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Dear Parents and Dancers,

Welcome to Central Kentucky Ballet Conservatory and Central Kentucky Dance Theatre!! Thank you for being a part of our new conservatory and company and entrusting me with the ballet education of your dancer! Please read our handbook thoroughly and keep it in a safe place for reference. There will also be an online copy on our website!!

Let me take this time to share with you the vision and philosophy of CKBC and CKDT. It is my mission to educate as well as provide enriching opportunities for your dancer. At the conservatory we believe in creating students that “everyone” wants to teach. We want our students to develop the character and skills to excel in ballet and in life!! Dancers will be encouraged, but also accountable. Dancers will be given lots of corrections, but also learn to self correct. In essence, we want to create independent high achievers through the art of ballet. Yes, we are considered a pre-professional program and some of our dancers will go onto careers in dance and we want to provide these dancers all of those opportunities, but our greatest goal is training dancers that will excel in anything they choose in life because they learned how to be their best selves through dance!!!

As much as we want to create strong character in your dancer we want to also create great creativity!! We want our dancers to be a part of performances and festivals that celebrate the ART of dance and encourage our dancers to love the process as much as the product. We want our dancers to see and understand dance as a means of expression and communication. In order to physically express ourselves clearly, we must train our instruments (our bodies) through technique class. At the same time we must train our artistic vision by the works we choose to perform and view. Our community company Central Kentucky Dance Theatre will help provide our students the performances they need to grow not only as a dancer but also as artists!!!

Lastly, we want our program to be your dancer’s “happy place” where they know they are accepted and cared for by our community. My best relationships in life have always been with my students and parents. Students feed my soul with their energy, creativity, humor and passion for life and dance. Parents and I have always had a great rapport because you will know very quickly that I am on your dancer’s side!! I want the best from my dancers and I always strive to give them my best!

Excited to share this new venture with each of you and watch our dancers blossom!!!

*Sincerely,
Ms. Leah*

Contact Information:

Ms. Leah: leahcply@yahoo.com

Text: 919-971-2708

Ms. Melissa: melrhodes33@gmail.com

Communication: Most Communication will be done on your Band Page. Please make sure you join immediately.

Level 1

[Band Invite]

Leah invited you to the 'Level 1 Company' Band.

Accept the invite and join the group!

<https://band.us/n/a2aaA6L8T8W0d>

Level 2

[Band Invite]

Leah invited you to the 'Level 2 Company' Band.

Accept the invite and join the group!

<https://band.us/n/a4a7Aac82cffC>

Level 3

[Band Invite]

Leah invited you to the 'CKBC Level 3/ Company' Band.

Accept the invite and join the group!

<https://band.us/n/a7a2AaL1C0SfK>

Level 4

[Band Invite]

Leah invited you to the 'CKBC Level 4 Company' Band.

Accept the invite and join the group!

<https://band.us/n/a9adA5L8L5O7Z>

Level 5

[Band Invite]

Leah invited you to the 'CKBC Level 5 Company' Band.

Accept the invite and join the group!

<https://band.us/n/aca5AdL5C7U7u>

Important Dates

*****Dates may change throughout the year, please be sure to keep a watch on your group band page to keep up with the most up to date**

August 12th: Competition Conservatory Meeting
August 17th: Nutcracker Auditions
August 22nd-24th: Nutcracker Choreography Intensive
August 29th: First Day of Classes
September 15th: Performance Fee Due
September 26th-October 5th: * Fall Break
October 17th-19th: Universal Ballet Competition (By Audition or Excellent or Above Rating at MADI)
November 7th-9th: Class Observation Weekend
November 26th-29th: Thanksgiving Break **
December 10th: Traveling Nutcracker (School to be announced)
December 11th: Nutcracker Dress Rehearsal Dress Rehearsal: Singletary Center
December 12th: Nutcracker School Show and Public Show
December 22nd-January 3rd: Winter Break **
January 4th: Auditions for Wizard of Oz
January 9-11th: Wizard of Oz Choreography Intensive
January 15th: Company Performance Fee Due.
January: 16th: First Day of classes Spring Semester
February 6th-8th: Class Observation Weekend
February 12th-15th: YAGP (By Audition or Excellent or above rating at MADI) April
5th-12th: * Off for Easter
May 8th: Dress Rehearsal: Wizard of Oz Frederick Douglass High School
May 9th: Wizard of Oz Frederick Douglass High School
May 11th: Wizard of Oz School Show
May 15th-17th: End of the year Exams
June 4-6: MADI
TBA: Ballet BootCamp

