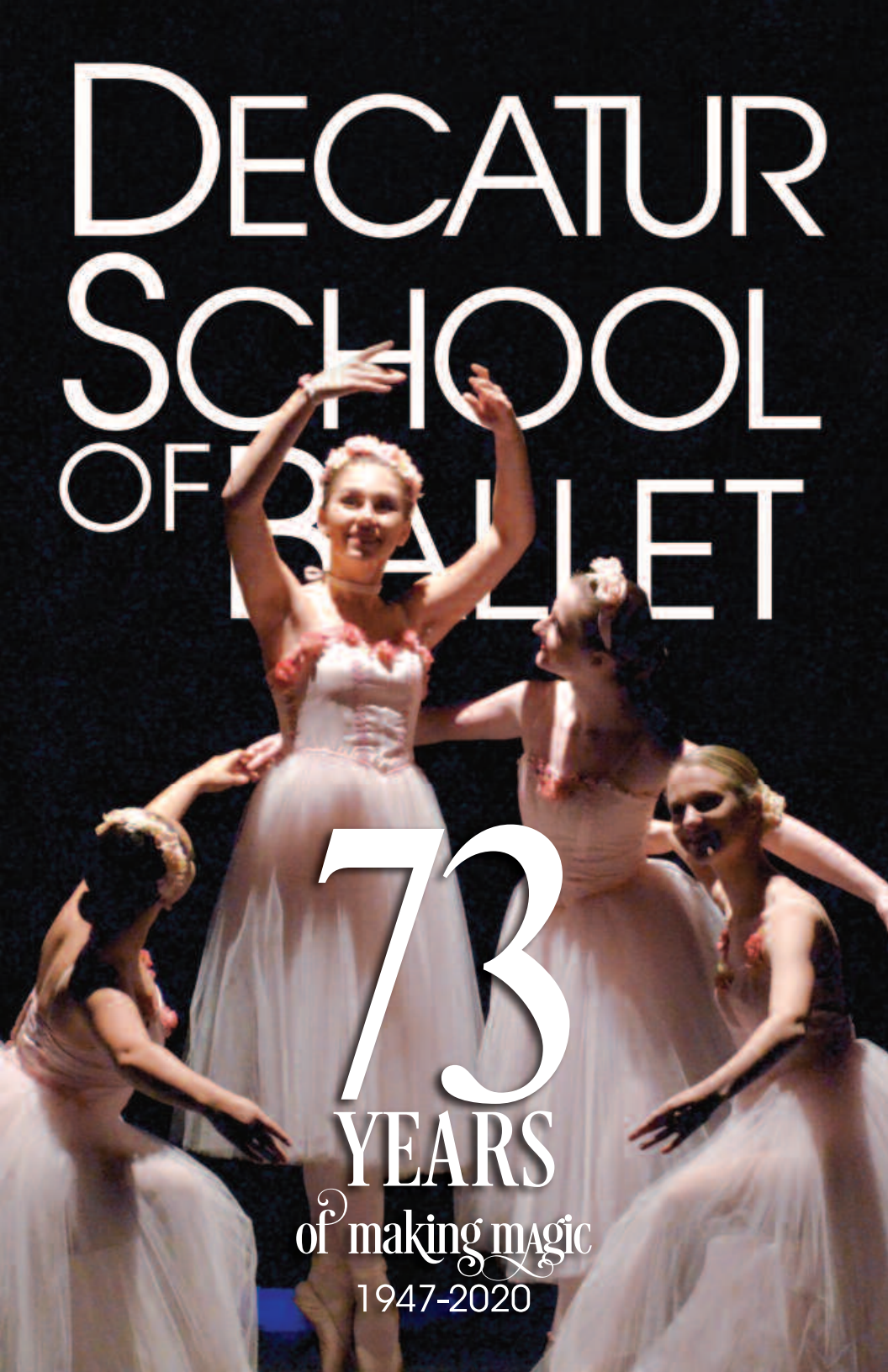


DECATUR SCHOOL OF BALLET


A photograph of four ballerinas in white tutus performing on stage. The ballerina in the center is smiling and has her arms raised. The other three ballerinas are in various poses around her. The background is dark.

