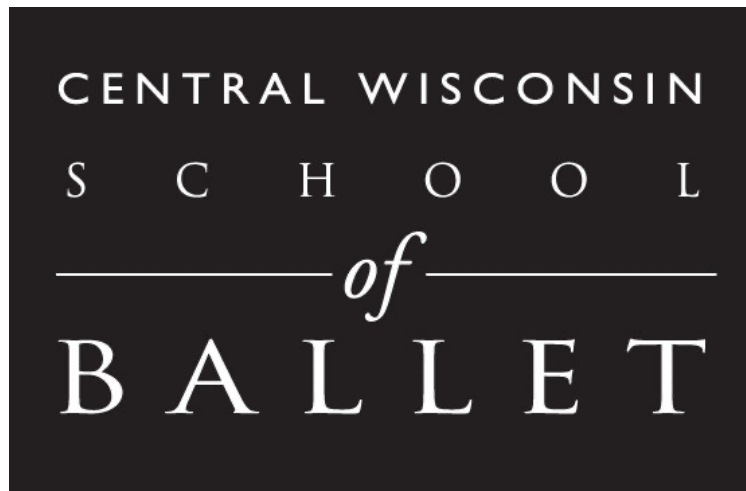




Parent/Student Handbook
2026–2027

124 North 3rd Avenue
Wausau, Wisconsin, 54403

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet is to provide students with a strong foundation in classical technique, instill a commitment to the art form, and inspire a lifelong joy of dancing.

STUDIO PHILOSOPHY

At the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet, we believe ballet education should develop the whole child. Along with exceptional technical training, we strive to cultivate confidence, discipline, creativity, perseverance, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Every student deserves to learn in a safe, encouraging, and respectful environment. Our faculty challenges each dancer to reach their potential while recognizing that every student develops at their own pace. Whether a student hopes to dance professionally or simply loves to dance, our goal is to inspire excellence, artistry, and joy in every class.

Our Training

The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet teaches the Russian Vaganova Method, one of the world's most respected systems of classical ballet training.

Developed in St. Petersburg and refined by Agrippina Vaganova, this method is known for its careful progression, artistic excellence, and emphasis on healthy, whole-body development. Students build strength, musicality, coordination, expressive artistry, and sound technique through a thoughtfully sequenced curriculum.

For more than a century, the Vaganova Method has trained many of the world's finest dancers and continues to serve as the foundation for leading ballet schools and companies around the globe. We are proud to carry on this tradition while providing every student with individualized instruction in a supportive and nurturing environment.

CLASS STRUCTURE & PLACEMENT

Our curriculum follows a carefully sequenced progression that allows students to develop strong technical skills, artistry, and confidence at an appropriate pace.

Class placement is based on a combination of age, physical development, technical ability, strength, maturity, and readiness—not simply years of study. Advancement is determined by each student's individual progress and mastery of the curriculum.

As students move through the program, class frequency and expectations increase, with each level building upon the foundation established in the previous one. Consistent attendance is essential for safe, successful progression.

DRESS CODE & APPEARANCE

The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet maintains a required dress code for all classes. A consistent uniform promotes discipline, professionalism, and respect for the art of ballet while allowing instructors to observe alignment, placement, and technique. Proper dancewear also gives students the freedom of movement necessary for safe and effective training.

Each dance level is assigned a specific Capezio® leotard style and color, creating a unified appearance within each class and reflecting a student's progression through the curriculum. To ensure consistency, students are encouraged to purchase the designated leotard through the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet Boutique. Substitutions or alternate brands are not permitted.

Each level wears the following leotard color:

- Little Dancer & Pre-Ballet: Pink
- Beginner Ballet: White
- Level I: Violet
- Level II: Light Blue
- Level III: Navy Blue
- Levels IV & V: Black

Hair must be neatly secured in a classical ballet bun for all ballet classes. Hair should be neatly groomed and kept off the face and neck so instructors can properly observe head, neck, and shoulder alignment.

For safety, no jewelry may be worn during class. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, watches, and fitness trackers.

Dancewear and shoes should be clean, properly fitted, and in good repair. Students should arrive dressed and ready for class.

Ballet Uniform

All female ballet dancers are required to wear a Capezio leotard, pink Capezio footed or transition tights, and pink leather or canvas ballet technique shoes. Dancers on pointe are also required to have pink pointe shoes.

All male ballet dancers are required to wear a white t-shirt, black shorts or tights, white ankle socks, and white leather or canvas ballet technique shoes.

Jazz

All jazz dancers are required to wear a Capezio leotard (girls) or white t-shirt (boys), black Capezio jazz pants and shorts (both should be in the dancer's wardrobe), and leather Capezio jazz shoes.