- * Classes are in session, but students are not counted absent if traveling or special plans.
- ** Classes are not in session

Central Kentucky Ballet, Schedule and Tuition Conservatory Requirements

Level 1 (ages 6-7) Dancers are required to take 1 ballet class a week, but are encouraged to take a second class in either ballet, jazz or conditioning from any program in the area. Gotta Dance does offer these classes. (sign up through Gotta Dance Studio)

Level 1: Saturday 10:00-10:45 Gotta Dance
Costume Fee: \$80
Performance Fee: \$75 Yearly Due September 15th

Level 2 (ages 8-9) Dancers are required to take 2 classes a week. Dancers may take their 2nd class from any ballet studio in the area. Gotta Dance does offer this level.

Level 2: Friday 4:00-5:30 Conservatory Technique and Rehearsal \$60 Monthly Costume Fee: \$80 Per Costume
Performance Fee: \$200 Yearly Due September 15th

Level 3 (ages 9-11) Dancers are required to take 3 classes a week. Dancers may take 2 classes from any ballet studio in the area. Gotta Dance does offer this level.

Level 3: Friday 7:00-9:00 and Rehearsal Monthly Fee \$80
Costume Fee \$80 Per Costume
Performance Fee: \$300 Yearly Due September 15th

Level 4 (ages 12 and up) Dancers are required to take 4 classes a week. Dancers may take two classes from any ballet studio in the area. Gotta Dance does offer this level.

Level 4 Saturday 12:30-2:30 Sunday 12:30-2:00
Monthly Fee: \$110
Performance Fee \$300 Yearly Due September 15th

Level 5 Dancers are required to take 5 classes a week. Dancers may take 2 classes from any ballet program in the area.

Level 5 Friday 5:30-7:00 Conservatory Technique
Saturday 3:30-5:00 Pointe/Variations
Sunday 2:00-3:30
Monthly Fee: \$120
Costume Fee: \$80 Per Costume
Performance Fee \$300 Yearly Due September 15th

Tuition Hourly Scale

1 Hour \$60
1.5 Hours \$70
2 Hours \$80
2.5 Hours \$90
3 Hours \$100
3.5 Hours \$110
4 Hours and up \$120

Special Discount 20% for all Gotta Dance Team Members: Please email me to receive your discount code at leahcply@yahoo.com

Boys at CKBC dance at 70% off of regular tuition. They will be responsible for costumes and company fees. Please email me to receive your discount code at leahcply@yahoo.com.

Central Kentucky Ballet Conservatory

Keep up on what is going on

Like us on Facebook (Central Kentucky Ballet Conservatory) and Instagram (CKBC)

The studio is for dancers and their families. No food or drink (Exception Water Bottle) is allowed in the studios. CKBC is housed at Gotta Dance Studios and we follow all of their rules. Please make sure you are respecting the GDS studios as well as other tenants in the building. CKBC is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Younger children (not dancing) must always be attended and supervised by an adult. Thank you for respecting both CKBC and GDS on these matters.

Inclement Weather

CKBC will announce any cancellations on CKBC social media or your band page. Any classes canceled will be rescheduled at a later date.

Keep Me Up to Date

Please notify me of any changes of address, phone number, email or any other changes including credit card changes at leahcply@yahoo.com

Behavior

CKBC believes in kindness!!! We will be a small program made up of hard working dancers, positive teachers, and parents!! Any of the listed behaviors from a student or parent can result in immediate dismissal: foul language, gossip, negative or confrontational behavior, excessive talking in class or the lobby area, or online (including social media). Any behavior deemed inappropriate from a dancer or parent by myself or anyone on the CKBC Staff or director could

be grounds for immediate dismissal. Please treat the studio as your home and be kind and respectful of all involved!!!