73

YEARS

of making magic

1947-2020



Beyond
words...
there is
Dance

commitment to excellence
study skills
interpersonal relationship development
social interaction
fitness regimens
physiology & kinetics
self-expression
exploration

DECATUR
SCHOOL
OF BALLET

decaturballet.com

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Decatur School of Ballet Alumni

have continued to perform with...

AboutFace, GA
The Ailey School, NY
Ailey II
(Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater), NY
American Dance Festival, NC
Artpark, NY
The Atlanta Ballet, GA
Atlanta Dance Collective, GA
Bacchus Productions, GA
Ballet Hispanico, NY
Brazz Dance Theater, FL
Brooks and Company Dance, GA
Bucks County Playhouse, PA
Camp Broadway
– Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, NY
The Cleveland Ballet, OH
Contemporary Dance/Ft. Worth, TX
CORE Performance Company, GA
DanceAntonini, Washington, DC
Dance Canvas, GA
Diablo Ballet, CA
Fuerta Dance Company, GA
Gathering Wild, GA
GLO/Atlanta, GA
Immerse ATL, GA

Hubbard Street Dance, IL
Joffrey Ballet, NY
Alonzo King LINES Ballet, CA
Kit Modus, GA
Meadow Brook Theatre, MI
Poetica, GA
The Ruth Mitchell Dance Company, GA
Modco Dance Company, GA
The MUNY
(The Municipal Theatre Association
of St. Louis), MO
Music Theatre Wichita, KS
The Nashville Ballet, TN
New York Theatre Ballet, NY
NW Dance Project, OR
Opus Dance Theater, NY
Paper Mill Playhouse, NJ
PCLO (Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera
Association), PA
SIDEWAYS
Contemporary Dance Company, GA
Smuin Ballet, CA
staibdance, GA
Visceral Dance Chicago, IL
Choreographer for Britney Spears

have continued to study dance at...

Agnes Scott College, GA
Belmont University, TN
Brenau University, GA
Davidson College, NC
DeKalb Center for the Performing Arts, GA
DeKalb School of the Arts, GA
Governor's Honors, GA
Elon University, NC
Emory College at Oxford, GA
Emory University, GA
Florida State University, FL
Goucher College, MD
Kennesaw State University, GA
Point Park University, PA

Randolph College, VA
Saint Mary's College of California, CA
Smith College, MA
State University of New York
(SUNY - Purchase), NY
Texas Christian University, TX
University of Alabama, AL
University of Georgia, GA
University of North Carolina
– Greensboro, NC
University of North Carolina
School of the Arts, NC
University of South Florida, FL
Washington University, MO

About the School

Decatur School of Ballet, the oldest classical ballet school in DeKalb County was started by Hilda Gumm and Marie Roberts in 1947, was purchased in 1980 by Kathleen and Ron Everett, who sold the school to long-time teacher Leslie Gourley in July 2018.

We offer classes for adults, teens, and children in ballet, hip hop, tap, modern, ballroom, creative movement, My Family and Me, and theater dance. Headquartered in Downtown Decatur, the school is structured on a nine-month curriculum (September-May) and offers special summer programs. Careful attention is given to placing each dancer in appropriate classes based on age, technical level, and ability. Individual evaluations are done for each student. Providing quality dance instruction by professionals in a friendly atmosphere is the foundation of our school. Decatur School of Ballet serves the needs of students who wish to dance “just for fun” and those who aim to be professional dancers and teachers. Our school welcomes people from varying racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds. Although we are in the business of teaching dance, the development of each student as an individual is at the core of our endeavors. Experience in and knowledge of the arts help us express our individual creative and cultural human potential.

Visit our website at decaturballet.com.

What We Offer

The discipline of dance training improves muscle tone, posture, coordination, flexibility, strength, and endurance. Other benefits are increased self-confidence and musical awareness. Here are the classes we offer:

My Family and Me (adult caregiver with age 2): My Family and Me invites one adult person from the two year-old’s family to join them in dance class. The class sneaks in yoga as we act out stories that stretch imaginations and bodies, so both adult and child can enjoy the way movement enlivens our bodies. Both adult and child learn basic developmental dance skills that serve them in the next dance class and/or sports game or simply joyous living.



Creative Movement (ages 3-4): An unstylized approach to developing basic motor skills which allows for the creativity of the child within a structure that builds basic dance experience.

PreBallet (ages 5-6): Preparation for classical ballet which includes some basic ballet technique as well as creative movement.

