet classes are the most critical in establishing good habits early and setting the foundation for future progress. Pre-Ballet teaches body alignment, posture, and isometric muscle development. Students also begin learning the ballet vocabulary as part of their introduction to formal ballet training. Pre-Ballet classes are accompanied by professional



pianists – a critical element in developing a student’s understanding of the important relationship between music and movement.

### **Bravo Boys – Ages 5 – 8**

Young male dancers are introduced to the basic skills required to execute ballet movements. Emphasis is placed on creating an environment that builds self-esteem so that dancers will develop confidence in themselves while participating in the art form.

## **SCHOOL DIVISION**

### **Levels**

Levels 1 through 5 (beginning at age 7), Men’s Class (beginning at age 9).

### **Goal**

Provide formal instruction in ballet technique that lays the groundwork for individual success both inside and outside the studio.

### **General Description**

A well-coordinated and progressive course of study in classical ballet technique is critical to the preparation of a professional dancer.

Students are placed according to their goals and abilities, as assessed in the evaluation process. The placement of students into levels is based solely on ability, not age. The School Principal places students in the level

where it is felt they will benefit the most. For this reason, there may be a broad range of ages in each class.

Students progress through the levels at their own pace and an average of 2-3 years in each level is required to attain the skills needed to advance. This structured training sequence is designed to increase the students' technical skills in accordance with their physical development.

School Division students take wide range of classes per week. Dancers are encouraged to take additional classes beyond the weekly minimum requirement and may take additional classes at a lower School Division level for no additional cost (subject to availability). The most advanced students focus on partnering and pointe for ladies, augmented with courses in non-ballet dance disciplines. All ballet classes in this Division include a professional accompanist, helping students develop a natural understanding of the relationship between music and movement.

The curriculum stresses correct body placement at all levels, which facilitates development of strong and flexible bodies. Students will progress to the next level when they have mastered the vocabulary and physical understanding required in the curriculum for their current level. All students in this Division receive semiannual written evaluations.

### **Requirements/Prerequisites**

Youth with or without formal training must have turned at least 7 years old on or before enrolling. Students new to the program will be placed via an evaluation class. Continuing students will be recommended for a Level in their written evaluations. Because these foundation courses are so important to a dancer's success, so it is common for a student to spend more than one year in a particular level before mastery is attained.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL DIVISION LEVELS**

### **Level 1**

Students begin formal ballet training with the emphasis on barre work, focusing on the muscular development required to execute classical ballet movements.

### **Level 2**

Students go beyond the basic movements learned in Level 1, the addition of a third class each week to build endurance and physical strength. Center work makes up approximately 1/3 of each class.

### **Level 3**

Students focus on increasing time away from the barre, particularly in the area of petite allegro and pirouettes. In addition to technique classes, students attend one pre-pointe/conditioning class each week to stretch and strengthen their legs and feet for future pointe work and strength.

### **Level 4**

Students build on skills learned in Level 3, with a particular emphasis on broadening their ballet vocabulary. Girls will begin the foundations of Pointe training with a careful progression of exercises, focusing on placement and strength, and boys attend the Men's Class.

### **Level 5**

Dancers begin work toward mastery of their technique and development of artistry. Girls continue to develop their pointe work and boys advance in men's technique.

## **TRAINEE PROGRAM**

### **Goal**

Thorough preparation of serious-minded advanced dancers with professional aspirations.

### **Description**

The Trainee Program offers a rigorous training program for students who aspire to be professional dancers. Participation in this program is **by invitation only**. Placement in this division is based on technical and physical aptitude for classical ballet and the dancer's commitment to added hours of training.

Students in this Division train daily to master advanced technical skills, consistency, musicality, articulation and natural expression within the strict parameters of the art form. Through this commitment, a foundation is laid on which to build a professional career. Each week, Trainee students will attend advanced technique classes, pointe classes, pas de deux classes, modern and variations class. Students in the Trainee Division may also be invited to train and rehearse with Madison Ballet's professional company dancers. Master Classes in supplementary techniques will be taught throughout the year.