Medical Information

Please make sure you notify me of any medical conditions physical or mental that may affect your dancer while they are dancing. It is important for me to know any existing medical conditions that may require any special consideration or medication during class. Please note that any information will be kept confidential.

Parents and Dancers Band Page

Please make sure you have joined your dancer's band page. Contact Ms. Leah if you need an invitation to join the page.

Central Kentucky Dance Theatre Members

Please join the band page of the level you are performing with during your time as a company member.

Entrance and Exit Rules

All dancers under 12 must be dropped off and picked up in the Gotta Dance Lobby area. Dancers over 12 may be picked up at the door but will not be excused to go downstairs until they receive a text that their parent is at the door downstairs.

Withdrawal from Classes

You may withdraw from any or all classes with a written note by the 15th of the month. Failure to do so will result in payment of any remaining balance.

Central Kentucky Ballet Conservatory

What is a ballet conservatory? A ballet conservatory is a progressive ballet program that is based on a specific curriculum of goals that are evaluated each year. The conservatory is a program that offers students the training they need to safely develop to their highest level in ballet and eventually pointe. Students in this program will not only reach their highest potential in ballet but in all genres of dance they focus on since ballet technique serves as the base of all other forms of dance. To sum up, if your dancer aspires to be the best they can be the conservatory is the place for your dancer!!!

What are the class requirements for the conservatory program?

The conservatory program is both developmentally appropriate as well as ambitious. Our program has 5 levels with the following requirements:

Level 1 (our youngest students approximate ages 6-7) 1 technique class and 1 rehearsal class

Level 2 (approximate age 8-9) 2 technique classes

Level 3 (approximate age 10 and up) 3 technique classes

Level 4 (approximate age 11 and up) 4 technique classes

Level 5 (approximate age 13 and up) 5 technique classes

***** All levels are required to take our 5 weeks of summer classes

What are the “perks” of being a part of the conservatory?

Students in the Program will develop a solid ballet technique that can only be molded and developed through consistent and intense training. Students will be able to progress on to advanced pointe. Students in the conservatory will have an automatic membership to our new community dance company “The Central Kentucky Dance Theatre” that will be housed at Gotta Dance. The company will have a full season of performances as well as master classes, festivals and competitions. Students in the conservatory will advance to a level that will qualify them for such unique opportunities as admittance to SCAPA, Kentucky Governor’s School for the Arts, Summer Intensives such as Louisville Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet etc. If a student desires to pursue dance in college or even look into a professional career they will have the training to pursue these dreams also. In summary, the conservatory will train your dancer to their highest potential in ballet as well as any other form of dance they pursue.

What is the Dress Code for the Conservatory?

Girls: Black Leotard, pink tights and pink ballet shoes.

Hair must be worn in a bun with bobby pins and a hair net.

- No jewelry or warmups, skirts are allowed during center work.
- Girls should purchase a nude leotard to wear under costumes during performances
- Girls may wear a black sports bras under uniform leotards

Boys

-Black or White T-Shirt (tucked in) with black tights, shorts or pants and white socks and shoes

What is the attendance policy of the conservatory?

Dancers must attend all of their classes and rehearsals. If your dancer needs to miss please email me at leahcply@yahoo.com . Excused absences are the following: sickness, family emergencies, graded school events, large social events e.g. proms weddings.

What is Ballet Etiquette?

Ballet etiquette is a list of good habits that dancers not just in ballet should utilize to develop their technique properly. Students will be given a list on their first day of these habits and we will practice these habits in class as much as we do technique. Parents, you will love this part of ballet, because it is simply habits that bring out the very best in your dancer as a dancer and as a person!!

What are skills tests and ballet exams?

I am a great believer that students need clear goals when they dance...just like learning anything else. I love to give the students a list of skills we will cover in class and set up periodic testing on these skills. With the younger students we will test weekly and at the end of each 6 weeks any skill your dancer does not pass they may take again. With older dancers we will do a skills test every 6 weeks. At the end of the semester any skill your dancer does not pass may be tested again at the end of the semester. Dancers should only have to practice around a half hour a week on their own to pass these skills tests, if your dancer is struggling we will meet and set up a great plan for them. Dancers will also have 2 yearly written exams on concepts and vocabulary. I want you as a parent to always know how your dancer is doing and what we can do to keep them progressing!