Classical Ballet (ages 7 up): A system of traditional dance steps and movement handed down over hundreds of years to train the body as a performing instrument. Ballet training develops strength, proper posture, flexibility, and coordination. Because ballet teaches basic dance vocabulary and proper body placement, it is an excellent foundation for all other dance forms. Our carefully paced classes are designed to make ballet enjoyable and accessible for students of all ages.

Pointe (on the toes): An extension of classical ballet.

Jazz (ages 7 up): A truly American born and refined dance style which ranges from the lyrical soft shoe of Astaire and Rogers to the high intensity movement of television's dance reality shows. Jazz blends popular music and current dance trends with the polish and technique of performance dance. The result is the exciting stylized dance that you see on television and the Broadway stage.

Hip Hop (ages 8 up): Based on street dance styles such as "Locking," "Popping," and "Break," it is primarily performed to Hip Hop music. A must for any dance student who wants to stay in step with the current dance moves!

Male Dance for Music Theatre (ages 8 up): Designed to embrace and enhance the male dance technique required and showcased in American Music Theatre dance. Students will train in athleticism, strength, sharpness, mobility, professionalism, history, and in specific male influenced choreography. Each student's dance and acting technique, along with the understanding of male-based music theatre repertory will be honed, to prepare them for the field of live music theatre.

Modern Dance (ages 7 up): A contemporary approach to dance training. Skill building in modern dance allows dancers to acquire technique while developing movement vocabulary. Principles of conditioning, alignment, and musicality make modern dance a great form of athletic artistry.

Tap (ages 5 up): An original American dance form that lets you use your body as a rhythm instrument. With an emphasis on fancy footwork and sound, tap develops agility, musicality, and stylized movement. You will study basic exercises, time steps, and razzmatazz that make tap so much fun.

Ballroom (teenage up): The mechanics of leading and following in traditional partner dances including foxtrot, waltz, salsa, swing, rumba, and cha-cha.

Theatre Dance (6th-10th graders): Emphasis on a wide range of movement possibilities for all types of plays and musicals. This class covers all the bases. The curriculum includes a warm-up that combines ballet, modern, and jazz to familiarize the students with those genres and develop alignment. The basics of tap and ballroom dance will be introduced to increase coordination and the ability to partner. Students will explore the presentation of dance used in plays and musicals and cover some of the basics of pantomime, character movement, and stage combat.

Meet Our Faculty & Staff



Leslie Palmer Gourley, Owner and Teacher

Leslie started her dance training at age six in Marietta and continued her dance studies in Mississippi and with the Joffrey School of Ballet in New York. At age 16 she came to study with Decatur School of Ballet. After graduating from Texas Christian University with a BFA in ballet performance in 1986, she returned to teach with Decatur School of Ballet and to perform with Decatur City Dance. She has studied with notable instructors such as Stanley Zompakos, Terrell Paulk, Delia Stewart, Fernando Schaffenburg, Lisa Fusillo, Meli Kaye, Peter Powlus and Martha Goodman. In July 2018, Leslie purchased Decatur School of Ballet and became Artistic Director of Decatur City Dance.

Elizabeth Carroll, Office Manager

Elizabeth came to know the lobby at Decatur School of Ballet when her daughter Anne began dance training in 1998. A former piano teacher and choir director, Elizabeth has worked with our school since 2001. She also serves as an administrative assistant for Decatur City Dance. In her spare time, she enjoys choral singing, reading, and cooking. Elizabeth appreciates the variety of personalities that walks through the doors and the diversity of music that flows through the studios.



Virginia Cox, Office Manager

Virginia has been associated with Decatur School of Ballet since 1969. Both her daughters, Heather and Heidi, studied with our school and danced with our company. A teacher with Atlanta City Schools and DeKalb County Schools for 16 years, Virginia has worked with our school since 1989. Her other hours are filled with grandchildren, stitchery, sewing, and volunteering at Fernbank Museum.



Danny Bevins, Teacher

Danny is thrilled to return to the dance studio that helped raise him! After graduating Summa Cum Laude from Elon University with a BFA in Music Theater, he moved to NYC and began performing around the country. He's performed at theatres such as The Muny, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Music Theatre of Wichita, Papermill Playhouse, Bucks County Playhouse, and Barrington Stage Co. Danny is also an ACE certified strength coach, and specializes in functional movement based training. He runs Bespoke Personal Training in between performance opportunities and is signed

with People Store Inc and DGRW Agency. Danny is ecstatic to return to DSOB to teach what he's learned from the entertainment and fitness communities of NYC and ATL!

