

MOONRIDGE SCHOOL OF DANCE

Welcome Letter

Dear Dancers and Parents,

We are SO EXCITED to have your dancer at our studios! Dance is an invaluable investment that sets your child up for success. Classical ballet technique is the primary focus at Moonridge School of Dance, but we also offer Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, and more because we also believe in well-rounded humans who are passionate about what they decide to do!

Maria Bavuso-Knisley is the Owner, Artistic Director, and Teacher at the school. She is passionate about the art of ballet and is proud to offer classical training to all ages and ability levels. Her mission is to teach the technique of classical ballet through positive reinforcement using body safe methods. We strive to train every child who comes to our studio through self-discipline, healthy self-expression, positive boundaries, and love. Nothing instills self-confidence and self-esteem better than achieving something you've worked hard for whether you are 3 or 93.

Our curriculum starts at the beginning, focused on basic coordination and development of the nervous systems of our smallest dancers. As they grow, both in body and mind, they progress through the levels as is appropriate. It's an amazing journey that teaches children they can achieve their goals when they work hard and consistently. Each level has a curriculum designed for their neurological and physiological ability that leads them through specific techniques to the next level of training and development. Dance has been proven in countless studies to improve cognitive abilities, and arts education studies have shown over and over that children exposed to the arts are more successful in life.

We also offer beginning dance classes for adults and teens that focus on strength, conditioning, and stretch because what else will get you in shape faster than dance! Dance keeps the brain and the body young and can prevent onset of almost all aging neurological issues.

Thank you for considering our dance family. Please read through the following packet of information for all necessary information policies. So glad to have you here!

Dance on,

Ms. Maria Knisley

and the MSOD Staff

Moonridge School of Dance 2026 Contract, Uniform, and Policies

At Moonridge School of Dance, we strive to teach the legacy of classical ballet training and the discipline that goes along with it. Please carefully read the following to set your dancer up for success. The dance world can be strange and overwhelming at first so please never hesitate to ask questions. The teachers at Moonridge School of Dance are passionate about their art and are delighted to pass along their knowledge to your children. Please help us make this a life-long experience of learning for everyone involved.

Carefully review the following contract and code of conduct to which you and your dancer agree.

Attendance:

- Teachers vow to do their absolute best to adhere to the class schedule! We WILL start on time; please plan accordingly to avoid your dancer's exclusion from participation.
- Dancers are strongly encouraged to attend all level classes to make sure they keep up with their cohort. Fewer hours risks losing ground and not progressing to the next level with their cohort.
- Dancers are strongly encouraged to take classes at their assigned level unless otherwise instructed by Maria.
- Dancers who are more than 10 minutes late will be asked to do a "sit out". This does not count as an absence but allows the dancer to learn the information in class without risking injury.
- **If your dancer is unable to attend class that day you must call the studio to notify of his/her absence to avoid an unexcused absence. And so, we don't worry about them.**
- **Unexcused absences are not eligible for make-up classes. See attendance policy for details.**
- Dancers may make-up excused absences approved by the teacher of the missed class and the teacher of the make-up class.
- No more than 3 make-ups per calendar month without special approval. No more than 6 total per session without special approval.
- MSOD will call a snow day in concordance with Bear Valley Unified School District. Cancellations will **not** be counted as absences. Snow make-ups will be announced. ***Please provide an email address so you can be notified of cancellation.***

MAKE-UP AND ABSENCES POLICIES

3 Excused Absences are allowed in each calendar month. To qualify as an excused absence, you **MUST** contact MSOD to indicate your child's absence from class that day. Make-Up classes must be completed within one month of excused absences. Make-ups must be approved by the teacher of the missed class as well as the make-up class. No more than 6 approved absences and make-ups in one Session without special approval. More than 6 approved absences may compromise the dancer's progress in class and contract with the studio.

"Sit Out": if a dancer is too late to join class or recovering from illness or injury, the dancer may "sit out" and watch. This option is highly encouraged because observation is an excellent way to learn! A "sit-out" does not qualify as an absence.

3 unexcused absences in a calendar month, or 5 in a Session may terminate the dancer's contract with the studio and forfeit all tuition paid. You must communicate with MSOD about absences.

Tuition:

- All tuition is due by the 5th of each month.
- A late fee of 10% applies to payment made after the 10th.
- See the below Tuition Policies for details. Please always communicate with us about your payment needs so we can serve your child.

TUITION POLICIES

Tuition is due in full by the 5th of every month. Tuition unpaid after the 10th of each month will incur a 10% late fee. If tuition is unpaid by the first class of the following month your child forfeits contract and classes until tuition and late fees have been paid in full.

There will be a \$25 returned check fee and exclusion from class until tuition and fees have been paid in full.

Pricing and Packages

All classes are \$25.00 Drop-In fee. If you choose to register, the price goes to \$16.00 per class. Registration is a 3-month commitment!

- One-time \$20 registration fee for a single student or \$25 for two or more siblings enrolling for the first time together.
- \$16/class = \$64 per month per class
- **Tuition is non-refundable. Classes must be made up within the month of absence or will be forfeited. See Make-Up and Absences Policies.**

Studio Conduct:

- Dancers should arrive at least 10 minutes before their class to prepare and warm up.
- Upon arrival if the studio is open dancers are welcome to use the studio to stretch.
- Dancers and teachers only in the studios please!
- If the previous class is still in session, please wait quietly in the lobby out of respect.
- Dancers may bring water (*only water*) to class to avoid dehydration!
- No Street shoes in the studios at any time! Parking lot oils are real.
- Help us keep the lobby organized! Please use cubbies and bins for shoe/bag storage during class. PLEASE pick up after your dancer and help us keep ants and mice away by making sure snacks are cleaned up. NO SWEETENED DRINKS IN THE STUDIO OR LOBBY.