### **Requirements/Prerequisites**

Students will be evaluated by faculty and the School Principal for invitation to the Trainee Program based upon technical ability, physical strength, flexibility, motivation, interest, attendance, and artistic development.

## **OPEN DIVISION**

### **Levels**

Ballet 101, Beginner Ballet, Intermediate Ballet

### **Goal**

Prepare teens and adults to appreciate and understand classical ballet.

### **General Description**

The Open Division offers drop-in classes for students ages 12 and up. Open Division participants enjoy the benefits of quality dance training at the School of Madison Ballet with classes taught by SMB's exceptional faculty. Classes are designed to provide each student with an enriching experience in a stimulating and creative atmosphere.

Open Division classes are scheduled to accommodate demanding work, school, and/or family commitments. Students may place themselves in whatever level is most comfortable and may change/adjust as needed throughout the year. Enrollment is ongoing, with flexible payment options.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF OPEN DIVISION LEVELS**

## **Ballet 101**

Students in this four-class program will progressively learn ballet fundamentals, etiquette, and appreciation to build confidence in those who have limited or no ballet experience. Upon completion of this program, students will be able to confidently attend Beginner Open Division classes.

### **Beginner Ballet**

Students develop their knowledge of the terminology of classical ballet, including the basic positions. Additional emphasis will be placed on alignment and injury prevention during the barre routine; perfect for anyone who wishes to increase their strength and flexibility. Basic combinations and traveling patterns are explored in center exercises customized for the ability level of each individual class.

### **Intermediate Ballet**

Dancers with a medium to advanced understanding of vocabulary continue to study ballet technique. Barre routine remains standard, while center combinations increase in complexity and particular attention is given to phrasing. Center exercises are customized to match the ability level of each class at the teacher's discretion.

## **ADMISSIONS**

### **Admissions Policy**

SMB is an equal opportunity school and does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation.

Prospective students may be accepted with or without previous dance training.

## **Enrollment Process**

Enrollment occurs separately for the Academic Year and Summer Terms. SMB has an open enrollment policy, meaning that students may enroll throughout the term at the discretion of the School Principal and provided spots are available.

If the appropriate class is full, prospective students are added to the waiting list and admitted on a first come, first served basis. SMB reserves the right to change the schedule, combine levels, and eliminate classes if there is not a minimum number of students.

Prospective students may enroll by visiting [madisonballet.org](http://madisonballet.org) or contacting SMB via phone or email.

## **PLACEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT PROCESS**

Prospective students ages 18 months to 7 years are generally placed in the Children's Division without further evaluation.

Prospective students age 7 or older will be recommended for a School Division level and may require an evaluation class prior to placement.

The purpose of this evaluation class is to determine the level that best matches the prospective student's ability. Students will be placed according to their technical proficiency, strength, and individual potential by faculty and/or the School Principal. Following the evaluation class, families will be notified of the student's assigned level, the classes

required for that level, and any other applicable information. Placement is based solely on ability, not age.

Our criteria for advancing students to the next level encompasses a variety of factors such as physical ability, dedication, mastery of the curriculum, maturity, attendance, and artistic growth, as evaluated by the faculty and the School Principal. Safety is given paramount consideration in assessing a student's suitability to execute the required class material, with age being a secondary consideration. As ballet training is closely linked to an individual's physical development, it is not uncommon for a student to repeat a level of training, unlike traditional academic progression. The school strongly emphasizes allowing students to advance at their own pace, enabling them to fully grasp the work and reach their potential while preventing injury. Building a strong foundation in technique at an early stage of the curriculum is crucial in reducing injury, risk and improve their likelihood of advancement in later years.

## **TUITION**

Tuition rates for the Academic Year and Summer terms are published on our website, enrollment portal, and other program materials. Tuition will be prorated for students who enroll after the start of a term.

## **PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

The Academic Year and Summer terms are paid on a monthly basis. Families may enroll in automatic payments, complete payments online, or complete payments in the studio.