Contemporary

All contemporary dancers are required to wear a Capezio leotard (girls) or white t-shirt (boys), black Capezio shorts, and Capezio pirouette shoes.

Tap

All tap dancers are required to wear a Capezio leotard (girls) or white t-shirt (boys), black Capezio leggings or shorts, and leather Capezio tap shoes.

Hip Hop

All hip hop dancers are required to wear comfortable clothing and clean sneakers that are reserved for studio use only and not worn in the streets.

Performance Appearance Requirements

To present a polished, professional appearance on stage, all dancers are expected to adhere to the following standards unless otherwise instructed:

- As the class uniform provides the costume foundation, all of these pieces should be clean and in good condition.
- Hair must be styled in a neat classical ballet bun.
- Hair must be a naturally occurring color.
- No jewelry of any kind may be worn.
- No nail polish or artificial nails.
- No underwear may be worn beneath tights and leotards.
- Performance hairstyles, makeup, and any additional costume requirements will be communicated before each production.

CONDUCT

At the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet, we are committed to fostering a community where every individual feels welcomed, respected, challenged, and supported. Dance education is built upon mutual trust, discipline, and kindness. Every member of our community—including students, parents, guardians, faculty, staff, volunteers, and guests—plays an important role in creating a positive environment where learning and artistic growth can flourish.

The following expectations are intended to preserve the integrity of our school and ensure that every student can learn in a safe, encouraging, and professional atmosphere. By enrolling at CWSB, families agree to uphold these standards both inside and outside the studio whenever they are representing the school.

Community Expectations

- Honesty and integrity are expected at all times.
- Students are expected to attend all class meetings and rehearsals when healthy.
- Students are expected to arrive on time and in appropriate attire before class or rehearsal begins.
- If a student is late to class or rehearsal, they will be permitted to join at the discretion of the instructor.
- Students are asked to wear the appropriate dance attire as outlined by the School's director.
- If a student must leave class early, they must notify the instructor and/or the front desk staff before the beginning of class.
- Gum, candy, and food are not allowed in the studios; water bottles only.
- Students are expected to demonstrate respect for their instructors, which includes refraining from talking while in class.
- Everyone is expected to treat the studio, theater spaces, costumes, equipment, and all CWSB premises and property with care and respect.
- **The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet maintains a zero-tolerance policy** toward bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or retaliation in any form. This includes physical, verbal, emotional, social, and cyberbullying, including inappropriate conduct on social media or other online platforms directed toward or involving students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, or the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet. Every member of our community has the right to feel safe, welcomed, and respected. Serious or repeated violations may result in disciplinary action, including immediate dismissal from the school.
- Every member of the CWSB community—including students, families, faculty, staff, and volunteers—is expected to communicate and conduct themselves with courtesy, kindness, professionalism, and respect. We strive to foster a culture of encouragement, inclusion, and excellence by supporting one another, celebrating each other's successes, and addressing questions or concerns privately and constructively.
- The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet is a smoke-free and vape-free campus. Smoking, vaping, and the use of electronic cigarettes or other tobacco or nicotine products are

prohibited anywhere on CWSB property, including the building, parking area, and surrounding grounds.

- Firearms and other weapons are prohibited on CWSB premises. To help maintain a safe learning environment, firearms, weapons, and other hazardous items are not permitted anywhere on school property or at CWSB-sponsored activities, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The health and well-being of our students, families, and staff are important priorities at the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet. We ask families to use good judgment when determining whether a student should attend class and to help us maintain a healthy learning environment for everyone.

If your dancer will be absent from a scheduled class or rehearsal, please notify the CWSB front desk as soon as possible.

Students who are recovering from an injury or are not feeling well enough to participate due to a non-contagious illness or injury are encouraged to attend class to observe, take notes, and remain engaged in their training whenever possible. Observation is often an important part of a dancer's education and helps students stay connected to class material while recovering.

If your dancer is experiencing symptoms of a contagious illness, including but not limited to fever, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, persistent cough, or other symptoms that may place others at risk, please keep them home to rest and recover. Students who arrive at the studio displaying symptoms of a contagious illness may be asked to return home for the health and safety of the CWSB community.

Because tuition reserves your dancer's place in class and covers the instructional program as a whole, tuition is not prorated or refunded for missed classes due to illness or injury.

We appreciate your partnership in helping us maintain a healthy, safe, and supportive environment where every dancer can thrive.

OUTSIDE DANCE TRAINING

Because ballet training builds progressively upon a carefully sequenced curriculum, consistency of instruction is essential to healthy technical development and artistic growth.

Students enrolled in the Student Division are expected to receive their primary dance training through CWSB. Regular enrollment at another dance studio or participation in outside dance programs without prior approval from the Artistic Director is strongly discouraged, as differing teaching methods and technical philosophies may interfere with a student's progress.

