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COVINGTON REGIONAL  **BALLET**

Covington Regional Ballet

An Arts Association Young Artists Program

HANDBOOK: 2026-2027

CRB Mission

Covington Regional Ballet inspires a diverse community to explore dance as a creative expression. Our technique-focused school and company foster excellence in dance through joy-filled rigor and discipline, promoting continuous learning and personal growth to cultivate a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

CRB Staff

Jillian Mitchell

Creative Director & Resident Choreographer

jmitchell@newtoncountyarts.org

Contact for guidance on technique and student progress.

Megan Guest

School Administrator

mquest@newtoncountyarts.org

Contact with all questions regarding classes, recital, schedules, etc.

Chris Crowe

Registrar

ccrowe@newtoncountyarts.org

Contact with questions on registration, tuition payments, financial aid, and performance tickets.

Abigail Coggin

Executive Director

Kathleen Irwin

Studio Manager

CRB Instructors

Noa Colvin

Bailey Fuller (student teacher)

Maile Griffeth

Caroline Grimaldi

Claire Peoples

Nia-Michelle Reese

Shelby Sharpe

Payton Wells

Anna Wiley

Kashoua Xiong

2026-2027 Performance Opportunities

- ❖ *The Nutcracker* Ballet
 - Performance Dates: December 11, 12, & 13, 2026
 - For CRB Company Dancers and Public Cast (Non-company dancers) ages 5yrs+. Audition required
 - Audition Date: Saturday, August 22nd
- ❖ Annual Contemporary Show
 - Performance Date: February 6, 2027
 - For Junior & Senior Company Dancers Only
- ❖ *Clue* (Spring Ballet)
 - Performance Dates: April 23, 24, & 25, 2027
 - For Company Dancers and Public Cast (Non-company dancers) ages 5yrs and up. Audition required
 - Audition Date: Saturday, January 9th
- ❖ End-of-Year Recital
 - Recital Date: Saturday, May 8th (Times TBA)
 - All students will perform a recital dance

Recital Details

- Recital location: Porter Performing Arts Center 140 Ram Drive Covington, GA
- Date: Saturday, May 8th (times TBD)
- Required Dress Rehearsals and optional portraits will take place on May 5, 6, and 7th.
- Each class/student will perform on recital day
- Dancers in multiple classes will perform one dance per class. Dancers in combination classes will perform one dance per style (i.e. Tap/Ballet 1 dancer will perform a ballet dance and tap dance).
- A detailed packet will be sent via in February with the complete recital schedule.

General Information

CRB CALENDAR

Review our full calendar on our website. Please note that if there is a change to the calendar you will be notified via email.

PERFORMANCE WEEKS

The week before *The Nutcracker* and spring ballet, CRB will have an adjusted class schedule for students who are not performing. Some classes may be canceled or shortened. An email will be sent with details as this week approaches.

BEST PRACTICES

- Plan to arrive at least 5 minutes prior to class time. This allows the dancers time to use the restroom and prepare for class.
- Dancers entering/exiting any class/rehearsal facility must check in and out with the appropriate Arts Association staff member.
- We recommend all dancers 3 and up be fully potty trained. If your child will require assistance in the restroom, we kindly ask that you stay on site for the duration of their class.
- Communicate any health concerns or limitations to instructors and/or the administrator, ensuring a safe dance experience. Dancers should observe class/rehearsal in the event of injury or non-contagious illness.
- If a dancer arrives late, they should quietly enter the space, and wait for the instructor to direct them to join the class. Dancers 9 years and older should find an empty barre in the back or off to the side of the room to stretch and warm up on their own, then join the class once sufficiently warm.
- Please make every effort to be on time for pick up.
- Young dancers (9 years and younger) must wait in the lobby to be signed out. Older dancers may walk to their parents' vehicle if it is parked within a safe distance from the front door, however, we kindly ask that you emphasize the importance of using caution while walking to your vehicle.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

If your dancer is sick, please note the following before returning to the studio:

- Dancers must be fever free for at least 24 hours (without medication)
- Dancers must be free from vomiting/diarrhea for at least 24 hours
- Dancers must be rash free
- If you are uncertain, please err on the side of caution and stay home!

DRESS CODE

We encourage students to attend class dressed appropriately for their dance genre. Please review the [CRB dress code](#) and the following guidelines.