**Families with overdue accounts will be contacted to resolve their balances, and students may be withdrawn due to overdue accounts.**



## Open Division

SMB offers two tuition payment options for Open Division students:

1. Individual Class Payment: Classes may be attended and paid for on an individual, drop-in basis at a set rate per class.
2. Class Card: Students may purchase a class card that provides 10 or more classes at a discounted per-class rate. Class cards may be used for any combination of Open Division classes, but may not be applied to Ballet 101.

## PAYMENT METHODS

SMB accepts cash, check, card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover), and ACH payments. Checks should be made payable to: Madison Ballet. A \$25.00 fee will be charged for NSF returned checks.

## WITHDRAWAL/REFUND POLICY

A student may obtain a tuition refund if they withdraw at least one week prior to the start of classes by submitting written, e-mail notification to the SMB office.

Students who enroll for SMB programs are making a commitment to the full academic program in any term, division, or level.

Since participation in the School of Madison Ballet is limited by maximum class sizes, students who withdraw after the start of the Academic Year or Summer terms will not receive a refund or credit of tuition.

Refunds requested due to unforeseen circumstances may be given at the discretion of SMB administration.

**No refunds will be given for individually missed classes.**

In the case of a change in the SMB schedule by administration resulting in a student being no longer able to participate, remaining tuition will be refunded in full.

Any credit issued to a student's account will be at the discretion of the School Principal, and will expire one year from date of issue.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Financial aid is available to qualified students and is provided on a case-by-case basis. Financial aid is awarded separately for the Academic Year and Summer terms.

All students interested in seeking financial aid awards must submit the required application form and a statement of financial need in order to be eligible. Financial aid applications are available from the SMB Front Desk and will be reviewed by the School Principal and Operations Director.

Applicants must complete the forms in their entirety. Applicants will be notified by e-mail of the financial aid decisions. All financial aid information and awards will be handled with strict confidentiality.

In order to preserve any SMB financial aid award, recipients are expected to demonstrate excellent attendance, act as model students, adhere to all SMB policies and rules, and may be required to assist in volunteer projects throughout the term. Failure to adhere to any of these policies may result in the reduction or withdrawal of financial aid. Families

of financial aid recipients may be expected to help with volunteer activities as needed by Madison Ballet.

## **STUDENT POLICIES**

- ❖ Students are expected to arrive at the studio in time to be dressed and in place at the start of their class.
- ❖ Students are expected to behave respectfully at all times toward SMB faculty and staff, as well as toward each other. Any incident of bullying (including discussion of another student's weight, body type, or level with hurtful intent) will result in a meeting with the School Principal. Continued behavior in this manner will result in immediate dismissal from the school.
- ❖ Students are prohibited from chewing gum, the use of profanity, and the use drugs and/or alcohol in or near the studio.
- ❖ Students must follow their respective division's dress code for all classes.
- ❖ Students must show respect for the property of others and for the facilities. All students are expected to help keep the studios clean by putting trash in the proper waste receptacles and by putting their belongings neatly in the places provided for them in the changing rooms.
- ❖ No food or drink (except water) is permitted in the actual dance studios.
- ❖ Students under the age of 12 may not leave the SMB studios without their parent or guardian.

- ❖ SMB is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items. Students are **strongly** discouraged from bringing valuables to class.
- ❖ SMB shall not be liable in any way for injuries sustained from participation in any SMB activities.
- ❖ Students must maintain proper hygiene and care for their bodies outside of class. Students should not wear perfume or other strong body fragrances in class.
- ❖ Cell phones and other smart devices may not be brought into the individual studios. Devices left in the lobby or dressing room should be set to silent.
- ❖ Any student may be dismissed from the School for breaking these rules, for being uncooperative, disruptive, destructive, or for endangering the health, safety, and welfare of one's self and/or other's.
- ❖ Proper dance instruction generally includes physical contact between teacher and student for purposes of addressing proper alignment, body position, etc. Parents or students with concerns regarding this matter should discuss those concerns with the School Principal prior to the start of classes. Any concerns over inappropriate physical contact should be immediately reported to the School Principal or Operations Director.