CLASS CANCELLATION or STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

MSOD will call snow days in concordance with Bear Valley Unified School District. Snow Days will be made up as is appropriate during the Session. ***Please provide an email address so you can be notified of cancellation.***

If a class has fewer than 4 students in attendance for 2 successive weeks, the class is subject to postponement at the directors' discretion. No refunds will be made. Credit may be applied to other classes.

In the event of a withdrawal decision made BEFORE the first day of class, a tuition refund may be paid. Parents MUST contact the studio in writing or in person to signify and confirm withdrawal. If withdrawal is decided after the first day of class tuition is non-refundable. Application for tuition adjustment may be considered in case of illness and injury if accompanied by a doctor's note and requires an absence of more than 10 days

TERMS CONDITIONS/NO FAULT RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

It is understood that upon signing this agreement I assume full responsibility for myself/child for injury or damage from any cause whatsoever resulting directly or indirectly from participation in the exercises or dance program and waive any claim against Maria Knisley, Moonridge School of Dance, and its employees, hereby making this a full release of all liability for personal injury.

Moonridge School of Dance assumes no responsibilities for loss or theft of personal belongings or holdings.

MSOD Uniform

Overview:

- Dancers must be in uniform.
- Dancer's hair should be neatly pulled off their face and neck into a ballet bun or twist. Hairnets are handy to keep hair tucked in. If you're stumped by the ballet bun or twist, try YouTube!
- No bracelets, necklaces, or dangling earrings.
- Convertible tights are encouraged but should be worn inside shoes during class/rehearsal.
- Ballet tights are made to be worn without panties. Panties under tights cause twisting mayhem.
- Please tuck draw strings and elastics into ballet shoes before class.
- Warmups are allowed on cold winter days with teachers' permission.
- **Every Ballet Level Requires:**
 - Pink, mesh, seamed tights.
 - Pink ballet shoes.
 - Solid color leotard that fits properly and not be fussy or distracting for the dancer.
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Boys All Levels and Rehearsal: black shorts, leggings, or tights, with a white t-shirt, and black ballet shoes.

Jazz and Tap Classes: Solid color leotard, pink or tan tights, may wear dance shorts or pants.

Tap and Ballet shoes for Creative Movement and Dance Fundamentals

Adult Classes: At the discretion of the teacher

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MSOD 2026 Session Calendar

Spring Session: Monday January 5, 2026 - Monday, June 5, 2026

Summer Session: Monday, June 15 - Friday, July 3, 2026

Important Dates (You are responsible for knowing and following studio dates)

Spring Break: Monday, Mar. 23 - Friday, Marc. 27, **NO CLASS**

Spring Showcase: Thursday, June 4, 2026

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026 **NO CLASS**

Last Day of Spring Schedule Fri. June 5, 2026

Studio Closed: Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 12, 2026, **NO CLASS**

Studio Closed: Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 31, 2026 **NO CLASS**

Studio Opens for Fall Monday, August 3, 2026

Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2026 **NO CLASS**

Fall Break: Monday, October 5 – Friday, October 16, 2026 **NO CLASS**

Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, November 25 - Saturday, Nov. 28, 2026 **NO CLASS**

Nutcracker Ballet/Showcase Week: Monday, December 7 – Sunday, December 13, 2026

(Show rehearsal schedule will be posted on the events schedule on the website)

Winter Break: Monday, Dec. 14 - Friday, Jan 1, 2027

Studio Opens for Spring: Monday, January 4, 2027

**Schedule details TBA. Please see Rehearsal Schedule on website:*

[Moonridgeschoolofdance.com](https://moonridgeschoolofdance.com)

Pricing and Packages

All classes are \$25.00 Drop-In fee. If you choose to register, the price goes to \$16.00 per class. Registration is a 3-month commitment!

- One-time \$20 registration fee for a single student, or \$25 for two or more siblings enrolling for the first time together.
- \$16/class = \$64 per month per class
- Adult Classes: 12 class punch cards for \$156.00 to be used within a year
- **Tuition is non-refundable. Classes may be made up or will be forfeited. Make-up classes within one month of excused absence(s). See Make-Up and Absences Policies**

Class Tuition Worksheet:

Dancer #1 Name: _____

No. of classes per month: _____ x \$16 = _____ / due by 10th of each month.

Dancer #2 Name: _____

No. of classes per month: _____ x \$16 = _____ / due by 10th of each month.

Dancer #3 Name: _____

No. of classes per month: _____ x \$16 = _____ / due by 10th of each month.

Dancer #3 Name: _____

No. of classes per month: _____ x \$16 = _____ / due by 10th of each month.

Dancer and Parent Registration and Signature of Agreement

Dancer #1 Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Class/Level: _____

Dancer #2 Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Class/Level: _____

Dancer #3 Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Class/Level: _____

Parents Names: _____

Primary Contact: _____ **Phone:** _____

Secondary Contact: _____ **Phone:** _____

Emergency Contact: _____ **Phone:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Primary Email: _____

I have read and agree to all the terms listed in the Moonridge School of Dance contract. I agree to adhere to this contract for the duration of the session.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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