Meg Gourley, Teacher

Meg is a recent graduate of the University of Georgia with her B.F.A. in Dance, with a K12 Certification, and a Minor in Anthropology. She began her dance training at age three at Decatur School of Ballet and continued through high school as a member of the Apprentice Ensemble of Decatur City Dance and Decatur School of Ballet's Rug Cutters. Meg has studied with the Joffrey Ballet School, staidance, the Governor's Honors Program, and the American Dance Festival. During her years at UGA, she performed in various faculty and student pieces and was chosen to work with notable guests such as Alexandre Munz and Luis Piedra. She has performed with Danza Universitaria in San Jose, Costa Rica. Most recently, Meg served as the Head Resident Assistant for the Joffrey South program on UGA's campus for her third year, working under the direction of Colleen Barnes. Meg dances professionally for Kit Modus and AboutFace.





Kyme Hersi-Sallid, Teacher

Kyme is a graduate of the acclaimed New York City High School of Performing Arts, and has performed nationally and internationally as a dancer, singer, and actress. Her credits include three Broadway shows and tours of an additional three Broadway shows. As a film and TV actress, Kyme played Rachel Meadows in Spike Lee's film *School Daze*, and guest starred on TV shows such as *24*, *NYPD Blue*, *Frasier*, and many more. Her love of teaching and the arts led her to found a performing arts academy in a charter school in Los Angeles in 2006. She moved to

Atlanta in 2012 where she continues to share her passion and pass on the fruits of her experience and success. Kyme is an Associate Director of Decatur City Dance

Nacoleon Hillsman III, Teacher

Nacoleon is from Atlanta, Georgia and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Oklahoma. Taking his first dance class at the age of 14 at the Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts at Pebblebrook High School, he fell in love with dance. He has trained in multiple styles, including jazz, ballet, modern, and hip hop. He has performed on stage in New York, San Francisco, Beijing China, just to name a few. Nacoleon is excited to continue to inspire students in their love for dance and artistic creativity at Decatur School of Ballet!



Kate Holland, Teacher

Kate Holland has more than thirty years experience as a dancer, teacher, and choreographer. She has received funding from the City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, the Georgia Council for the Arts, and both Fulton and DeKalb County Arts Councils. Kate started her study of yoga in 1973 with Yogi Amrit Desai and currently studies with Divine Mother Karunamayi, sharing many classes throughout Atlanta. Kate is the founder and Artistic Director of soulstar.

Olivia Mitchell, Teacher

Olivia began her dance training at Decatur School of Ballet at age four. A member of Decatur City Dance, she continued studying at Decatur School of Ballet until age 18. At the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she received her B.F.A. in Dance with a concentration in Choreography. While at UNCG, she had the privilege of studying under dance artists BJ Sullivan, Robin Gee, Janet Lily, Elizabeth Johnson, Jan Van Dyke, and Duane Cyrus. Olivia is working as a Registration Associate at the Eggleston location of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.





Eliza Reese, Teacher

Eliza started her dance training at our studio at age four and has been assistant teaching since age nine. She was a member of Decatur City Dance (Junior and Apprentice Ensembles and Junior Rhythm Keepers) and Decatur School of Ballet's Rug Cutters. Eliza graduated from Agnes Scott College with a major in Biology and a minor in Dance and has now completed her studies at Mercer University to become a nurse. Eliza is also a member of The Rhythm Keepers.

Jessica Paget Reese, Teacher

Jessica began her dance training at the Gainesville School of Ballet at age six. A professional performer with South Carolina Ballet Theatre, she also taught with the Columbia Ballet School before opening her own studio in Lexington, South Carolina. In addition to her classical ballet training, Jessica has performed in musical theater productions. With a B.A. degree in English and a M.Ed. in Elementary Education from Columbia College, she taught seventh grade for seven years. Jessica is a choreographer and Associate Director of Decatur City Dance.