What support materials will I need for the Conservatory?

- Notebook to journal corrections
- Gail Grant Ballet Dictionary (amazon)
- TheraBand medium strength for level 1 and 2 and strong for level 3 and 4

Audition Season: Summer Intensives, SCAPA, and GSA

Students at CKBC are encouraged to audition for summer intensive programs across the U.S. Dancers age 12 and up may audition for prestigious intensive summer programs during the months of January and February. We love to see our dancers reach out for the best in dance. I will be available to help guide you in summer decision making, audition videos and pictures. We also encourage our students to audition for the School of Creative and Performing Arts as well as the Governor's School for the Arts. CKBC makes educational opportunities a priority in our preparation of students. Students will receive everything they need to give their best audition.

Summer Study

Dancers in the conservatory are expected to attend our 5 Week summer session. We encourage our students to study as much as possible during the summer. Most students study as much as they can in the summer because this is when dancers can grow the most. Both dancers and teachers are not overwhelmed by school, choreography, performances etc. Therefore most students make great technical strides in the summer.

Alumni Students

CKBC students are ALWAYS CKBC students. CKBC, like other serious pre-professional-professional programs, does not believe that dancing stops after high school. We encourage our dancers to come back and dance with our company and take class as often as their life allows. We believe that dance can be a lifelong endeavor for dancers. Whether it is an artistic passion, career or simply your fitness of choice we support all dancers that choose to continue dancing in both our conservatory and company.

Pointe Readiness

Dancers will be invited by the director into the pre-pointe program where they will spend (usually) 6 months to a year in preparation. Dancers must be 11.5 years old to go onto pointe. Dancers will complete both in class and home exercises (and be tested) as well as be evaluated by a physical therapist before going onto pointe.

******New Competition Conservatory**

Dancers may work privately and perform a ballet solo/duet or trio in ballet and contemporary at YAGP, UBC and MADI. If your dancer is interested, please attend our meeting on August 12th 6:00

Conditioning

One of the most important aspects of training in dance is having a consistent conditioning program. Please make sure your dancer is taking advantage of our conditioning classes and/or contemporary and jazz classes located in our studio or the studio of your choice. These classes are essential in keeping a dancer physically safe and healthy.

CKBC automatic membership to Central Kentucky Dance Theatre

Dancers in the Conservatory also become members of the CKDT. Please see our website for your yearly fee. We expect our conservatory dancers to participate in our full season of performances. The conservatory will accept non-performing students in our technique classes if there is space in the class, but full time performing members will always have priority registration.

What is the Central Kentucky Dance Theatre?

CKDT is a community based regional dance company. Meaning students from any program in the Lexington area may join the company and be a part of our performances. Dancers in the company simply must be studying ballet in a conservatory or academy program and maintain good attendance. CKDT is an opportunity to have a performance season that encompasses all forms of performances: main stage, community and festival performances as well as competitions.

What Kind of time commitment will CKDT require?

Each performance will require 10 weeks of rehearsals on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Dancers may miss 2 rehearsals and still maintain their place in the company and the performance. Dancers will sign a contract for each performance with all rehearsals dates and performance dates listed so that each dancer knows the time commitment.

What kind of dancers are we looking for in our productions?

Though some of our productions will encompass different styles of dance CKDT members need to be in an academy or multiclass ballet program. Dancers ages 7-9 need to be studying at least 2

days a week. Dancers ages 10-12 need to study at least 3 times a week. Dancers 13 and up need to be studying at least 4 times a week.

How do I become a member of the Central Kentucky Dance Theatre?

Dancers interested in the company simply need to audition for one of our performances and pass the audition. Dancers pay a performance fee (see website: centralkyballetconservatory.com) as well as costume fees.

What if my dancer misses too many rehearsals or does not meet technique requirements?

