

THE NUTCRACKER

OPEN AUDITIONS

Parent & Dancer Information

Welcome to our production of **The Nutcracker!**

We are excited to offer **open auditions** for this year's production. Auditions are open to both current Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory students and dancers from outside the studio.

Please read the following information carefully before auditioning.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Audition Date: October 17th, 2026

Location: Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory

Audition Time: Ages 3-6 and 6-8 (Ballet Fundamentals/Beginner Ballet): 2:30-3:30

Ages 9-14 (Intermediate/Advanced Ballet): 3:30-4:30

Ages 14-18 (Pre-Professional): 4:30-5:30

Check-In Begins: 1 hour before audition time

Dancers should arrive approximately 1 hour before their scheduled audition time to check in, receive their audition number, and prepare for the audition.

WHO CAN AUDITION?

Auditions are **open to all eligible dancers**, regardless of whether they currently attend Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory.

All dancers must audition, including current Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory students.

Being a current student does not guarantee participation or placement in a particular role.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE AUDITION

When dancers arrive, they will:

1. Check in at the registration table.
2. Submit or complete their registration form.
3. Receive an audition number.
4. Proceed to the designated dancer waiting/warm-up area.
5. Be called into the audition studio with their assigned group.
6. Participate in a ballet audition consisting of age- and level-appropriate combinations.

Dancers may be asked to perform combinations in smaller groups during the audition.

WHAT SHOULD DANCERS WEAR?

Girls

- Solid black colored leotard
- Pink leotard for ages 3-6 (ballet fundamentals)
- Pink or skin-tone tights
- Ballet shoes
- Pointe shoes, if applicable
- Hair secured neatly in a ballet bun
- No jewelry

Boys

- Fitted white or solid-colored shirt
- Black tights or fitted dance pants
- Ballet shoes
- Hair neat and secured away from the face

Please do not wear warm-ups or loose clothing during the audition unless instructed by the audition staff.

WHAT SHOULD DANCERS BRING?

Please bring:

- Ballet shoes
- Pointe shoes, if applicable
- Water bottle
- Any required audition paperwork
- Hair supplies for adjustments
- A positive attitude and willingness to learn!

Please clearly label personal belongings with the dancer's name.

PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians are welcome to assist their dancer with check-in.

To allow dancers and the artistic staff to focus, **parents/guardians will not observe the audition unless otherwise announced.**

A designated waiting area will be available at: The front desk

Parents should remain reachable by phone during the audition.

HOW CASTING WORKS

Casting decisions will be made by the artistic staff based on the needs of the production.

The audition may consider:

- Ballet technique
- Musicality
- Ability to learn and retain choreography
- Performance quality and stage presence
- Age and height
- Pointe ability, when applicable
- Grouping and partnering needs
- Rehearsal availability
- Overall production needs

Casting decisions are made with the needs of the entire production in mind.

CAST LIST

Casting results will be announced by: October 20th

Cast list will be communicated through:

- ☐ Email
- ☐ Posted at Studio
- ☐ Other: _____

Please do not contact the studio regarding casting decisions before the announced release date.

IF YOUR DANCER IS CAST

Receiving a role means committing to the production and its rehearsal schedule.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals Begin: October 21

Dancers may not be required at every rehearsal. Individual rehearsal schedules will depend on casting.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential to producing a safe and successful performance.

Dancers are expected to attend all rehearsals for which they are scheduled.

If a dancer has a known conflict, it should be listed on the audition registration form, or emailed to us 2 weeks in advance

PRODUCTION FEES

Additional information regarding costumes, tickets, photographs, merchandise, or other production expenses will be provided to participating families.

Performance Details:

- **Dates:** December 19th 1 PM and December 20th 1 PM
- **Location:** Baldwin-Whitehall High School Theatre

Nutcracker Fees: The total fee for participation is **\$375 per student**. This fee covers:

- Venue rental
- Rehearsals
- Instructor time
- Costumes
- Props

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required to secure your spot. The remaining balance will be split into two installments, billed on October 25th and November 25th. If you prefer to pay in full, please email us, and we will adjust your account accordingly.

Additional Costs:

- Tickets and optional personalized program ads will be available for purchase at a later date.
- \$35 for raffle baskets.

Rehearsals: Participation in The Nutcracker requires extra rehearsal time beyond regular classes. Saturday and Sunday rehearsals are essential, so please ensure availability. There will also be daily rehearsals during the week of the show.

Registration: To register, please use the online parent portal

Photos: Save the date for **December 6th**. We have an exciting new photography option where you receive the pictures that day.

Parent Assistance: We are seeking volunteers to help with various aspects of the Nutcracker production, including:

- Costumes
- Headpieces
- Props
- Raffle Baskets
- Gift Shop
- Ticket Sales
- Lobby Management
- Flowers
- Program
- Fundraising

If you have skills or talents in these areas and are willing to volunteer, we would greatly appreciate your support.

Parent Band:

We will be utilizing Band for a lot of our Communications this year. It is a great way to keep us all up-to date and organized. Please Join the Nutcracker 2025 Band. No more wondering if you missed an email or trying to find old emails, you have everything Nutcracker in one place.

The link to the parent band will be emailed

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Pennsylvania Ballet Conservatory

Phone: 724-747-8943

Email: info@pennballet.com

Website: pennballet.com

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

Auditions: October 17, 2026

Cast List Announced: October 20, 2026

Rehearsals Begin: October 21, 2026

Performance(s): December 19th 1pm and December 20th 1pm

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your interest in **The Nutcracker** and for helping us create a positive, professional experience for all of our dancers.

We look forward to seeing you at auditions!