



Welcome to A1-level!

A guide for students & families to the Concentrated Studies Program

Congratulations! Your child was just invited into
Brass City Ballet's Concentrated Studies Program!

We are very proud of your child's hard work and hope you are, too.

The Concentrated Studies Program is designed specifically for the dancer who wants to explore ballet on a deeper level. Your child being invited into the program indicates we think he/she is ready to do just that!

We put together this guide to help students and their families ease the transition from the Recreational Program to the Concentrated Studied Program.

Please review it, along with your child, so that you are both aware of BCB's expectations now that you're embarking on this new journey with us!



Attendance

Ballet is a challenging art form, and just like a traditional sport, requires long hours of work and dedication.

The biggest key to success in ballet is consistency, and we ask that our CS students and their families value the time and patience needed to achieve it. Attendance requirements are outlined clearly in our Parent/Student handbook, which can be found on the website under the *Current Students* tab as well as in the studio.

CS students who regularly miss class are required to meet with the Director, along with their parents/guardians, to discuss their standing in the program, and to determine whether or not continuing in it is still in the best interest of the child.

At BCB, we value and understand the importance of mental and physical well being. If your child's absences are due to a mental or physical stress, please notify the director so we can work with you. We do not punish children if their physical or mental health interrupts their dance training!

Concentrated Studies level system and class requirements:

- A1** - required to take class 4 hrs/wk (3-4 classes)
- A2** - required to take class 5.5 hrs/wk (4-5 classes)
- B1** - required to take class 7.25 hrs/wk (5-6 classes)
- B2** - required to take class 8 hrs/wk (6-7 classes)
- C1** - required to take class 10 hrs/wk (7-8 classes)
- C2** - required to take class 11.25 hrs/wk (7-9 classes)
- D/E** - required to take class 12.25 hrs/wk (9-10 classes)

*Class requirements are based on an hourly system. Class ranges change depending on the classes offered per season. Students are permitted to attend classes at a lower level at no extra cost. Schedules can also be customized for those students who wish to train at a pre-professional level.

Communication

Brass City Ballet emphasizes clear communication amongst its staff, students, and families. We require all families to provide an email and phone number that is easily accessed and regularly managed by the family so as not to miss any important information. If your child is over 12 yrs of age and has her/his own email we ask (but do not require) that he/she share this with us as well - part of BCB's value system is fostering a sense of responsibility and independence amongst our students, and encouraging our students to manage certain communications with the studio is part of that!

BCB publishes a monthly newsletter, (which we hope you have already been reading!) and these will also include important Concentrated Studies (CS) program updates - so please start reading them if you haven't already! We also recommend students receive the newsletter as well; either share it with your child or have your child subscribe to it.

Our studio has our own Google Calendar where we post important studio updates and events. You can find this on our website under the *Current Students* tab, and if you have a gmail account you can subscribe to the calendar and have all the important updates imported to your own calendar for easy and immediate access. We highly recommend this option as most updates are centered on our CS program!

Dress Code



Student dress codes for all levels are outlined in the student handbook and can be found on the website under the *Current Students* tab. We wanted to briefly remind you that all CS students are required to abide by the dress code at all times. Exceptions to the dress code are: Spirit Week and in-studio presentations. You can find dress code approved leotards, tights, and shoes at our own, in-studio shop, BCBoutique. For information, please email bcboutique@brasscityballet.org

We also recommend stopping by La Luna Dancewear, located at 33 Bullet Hill Rd, Southbury, CT 06488. The owner, Mary-Lee Conte, is knowledgeable and stocks all of our dress code options as well as a wide range of shoes and accessories! You can find access to our dress code directly on her website, here:

<https://www.lalunadancewear.com/brass-city-ballet>

Hair

Just as important as your dancer's attire is his/her hair! There is a lot of movement in a dance class, so boys and girls must secure their hair away from the face. If your child has long hair, we ask the girls to place it in a bun and the boys in a short ponytail. Please, no accessories other than what is necessary to hold the hair in place. This means no hair "donuts", no extra clips or headbands, and no alternate styles! Dancers with hair too short for a ballet bun are still required to find a way to pin their hair cleanly away from their face. Students are welcome to wear their natural hair in a protective hairstyle (ie. braids, locks, or similar styles) as long as they are able to pull their hair away from their face.



However, for performances, we ask that all students have their hair color be as close to natural as possible and that they wait to have a haircut. We understand dyeing hair and/or adding colored extensions or braids is a fun right of passage at a certain age, but doing so interferes with the intended design of each performance, and is not conducive to Brass City Ballet's stage protocols.

Most important of all, please start to teach your child how to do their own hair* as early as possible! We've all had bad hair days, and days where we just can't get it right, so it's important that your child knows how to fix their own hair if it happens to come un-done in class! For a ballet bun tutorial, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yG7Hcozrf8>

*Just like bodies, everyone's hair is different! If you're struggling to get your child's hair into a bun please email Ms. Lasso at: dlasso@brasscityballet.org to set up an in-person tutorial and help you find some solutions!

How We Bond

Students form strong bonds, and one of the ways we encourage this is through our groups within the Concentrated Studies (CS) Program: BCB Company, BCB Junior Company and the Buddy System.

The BCB Company is a select group of BCB students who are in C2 level or above. Entering the company is determined by audition, and standards must be maintained in order to remain a company dancer. One of the main goals of the BCB Company is to help young dancers grow up! Here they learn responsibility, accountability, discipline and patience, all in a setting of friendship and respect. Company members are offered a chance to see the administrative side of dance by coordinating special fundraisers, organizing the Dance Slam and supervising other activities. Although there is a fee to join BCB Company, its members are exempt from audition and production fees.

The BCB Junior Company is a newly created group made up of students who are in A2 level (second half of the year only) through C1 level. There is no audition to join, but consistent class attendance and the student code of conduct must be followed in order to remain. There is no fee to join the Junior Company. In the second half of the year, certain C1 students may be invited, depending on their class attendance, conduct and maturity, to participate as Trainees of the BCB Company. This will help give them a sense of what to expect in the years to come.

In our Buddy System, each CS student is paired up with a BCB Company member who becomes a guide for your child: answering questions, offering advice and giving encouragement. Depending on the number of Company members, there are, on average, between 4-5 students in each buddy group. If there is anything your child is concerned or curious about, remind her/him to go to the buddies!

What's In Your Dance Bag?

Here is what you can find inside a Concentrated Studies student's dance bag (contents vary upon level): dance journal, extra pair of tights & leotard, ballet slippers, pointe shoes, sewing kit (needle & dental floss), ballet skirt, hair gel, hair spray, extra bobby pins, elastics, hairnets, brush, dance sweaters, leggings or leg warmers, hygiene products, deodorant, eau de toilette. We recommend your children consult their buddies for a complete list of items.