Students wishing to participate in dance activities outside of CWSB should discuss these opportunities with the Artistic Director in advance. We are happy to support enriching experiences that complement a student's training while maintaining the integrity of their classical training.

Failure to disclose ongoing training at another studio may affect casting decisions, level placement, scholarship eligibility, or continued enrollment.

TUITION & FEES

The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet is committed to providing exceptional dance education in a professional and financially sustainable manner. Tuition is established annually and reflects the cost of high-quality instruction, experienced faculty, studio facilities, and educational programming throughout the academic year.

Tuition is charged on an annual basis and is determined by the student's level and course enrollment. For the convenience of our families, annual tuition is divided into nine equal monthly installments, processed on the first day of each month from September 1 through May 1.

The summer session operates separately from the academic season. Summer tuition is processed beginning June 1 and thereafter on a rolling basis as students enroll in classes, camps, and workshops.

An annual, non-refundable registration fee is due upon enrollment. Our academic season registration fee is currently \$30 per student, and our summer session registration fee is currently \$25–\$30 per student (depending on program).

Tuition and fees may be paid by:

- Credit or debit card through the Jackrabbit Parent Portal or at the front desk
- Cash
- Check payable to the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet, LLC

By registering for classes, families acknowledge and agree to the following:

- Registration reserves a student's place in class for the entire session.
- Families are financially responsible for the full session tuition for classes in which the dancer is enrolled.
- Tuition, registration fees, and all other charges are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet does not issue tuition refunds or account credits for missed classes, schedule conflicts, withdrawals, injuries, illnesses, vacations, or other absences.

- Upon registration, families authorize CWSB to charge the payment method on file for the first month's tuition, applicable registration fees, and all future scheduled tuition payments.
- Families authorize recurring electronic payments for tuition and other authorized studio charges through the payment method provided during registration.
- Payments returned due to insufficient funds, declined transactions, or expired payment methods will incur a \$25 returned payment fee.
- Families agree to notify the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet in writing of any account changes 30 days prior to the next due date of the charges pre-authorized by this form.

Participation in performances is one of the most valuable aspects of a dancer's education. Because productions involve significant expenses beyond regular instruction, additional fees are assessed for each production in which a student participates.

Depending on the production, families should anticipate the following:

- Costume fee(s)
- Performance fee(s)
- Ticket fees for attending family members and friends

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet is committed to making high-quality dance education accessible to talented and dedicated students. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and community supporters, a limited amount of financial assistance is available each year for families who demonstrate financial need.

Financial assistance awards are determined through a confidential application process and are based on several factors, including demonstrated financial need, the availability of assistance funds, and the student's commitment to the values and expectations of CWSB. Awards are not guaranteed and may vary from year to year depending on available funding.

Students who receive financial assistance are expected to serve as positive representatives of the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet. Assistance may be reviewed or revoked if a student demonstrates repeated disciplinary concerns, poor attendance without communication, or conduct inconsistent with the values of the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet.

Financial assistance applications are due by August 1 before the start of each season. Please see the front desk for more information.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Performance is an integral part of a dancer's education at the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet. Performing on stage allows students to apply the technique, artistry, confidence, discipline, and teamwork developed in the studio while creating lasting memories with their fellow dancers. Throughout the academic year, CWSB students have the opportunity to participate in several productions presented by the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet.

Performance opportunities vary by age, level, and casting requirements and may include the following:

Thriller

Each October, Thriller is an exciting Halloween tradition featuring a variety of dance styles and theatrical performances. Participation is open to all jazz students in Beginner through Level V.

The Nutcracker

Performed on the first weekend in December, The Nutcracker is one of Central Wisconsin's most beloved holiday traditions. Ballet students from Little Dancer through Level V are encouraged to participate in this classical ballet, performing alongside their peers and world-renowned professional ballet dancers in a professional theatrical setting.

Storybook Weekend

Held in the early spring, Storybook Weekend introduces audiences to beloved literary classics through dance. Participating ballet levels vary each year depending on the selected production but tend to be Beginners through Level V.

Spring Showcase

Each May, every CWSB class takes the stage during our annual Spring Showcase. This performance celebrates each student's growth throughout the academic year and gives every class the opportunity to demonstrate the skills, technique, and artistry they have developed.

Stewart Park Performance

At the conclusion of our five-week summer session in mid-July, students perform in our annual Stewart Park Performance, a cherished CWSB tradition and one of our families' favorite events of the year. This outdoor performance celebrates the accomplishments of our dancers and concludes the summer season.