- Keep jewelry minimal such as small earrings, avoiding necklaces, bracelets, watches, and rings. This is especially important wherever partnering is involved.
- Refrain from wearing dance footwear outside of marley-surfaced studios or stages. Wear socks or slippers over shoes when traveling in hallways at the studio and theater.
- Warm-ups or alternative attire require instructor permission.
- Dancers should keep their dance bags stocked with additional clothing needs that may come up, such as warm-ups, socks, knee pads, etc.

Notes specific to Ballet Class:

- Wear the designated leotard and tights for your levels.
- Wear tights beneath the leotard and cover the feet in ballet and pointe shoes.
- Match your tights to your shoes when possible (flesh tone tights with flesh tone ballet shoes or theatrical pink tights with theatrical pink ballet shoes).
- Do not roll up tights during ballet classes or classical repertory rehearsals.
- Circle or wrap skirts are acceptable.
- Avoid wearing warm-ups during class unless it's extremely cold or the instructor permits it (for the first few exercises only).
- Consider having at least two company leotards in rotation for upper-level dancers.

If dancers are not wearing suitable attire, they'll be gently reminded and encouraged to come prepared for the next class. Multiple reminders may lead to a further discussion to find a practical solution together.

SWAP SHELF

As dancers outgrow their dancewear, please donate lightly used dance shoes and leotards to our swap shelf. Feel free to try on and take items as needed throughout the year.

COVINGTON DANCE & MORE

Can't find what you need on the swap shelf? Shop local! Visit our friends at Covington Dance & More conveniently located one block down from the studio at 1108 Washington St. SW, Covington, GA.

Student Expectations

CONDUCT

- Treat fellow dancers, instructors, staff, and volunteers kindly and respectfully.
- Cultivate an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and heard.
- Offer encouragement and support to peers, recognizing that we all have unique strengths and challenges.
- Approach each class and/or rehearsal with a positive and eager attitude.
- Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, understanding that mistakes are a natural part of learning.
- Create a joyful and uplifting atmosphere, contributing to a sense of unity and camaraderie.
- Be attentive and ready to participate, respecting instructors' and fellow dancers' time and effort.
- Prioritize open and honest communication, addressing concerns or questions respectfully and constructively.
- Display proper etiquette and decorum, reflecting the professionalism expected of a dancer.
- Arrive on time and prepare for each class, rehearsal, and event.
- Adhere to the specified dress code for classes, rehearsals, and performances.
- Show commitment to your dance journey by consistently attending classes and rehearsals.
- Maintain personal hygiene to ensure a comfortable and pleasant environment for everyone.
- Foster a sense of teamwork and collaboration, recognizing that we achieve our best collectively.
- Be open to working with different partners and supporting each other's growth.
- Celebrate and embrace the diverse backgrounds and talents within the company.
- Value the unique qualities that each dancer brings to the community.
- Express gratitude for the opportunity to dance and learn, showing appreciation for the efforts of instructors and staff.
- Spread positivity by offering compliments and acknowledging the achievements of your peers.

CELLPHONES & SMART DEVICES

- Phone use is allowed before or after class and rehearsals.
- During class or rehearsal, phone use is not permitted.
- For urgent messages during class, contact the front desk to relay a message to the instructor.
- The wearing/use of smartwatches is also not permitted during class or

rehearsal.

SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE PRESENCE

- Uphold a respectful environment online as you do in-studio.
- Refrain from any form of online bullying or harassment.
- Seek permission from instructors/directors before recording or posting class or rehearsal content.
- Photography within dressing areas is prohibited; any uploaded photos will be promptly taken down if seen by staff.

At CRB, everyone's contributions matter. Let's uphold these values and create a nurturing and inspiring environment.

Parent Expectations

- Respect all instructors, staff, and volunteers with kindness and consideration.
- Foster a positive atmosphere by offering encouragement and support to all dancers.
- Communicate openly and promptly regarding any concerns or questions.
- Adhere to guidelines and rules for conduct, etiquette, and attendance.
- Exhibit a respectful attitude towards fellow parents, promoting a harmonious community.
- Encourage your child's commitment to dance and provide the necessary support for their rehearsals and performances.
- Be an example of good sportsmanship and encourage a respectful and inclusive environment for all.
- Inspire your student to consistently give their best effort and to avoid comparing their progress with that of their peers.
- Show gratitude to instructors, staff, and volunteers for their efforts and dedication to the dance program.
- Stay informed about important updates and announcements from CRB.
- Respect the venue's rules and regulations during performances and events.
- Refrain from entering the studio unless it's an emergency. If you need to speak with an instructor, please ask the front desk staff to get them or email the instructor to schedule a meeting.