If your dancer has too many absences, they may be pulled from the production. If it is better for the other dancers, your dancer will need to pay for private lessons and “catch up” with their choreography. Your dancer will not be eligible for CKDT’s next production.

What if my dancer changes their mind after auditions?

Dancers that drop out after auditions will not be eligible to audition for CKDT’s next performance. If this happens more than once they will not be eligible to dance with CKDT. It is important to us to teach our dancers that a contract is your word and your word is important. If dancers are dropping after an audition, they may be dropping because they were not happy with their part. CKDT will never support this manner of thinking because students will not have a future in dance (any future endeavors) in any way if this is the outlook they take in audition settings.

What if I am a conservatory member and I cannot participate in a production?

Please tell Ms. Leah before auditions for the performance to be excused from a production.

Will my dancer be able to be committed to a full time academy program and still be a part of CKDT?

Absolutely!! CKDT is a community based company that simply offers extra performances for serious dancers in Lexington and the surrounding area. Dancers need to make sure they do not have time conflicts with their home program.

What will CKDT be performing for their 25-26 Season?

The Central Kentucky Dance Theatre will have 2 main stage productions as well as opportunities to attend the Mid-Atlantic Dance Festival and Competitions. Take a look at our Season!!!

UBC: October 17-19

Nutcracker: December 12th

YAGP: Feb.12-15

Wizard of Oz: May 9th

MADI: June 4th-6th

Ballet Boot Camp: TBA

About the Director

Leah Copley Summers has taught ballet for the past 36 years. Leah studied with Dr. Mary Marcuzzi along with many others as she attended pre-professional programs. Leah graduated Cum Laud with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education at Marshall University in 1991. After receiving her degree, Leah began her career as a ballet teacher, choreographer, and artistic director, with the River Cities Dance Company. She served as director for thirteen years working with both Marshall University and Shawnee State University to provide arts to the area community. Leah also worked as adjunct faculty at Marshall University and served on the faculty of the WV Governor's School for the Arts during her time in the Tri-state area. After moving to Cary, North Carolina Leah continued her career with the Cary Ballet Conservatory for 8 years where she worked as full-time faculty creating original story ballets and concert pieces. Moving to Lexington, KY Leah worked with the Bluegrass Youth Ballet and later became the founding director of the LDF Ballet Academy. Leah's greatest achievement has been the success of her students. Leah's students have gone on to study at prestigious arts school and continued on to careers as professional dancers, teachers and choreographers.

Through my 36 years of teaching I have served as both a teacher and a director. All students are raised by a village of teachers, but any time a teacher or director spends more than two years with a student their teaching certainly impacts the future of the student. I have often not only taught students that have reached their highest goals in group classes, but also worked with them privately to help them increase the speed of their progress and knowledge. Listed below are the schools and professional careers my students have accomplished through the years. There is nothing better than helping a student reach their dreams!!!

Professional Programs Acceptance or Scholarships:

Cary Ballet Conservatory

The Rock

Atlanta Ballet

Harid Conservatory

Houston Ballet

ABT New York

Ellison Ballet

Hubbard St. Dance

School of American Ballet

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

Point Park International

International Ballet Academy

Louisville Ballet

Ballet Met

Cincinnati Ballet

WV Governor's School for the Arts

KY Governor's School for the Arts
North Carolina School for the Arts
Royal Ballet School
Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet
Miami City Ballet
Saratoga Ballet
ADF
Giordano Dance
Wright State
University of Kentucky
WV University
University of Cincinnati
Boston Ballet
Patel Conservatory
Alvin Ailey Dance
University of Virginia
James Madison University
Ohio University
New York University
University of Arizona
Elon University

Dancers that have become professional in Dance, Choreography or Teaching work in the following places:

English National
Dutch National
New York City Ballet
Los Angeles Ballet
Carolina Ballet
Ballet San Antonio
Alabama Ballet
Washington Ballet
Radio City Rockette
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company
Ballet Spartanburg
Palmetto Ballet
Cincinnati Ballet
Broadway Musicals Kiss Me Kate and Chicago
Atlanta Ballet
Les Ballet Canadiens
South Chicago Dance Theatre