## **ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS, AND MAKE-UP POLICY**

**Attendance is mandatory.** Regular attendance is critical to the progress and development of each student. In the event that a student

misses a class, they may attend a make-up class at an equivalent or lower level. Make-up classes must be taken in the same term of the absence.

Tardiness disrupts a ballet class by causing distractions, missing crucial warm-up exercises, disrupting the class progression and dynamics, and displaying a lack of respect for others. It is essential for students to arrive on time, ready to fully participate and contribute to the collective learning experience.

To ensure minimal disruption for faculty and students, tardiness and absences should be reported in advance to the front desk staff via phone, email, or the online student portal absence form. Absences for cultural and religious observances, injury, or illness are excused. Absences for alternative activities, vacations, or those not reported in advance are unexcused.

Front desk staff will contact families of students with two consecutive unexcused absences. Four consecutive unexcused absences may result in a meeting with the School Principal.

## **HAIR & DRESS CODE**

All students must furnish their own clothing and shoes for classes. Within a reasonable timeline, students are expected to follow the dress code. Front desk staff can recommend resources for ballet attire.

### **Children's Division: Female-Identifying**

- Pink leotard
- Pink or skin-toned tights
- Pink or skin-toned ballet slippers (drawstring removed)

### **Children's Division: Male-Identifying**

- White t-shirt (tucked in)
- Opaque black tights/leggings
- White socks
- White ballet slippers (drawstring removed)

### **School Division: Female-Identifying**

- Black or navy leotard (any style)
- Pink or skin-toned tights
- Pink or skin-toned ballet slippers

### **School Division: Male-Identifying**

- White t-shirt/leotard
- Opaque black or gray tights
- White socks
- White ballet slippers
- Dance belt (ages 9 and above)

### **Trainee Program: Female-Identifying**

- Black, navy, or white leotard (any style)
- Pink or skin-toned tights
- Pink or skin-toned ballet slippers and pointe shoes

## **Trainee Program: Male-Identifying**

- Fitted white shirt/leotard
- Opaque black or gray tights
- White or black socks
- White or black ballet slippers
- Dance belt

## **Open Division**

- Students should wear appropriate ballet slippers or socks for their class. No other dress code applies.

Long hair must be pulled back away from the face and secured neatly into a classical bun. Short hair must be secured back away from the face. Headbands, bandanas and/or hair clips should be used as necessary.

NOTE: All clothing and shoes should be marked with the student's name. Holes that appear in leotards or tights should be mended immediately. Long-sleeved leotards are appropriate in cold weather.

Students may not wear excessive jewelry that may become distracting and/or become caught on clothing or hair.

Warm-ups are not to be worn during class. Anything worn over dress code attire must be removed at the start of class. Only in extreme cases where the studios have not reached an appropriate temperature may warm-ups be worn during class.

All students should dress appropriately when arriving and departing class. Dancewear is not appropriate street attire. Students must wear street clothing over their leotards and/or tights when arriving and departing.

## **EVALUATIONS**

Students enrolled in the School and Trainee Divisions will receive two written evaluations: Mid-Year (December) and Year-End (June). Student evaluations are completed after in depth assessment performed by the faculty involved in the student's training. The evaluation will include information on the student's technical development, attendance, performance participation, and overall demeanor. The student's recommended level for the next Academic Year term will be indicated on the Year-End evaluation.

Enrollment is not guaranteed from year to year. If a student is promoted to the next level, that promotion takes place at the start of the next Academic Year term. Therefore, students are expected to continue their current level during the Summer term. Students may be promoted outside of the start of an Academic Year at the discretion of the School Principal. Meetings to discuss evaluations may be scheduled by the School Principal throughout the year as needed.

## **WEATHER CANCELLATIONS**

Weather cancellations will be recorded on the School's main phone line at (608) 278-7990 and on our website at [www.madisonballet.org](http://www.madisonballet.org). Families and students are not expected to travel for classes during inclement weather. Classes missed due to bad weather are eligible for a make-up class.



## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Students in the School and Trainee Divisions have several performance opportunities available to them.