Birda Ringstad, Teacher and Receptionist

Birda started dancing at age eight at the Art Linkletter Studio near Chicago, Illinois. Although she trained in all the dance disciplines, tap was her favorite. She has studied with many of the great tap masters of our time. After enjoying many "Fred and Ginger" movies, she added ballroom dance to her studies. Birda taught at City Lights Dance Club in Atlanta for six years where she developed her craft and her teaching skills. She has performed at many exhibitions and corporate affairs, and has helped thousands acquire the skills and confidence to get on the floor and dance. Birda is the Director of Rug Cutters.

Heidi Cox Santa Maria, Receptionist

Heidi started her dance training at age six at Decatur School of Ballet and continued to dance in the company until she graduated from high school. In the summer of 1987, she participated in the Governor's Honors Dance program. She trained as a demonstrator and teacher in younger children's classes at our school. While earning a B.F.A. in Arts Management from Brenau Women's College, Heidi danced with the Gainesville Ballet Company.





Daphanie Scandrick, Teacher

Daphanie began her modern dance training at Davidson Fine Arts School in Augusta, Georgia. Over the years, she has performed with the Augusta Ballet Apprentice Company, Zoetic Dance Ensemble, Gathering Wild, and staibdance. In 2000, Daphanie obtained a B.B.A. in Computer Information Systems from Georgia State University and currently works as Director of Decision Support Services for Georgia's Department of Community Health. Daphanie is the Director of Modern Dance at Decatur School of Ballet and an Associate Director of Decatur City Dance.

Dee Wagner, Teacher

Dee has taught dance, mime, and theatre for over 30 years through Company Kaye, the Georgia Council for the Arts, and Georgia Dance Conservatory. She has been teaching My Family and Me classes for ten years and choreographed the musicals at the Paideia School for 30 years. As a performer, her work was seen at the New England Vaudeville Festival and the Governor's Awards for the Arts. Dee has taught summer musical theatre camps through the Marietta Community Schools and Decatur School of Ballet. Also, Dee is a practicing Licensed Professional Counselor and Registered Dance Therapist.



Toya Willingham, Teacher

Toya started her dance training at age three and came to Decatur School of Ballet at age 13. She has been a company dancer with Decatur City Dance since 1992. She is a graduate of the DeKalb Center for the Performing Arts. In the summer of 1995, she participated in the Governor's Honors Dance program. Toya trained as a demonstrator, an assistant teacher, and a substitute teacher in younger children's classes at our school. She has a strong foundation in ballet and has also trained in modern dance, jazz, and tap. Toya is Director of AboutFace, the professional contemporary ensemble of Decatur City Dance.

Heather Yates, Teacher

Heather began her dance training at Decatur School of Ballet at age eight and continued her study with the Atlanta Ballet, the Royal Academy of Dance, and the Cleveland Ballet, where she also danced in the company. She also danced professionally with the American Ballet Theatre in New York City from 1988 to 1994, working with such notable artists as Twyla Tharp, Natalia Makarova, Jiri Kylian, and Mark Morris. Heather is also a professional chef and pharmacy technician.





Decatur School of Ballet is the official school of Decatur City Dance (DCD). Under the artistic direction of Leslie Palmer Gourley, DCD is the oldest performing dance company in DeKalb County and is currently in its 68th season. The company is a nonprofit corporation financially supported by contributions, grant funds, membership dues, and ticket sales. Six performing groups are under the company umbrella. *AboutFace* (directed by Toya Willingham) presents contemporary, modern and jazz, *Apprentice Ensemble* and *Junior Ensemble* (directed by Leslie Gourley and Jessica Reese) present ballet and jazz, *BareGrounds* (directed by Daphanie Scandrick) present modern, and *The Rhythm Keepers* and *The Junior Rhythm Keepers* (directed by Kyme Hersi-Sallid) present tap. As a community arts organization, DCD provides quality performances for metro Atlanta audiences and outreach programs for retirement homes, schools, and community groups.

Dancers become members of DCD by audition. They are talented dancers who are either professional performers or want to make a commitment to dance as one of their special extracurricular activities. Many company dancers started their dance training at our school at an early age and progressed into the performing company. Many teachers in the school have worked with the company as performers and/or choreographers.



is a teen swing dance performance group directed by Birda Ringstad and headquartered at Decatur School of Ballet. Membership is by invitation or audition. The Rug Cutters perform often during the season at community events and at Decatur School of Ballet Annual Performances.



soulstar contemporary dance is headquartered at Decatur School of Ballet and is under the direction of teacher and choreographer Kate Holland. Currently the company is made up of seven women who are all alumni of Decatur School of Ballet, who are dedicated to producing performances for seasoned dancers who have experienced a lifelong love of dance.