VOLUNTEERING

The Central Wisconsin School of Ballet is fortunate to have an outstanding community of families whose generosity and support help make our performances possible. Every production is

a collaborative effort, and parent volunteers play an essential role in creating a positive and professional experience for our dancers. Throughout the year, there are many opportunities to become involved, including:

- Backstage costume assistance and dressing room support
- Load-in and load-out of sets, props, and equipment
- Theater setup and strike
- Boutique sales during Nutcracker
- Decorating and event preparations
- Overseeing audience crafts and/or games at performances
- Photography, videography, and other special projects (when requested)

We encourage every CWSB family to volunteer for at least one performance or major studio event each year. We reach out for volunteers via email and the CWSB Official Parent Group on Facebook before each performance.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP & TEACHING ASSISTANTS

At the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet, we believe that leadership is an important part of a dancer's education. As students mature both technically and personally, they have the opportunity to develop valuable teaching, mentoring, and leadership skills by assisting in our Children's Program classes.

Select students in Levels IV and V may be invited to serve as Student Teaching Assistants. These opportunities are extended at the discretion of the Artistic Director and are based on a student's technical ability, maturity, reliability, attendance, communication skills, and demonstrated commitment to the values of CWSB.

Teaching assistants may help instructors by:

- Welcoming and encouraging young dancers
- Demonstrating exercises and classroom activities
- Assisting with classroom organization and transitions
- Providing positive encouragement to young students
- Serving as role models for the next generation of CWSB dancers

As students gain experience and demonstrate readiness, they may be given opportunities to assume additional teaching responsibilities under faculty supervision. Some students may eventually progress to independently teaching select Children's Program classes.

Participation in the Teaching Assistant Program is considered both a privilege and a leadership opportunity. Students are expected to maintain exemplary attendance, professionalism, and conduct while serving as representatives of the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet.

Many of our instructors began their teaching journey as student assistants at CWSB. We are proud to cultivate future educators who will carry forward the school's tradition of excellence for generations to come.

STUDIO BOUTIQUE & UNIFORM PURCHASES

For the convenience of our families, the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet maintains an on-site studio boutique offering the dancewear students need for class, including CWSB's required Capezio leotards, tights, ballet shoes, and other dance essentials.

Each CWSB level has a specific uniform, including a designated Capezio leotard style and color. A leotard of a similar color or style does not meet the uniform requirement. Please refer to the Dress Code & Appearance section of this handbook for the requirements for your dancer's level.

We strongly encourage families to purchase required uniforms through the CWSB studio boutique. Purchasing through the studio ensures your dancer receives the correct style, color, and fit for their level while eliminating the uncertainty of ordering independently.

Our staff is happy to assist with sizing and fitting, particularly for ballet shoes and pointe shoes. Please ask at the front desk for assistance.

Purchasing from the studio boutique also directly supports the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet and helps us continue providing high-quality programming for our students.

Please label all dancewear and shoes with your dancer's name. With many students wearing identical uniforms, labeled belongings are much more likely to find their way home.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet follows the decisions of the Wausau School District. On rare occasions, we will make a call different from theirs in the best interest of our students and families. We inform families of studio closures via email and the official CWSB Parent Group on Facebook.

PARKING

To help ensure the safety of our students and provide efficient drop-off and pick-up, the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet utilizes a one-way circle drive.

When arriving at the studio, please enter using the first driveway on Third Avenue immediately past our brick building. When exiting, follow the drive left around the white house and exit using the second driveway back onto Third Avenue.

Please help us keep traffic flowing smoothly by observing the following guidelines:

- Drive slowly and use caution, as children and families may be walking through the parking area.
- Do not block entrance, exit, sidewalks, or neighboring driveways.
- During busy class transitions, we ask families to be patient, courteous, and mindful of other drivers.

Thank you for helping us keep our parking area safe for our dancers and families.

COMMUNICATION

Central Wisconsin School of Ballet communicates with families through the following channels:

- **Jackrabbit Parent Portal** – Account information, tuition, registration, class schedules, and important studio updates.
- **Email:** info@cwschoolofballet.com
- **Phone:** (715) 842-4447
- **CWSB Official Parent Group on Facebook** – Weather closures, reminders, performance announcements, and other timely updates.

Families are responsible for keeping their contact information current in the Jackrabbit Parent Portal and for regularly checking these communication channels. We encourage parents and guardians to contact us whenever they have questions or concerns.

HANDBOOK REVISIONS

This handbook is intended to serve as a guidebook to the policies, procedures, and expectations of the Central Wisconsin School of Ballet. While every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy, the School reserves the right to revise, amend, or update any policy, procedure, program, schedule, tuition, fee, or other information contained herein as circumstances warrant.

Families will be notified of any significant changes through official CWSB communication channels. The most current version of this handbook supersedes all previous editions.

Last Revised: August 2026