Throughout the year, invited students may have the opportunity to perform as part of Madison Ballet's education & outreach programming, which is presented throughout the community. Invited students may also be invited to assist with Children's Division classes, workshops, and/or masterclasses.

Students are strongly encouraged to audition for roles in Madison Ballet's annual production of *The Nutcracker* in Overture Hall. There may be fees associated with performing in Madison Ballet productions that are not in any way associated with SMB tuition.

The SMB End of Year Performance provides an opportunity for School Division and Trainee Program students to demonstrate their curriculum progression for family, friends, and community. As the culmination of their efforts across an entire Academic Year, these performances serve as a prime indicator of the progress that students have achieved and is a factor in their Year-End evaluations. Participation is mandatory.

Performance for a dancer is critical to their training. It encompasses personal growth, confidence-building, skill application, collaboration and the ability to inspire and entertain through dance.

## FACILITIES

SMB classes are held in two convenient locations: the Odana Studio (West Side) and at the Madison Youth Arts Center (aka "MYArts Center",

East Side). The Odana Studio address is 6734 Odana Rd, Madison WI 53719. The Madison Youth Arts 1055 E Mifflin St., Madison WI 53703.

The Odana Studio includes:

- ❖ Studio A - 25' x 66' dance space with professional grade sprung wood floors, Marley floor covering, full-length mirrors running the length of the studio, a grand piano, and sound system.
- ❖ Studio B - 24' x 39' dance space with professional grade sprung wood floors, Marley floor covering, full-length mirrors running the length of the studio, an upright piano, and sound system.
- ❖ Studio C - 24' x 38' of dance space with professional grade sprung wood floors, Marley floor covering, full-length mirrors, an upright piano, and sound system.
- ❖ Male and female changing rooms with storage space.
- ❖ Reception and lounge area.
- ❖ Offices for Madison Ballet staff.

The MYArts Center classes are held in Studio 2C or 2E, located on the second floor of the building.

## **ARRIVING AND DEPARTING FROM THE STUDIO**

Students should be dropped off and picked up in a timely fashion, within 15 minutes of the start or end of their class. After 15 minutes, an attempt will be made to contact the parent/guardian of the student. Students under the age of 12 must be picked up from the SMB studios. Please do not use disabled parking spots unless you have an authorized permit.

## **HEALTHCARE ISSUES**

The School of Madison Ballet has relationships with local medical professionals including physical therapists, chiropractic care, and other specialists. These practitioners may donate their time and services specifically for School of Madison Ballet participants. If you would like information on these specialists or have any pending health issues or concerns, please discuss them with the School Principal.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*When are your auditions and would you accept someone mid-year?*

Evaluation classes are scheduled by SMB staff. Students that enroll after the start of the term will be asked to take a class with their approximate age and ability group as an evaluation class. Tuition for students enrolling after the start of the term will be prorated.

*Will my child be challenged? How do I know they have been placed in the right level?*

The School of Madison Ballet faculty is a group of well-trained professionals. Placement in the School and Trainee Division is based solely on the student's ability. If, during the Academic Year term, a student demonstrates ability beyond their initial placement level, adjustments will be made via faculty recommendation only and at the discretion of the School Principal.

*What opportunities will my child have to perform?*

SMB School Division and Trainee Program students have a number of performance opportunities available to them throughout the year, such as outreach events, Madison Ballet productions, and the End of Year Performance.

*Is financial aid available?*

Financial aid is available for students based upon individual merit and their financial situation. Further information on financial aid is available from the front desk staff.

*When will we find out the results of the evaluation class?*

Prospective students will be reached by phone and/or email to communicate their recommended level within one week of the evaluation class.

*Does my child need to have previous experience to participate in the School of Madison Ballet?*

This depends on the division in which the student may enroll. Children's Division and lower School Division classes do not require any prior ballet training. Upper School Division and Trainee Division classes do require experience and students will be accepted based upon the results of an evaluation class.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

School of Madison Ballet  
6734 Odana Rd.  
Madison, WI 53719  
(608) 278-7990  
SMB@madisonballet.org  
madisonballet.org/school