Adults

If you buy a card:

Six 1 hour classes = \$105
Six 1 1/2 hour classes = \$115

Professional Rates:

Six classes = \$72
Single class = \$12

If you pay by the single class:

1 hour class = \$18
1 1/2 hour class = \$20

Note: When you purchase your class card, you will fill out a registration form. Adults do not pay a registration fee.

Teens and Children

Class Hours per Week/Monthly Payments

1 hour per week	\$68
1 1/2 hours per week	\$95
2 hours per week	\$115
2 1/2 hours per week	\$135
3 hours per week	\$145
3 1/2 hours per week	\$155
4 hours per week	\$165

Tuition

is based on a yearly fee for the total amount of instruction provided.

Monthly tuition is NOT based on the number of classes per month. Allowance is made for holidays.

Registration for Teens and Children

Early registration is recommended to assure a place in the desired class or classes. A non-refundable \$50 registration fee plus one month's tuition (prepayment of May 2021) must accompany the registration form included with this brochure, or available on our website.

Tuition Payment for Teens and Children

You are registering for the nine-month term September through May. You may make one full season payment or nine monthly payments. If you make one full season payment by the first day of class, you receive a 5% discount. If you choose monthly payments, each payment is the same, regardless of the number of classes in the month. Payments are due on the first class day of each month. **We do not send reminders about tuition payments. If you receive a bill, it means your account is PAST DUE. A late fee of \$10 will be charged for payment received after the 10th of the month.** A \$20 fee will be charged for any returned check. No deductions will be made for classes missed. Students may attend class only if tuition is current.

One month's tuition (prepayment of May 2021) is required with registration. If you must withdraw your child after the school year begins, **please notify the office in writing** to give official notice of your intentions. Prior to December 31, 2020, the advance tuition for May 2021 is refundable, **when a month's written notice is given.** After January 1, 2021, the advance tuition for May 2021 is NOT refundable.

For your convenience, we accept VISA®, MasterCard®, American Express®, Discover®, and debit cards.

The Dance Emporium

The Dance Emporium, located in our Sams Street studio, offers the following items:

- Leotards (pink, royal blue, garnet, black)
- Tights (pink, black, brown, light tan)
- Jazz Shoes
- Hair Supplies
- Tap Shoes
- Pink Ballet Shoes
- Ballet Skirts

2020/2021 Dance School Calendar

First Day of August Classes:

August 10, 2020

Labor Day:

September 5, 2020-September 7, 2020

First Day 2020-2021 Season:

September 8, 2020

Thanksgiving Holiday:

November 23, 2020-November 29, 2020

Winter Holiday:

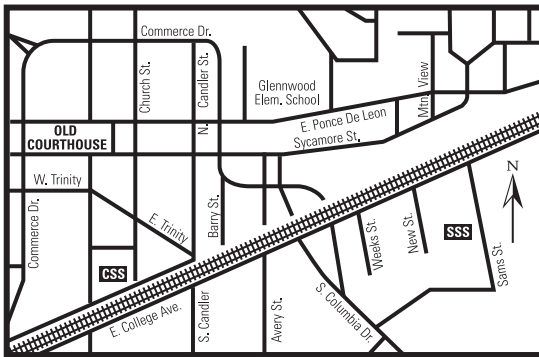
December 21, 2020-January 3, 2021

Spring Break:

April 5, 2021-April 11, 2021

Memorial Day:

May 28, 2021-May 31, 2021



CSS = Church St. Studio SSS = Sams St. Studio

For Further Information

Church Street Studio

102 Church Street | Decatur, Georgia 30030
p 404.378.3388

Sams Street Studio

141 Sams Street | Decatur, Georgia 30030
p 404.377.6927

decaturballet.com

Email: info@decaturballet.com

The highest compliment our patrons can give us is the referral of their friends and family.

Thank you for your trust.



Decatur's
Home for
DANCE
SINCE 1947

DECATUR SCHOOL OF BALLEt

102 Church Street
Decatur, GA, 30030
decaturballet.com

photos

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