CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Creative Movement
Creative movement is a way for children to explore movement through music. This class will promote creativity, stimulate imagination, and develop physical skills. Both locomotor and non-locomotor skills will be introduced during this class. When children explore different aspects of movement all senses are engaged (auditory, kinesthetic, tactile, and visual), thus enhancing their own control of their bodies.

Friday 3:30-4:15 pm Fee: $900

Pre-Ballet
Pre-Ballet is designed to promote the development of a child's coordination, motor skills, and dance to music. This class will guide children to develop rhythm, cooperation, playful creative dance, and basic beginner ballet skills.

Basic ballet terminology will also be introduced in this level.

Friday 3:30-4:15 pm Fee: $900

Kinder-Ballet
Kinder-Ballet is created for students entering Kindergarten. This class incorporates creative movement with pre-ballet. Students in this level are introduced to more formal ballet training including barre work. They continue to explore ballet terminology, both audibly and visually.

Tuesday 3:30-4:15 pm Fee: $1,100

Ballet I
Ballet I is designed to introduce students to the first steps of formal ballet training. Students entering this class will study basic ballet techniques facing the barre. A substantial amount of ballet terminology will also be introduced. Basic exercises of mastering the placement of the body, the legs, the arms, and the head are acquired. By the end of Ballet I, students start developing elementary skills in the coordination of steps.

Wednesday 3:30-4:30 pm Fee: $1,400

Ballet II
Ballet II is the first step in formal ballet training. Students will be executing movements one handed at the barre. Students will be responsible for placement of body, placement of the feet, positions of the arms, port de bras and an understanding of the points of the room. The goal of this year of training is for the student to understand the terminology as well as the execution of all the material covered throughout the year. This class meets twice a week.

Monday, Thursday 3:30-4:45 pm Fee: $2,300

Ballet III
Ballet III is designed for students with prior ballet training. Students in this level must have an understanding of all the material covered in the beginning levels. The main goals of this year are: the theory of the supporting and the working leg, the development of coordinating basic combinations at the barre and center, and the fundamentals of music (time signature, tempo, rhythm, and the introduction of an upbeat).

Students must have knowledge and the ability to explain the correct and incorrect ways of executing all movements. They must also be able to explain the relationship between the French terms of movement, the character of the movement, and the time signature of the music. Students must select two days of class.

Monday/Thursday 4:45-6:15 pm, Wednesday 4:30-6:00 pm Fee: $3,000 without Pointe; $3,700 with Pointe

Ballet IV
Ballet IV is designed for students who have completed Ballet III and have also attended Pointe class for 2 years. Students must have an understanding of their supporting and working legs, their center, and the fundamentals of music rhythms.

The goal this year is to further the centre class, to build supportive muscles, and to artistically enhance movements. This class meets four times per week and is accompanied by Character class and Pointe.

Monday 4:45-6:15 pm, Tuesday 4:15-5:45 pm, Wednesday 4:30-6 pm, Friday 4:15-5:45 pm Fee: $4,500

Pointe
Pointe class is designed to further student's knowledge of ballet. Certain upper and lower body muscles that are acquired in Ballet I and Ballet II must be developed to enroll in this class. Students taking this class are required to have knowledge of all material covered in Ballet I and Ballet II as well. They must also attend Ballet III classes 3 times per week to be enrolled.

Thursday 6:15-6:45 pm

Character Class
Character is offered to enhance the exposure of dance for Ballet III and Ballet IV. This class touches in Folk dances from all regions of the world and meets once per week.

Character shoes are required to attend.

Tuesday 5:45-6:45 pm Fee: $900

Kathleen Moore
Kathleen has been teaching in the tri-state area for the past 15 years. She began her training under the tutelage of Kaleria Fedicheva.

Ms. Fedicheva was a graduate of the Vaganova Academy and the Leningrad Choreographic Institute located in St. Petersburg, Russia. She belonged to the generation of Kirov stars, including Rudolf Nureyev, Natalia Makarova, Yuri Soloviev and Alla Snova, who created a sensation in the West in the 1960's. While studying with Ms. Fedicheva, Kathleen was certified as a professional dancer and began to student teach the first levels of ballet at Fedicheva Ballet School throughout the mid 90's. Later, she joined the accredited Russian Ballet School in Sea Cliff, NY where she taught multiple levels of ballet under the guidance of Irina and Konstantine Ulasky, both graduates of the Moscow School of Ballet and members of the Bolshoi Ballet. Kathleen was also involved in teaching private lessons in multiple studios over the past 10 years. She has performed numerous soloist roles in several full length ballets, including Sleeping Beauty, Coppelia, The Nutcracker, Giselle, and Pas De Quatre, just to name a few. She is hoping to bring her vast knowledge of ballet, choreography, and the love of dance to Portledge School with this new endeavor of their ballet school in their newly renovated studio.

Instructional Philosophy
The Vaganova Syllabus was established in 1919 by Agrippina Yakovlevna Vaganova (July 6, 1879–November 5, 1951). Vaganova redefined the Russian system of teaching ballet. As a teacher she created her own method of classical ballet training where she fused elements of French, Italian, and other ballet methods. The Vaganova method was based upon the teachings of the Imperial Ballet School, under the direction of Marius Petipa, her teacher Enrico Cecchetti, and the more vigorous traditional dancing styles developed in the Soviet Union at that time. The method is designed to work the body as a whole, with total involvement of the body in every movement, and equal attention paid to the upper body as well as the legs and feet. Vaganova believed that this approach increases consciousness of the body, thus creating a harmony of movement and greater expressive range. The training regime for the Vaganova method is complex and rigorously planned, to produce a clean, virtuoso technique. Due to its strictly codified training system, the Vaganova method is widely considered to be injury-free, if taught correctly. To this day, the Vaganova method has produced world renowned dancers who are principles in companies all over the world.