Your positive involvement is instrumental in creating a supportive and uplifting dance community.

Theater Rules and Etiquette

Porter Performing Arts Center is a shared space, a collaborative effort between the Newton County School System, Newton County Board of Commissioners, and the Arts Association. We kindly ask all dancers, parents, and patrons to treat the facility with care, fostering a respectful environment for everyone.

GUIDELINES FOR REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

- Adhere to theater rules even during rehearsals, demonstrating respect for the space.
- Stay within the theater or designated rehearsal studio, except for restroom breaks.
- If exiting, notify a supervising adult before leaving and promptly return.
- Any area outside the designated rehearsal/performance space should only be accessed with an adult presence.
- Food and drink are not allowed inside the auditorium.
- Maintain minimal conversations during rehearsals to ensure productive use of time.
- Avoid being visible beyond the stage while in costume, and refrain from going from backstage to the house.
- Dancers should not roam the halls without adult supervision during rehearsals.
- Climbing on seats is not permitted.
- During rehearsals, family members should sit in the upper section of the theater unless they are volunteering.
- Please respect the Director's focus during theater week.
- Technical and Dress Rehearsals are restricted to staff, volunteers, and performers.

Your cooperation fosters a harmonious atmosphere that supports the creative process.

Costumes

- Recital costumes fees will be invoiced in September and must be paid by January 1st. These costumes are yours to keep following the recital.
- Costumes for all other performances (Nutcracker, spring ballet, contemporary show) are borrowed and are not to be taken home.
- Preparing for performances involves costume fittings, with the process

usually occurring before or after scheduled rehearsals.

- Each designated costume holds value, and its care is crucial.
- Keeping track of accessories is part of the responsibility.
- Damages to borrowed costumes will incur fees proportionate to the extent of the damage.
- Depending on roles and requirements, specific items might need to be purchased to complement the costume.
- Parents and mature dancers might be asked to contribute to costume care, including sewing on straps, adjusting elastics, and adding hooks and eyes.
- Details about costumes will be communicated in due course.
- Embracing these guidelines ensures the preservation of our costumes and the overall quality of our performances.

Volunteers

Occasionally, we will ask for parent volunteers. Please review the following guidelines and look for emails throughout the season regarding opportunities.

- Maintain appropriate attire and demeanor while participating.
- Wear a volunteer nametag.
- Serve as inspiring role models for our students.
- Foster friendships with students while maintaining a mentorship role.
- Interact with fairness and justice towards students, fellow parents, volunteers, and staff.
- Avoid negative or derogatory comments about program members, staff, or fellow parents.
- Prioritize the safety of all students, ensuring physical well-being during events and at various locations.
- Agree to provide a criminal record check upon request by the Arts Association. The Arts Association reserves the right to take necessary actions if concerns arise from the criminal record check.

Tickets

- Recital tickets are free of charge. Each family will receive a limited number of tickets (typically 8 tickets per family)
- Tickets to *The Nutcracker*, Contemporary Show, and Sling Ballet must be purchased on our website.
- Children under the age of 3 can sit in their parent's lap.
- We encourage you to purchase your tickets in advance. (Tickets typically go on sale September 1st for the entire season)
- Please note, the price of tickets will increase one week before opening night.

Arts Association Policies

ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The Arts Association does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, or sexuality in any of its educational programs, services, or activities. If any student, parent, or individual believes they have experienced discrimination or harassment in violation of this policy, they should promptly contact the appropriate Arts Association staff. Complaints should be submitted in writing, and the written complaints will be thoroughly reviewed and investigated by personnel.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Bullying is characterized by a deliberate attempt or threat to cause harm to another person, involving intentional displays of force or any written, verbal, or physical act that might be perceived as intending to threaten, harass, or intimidate, resulting in physical harm or educational disruption. Such acts are also those that disturb the operation of a program or create an environment of intimidation or threat. Our organization strictly prohibits bullying and is committed to upholding a safe and supportive atmosphere.