



A guide to understanding the level progression at the New Albany Ballet Company

Our goal as a faculty is to guide each child on their own path of classical ballet training. Our faculty work together to make the best level placement decision for each child that continues to train at NABC. These decisions are based on technique, focus, body capacity, strength, and overall ability to advance. Not all children advance to the next level each season. Many of our students need another year in a level to fine tune aspects needed to advance on. If a child is advised to repeat a level this does not mean that child has failed. Nor does it mean the child needs "extra work" outside the classroom. Children need to be allowed to grow in their own timeline. Our faculty support and encourage students to grow within their own timeline. There is no rush to the finish line. Ballet training is a slow and meticulous process.

Primary Students

Each Primary student is evaluated for either placement into Ballet 1A (Progressive Division) or Ballet I (General Division). Students placed into Ballet I are reevaluated the following January for placement into the Progressive Division.

General Division Students (Ballet 1,2,3,4,5)

Students placed into our General Division are evaluated each January for transition into our Progressive Division Program or advance to the next grade level. Summer training is optional.

Progressive Division "A" Students (Ballet 1A,2A,3A,4A)

Progressive Division Students in our younger levels are evaluated in January by their current A level teachers for placement in the next A level up, repeat their current A level or transition to a B level Progressive Division class (see below for details) Summer training is required.

Progressive Division "B" Students (Ballet 2/3B and Ballet 4/5B)

Students are placed in our "B" level classes if we feel they will benefit from a smaller class size. Most students come from a younger A level class. Some general division students may also be placed in our B classes if their general division teacher feels they are ready for progressive division training but not quite ready for an A level class. These levels are taught by our progressive division faculty and are cast in our Nutcracker alongside our progressive A level students.

Progressive Division B students are reevaluated in January for transition into an A level class, repeat their current B level, or transition into the Ballet Tech Division. Summer training is required.

Progressive Division "A" Students (Ballet 5A,6A,7A)

These students start a much more rigorous classical ballet training program. They are evaluated for pointe along with a fuller year requirement. Ballet 5A,6A,7A students train several times a week and are required to also train in modern classes (6A/7A). Additional supplement classes in jazz, stretch, and tap are highly recommended for this level. Summer programs consist of weekly ballet classes as well as a 2-3 week summer intensive. The rigors of these levels are established to ready the dancer for a pre professional program. Ballet 5A-7A students are evaluated throughout the season and constant communication on progress is given. These students are very active in our Nutcracker and spring ballet performances.

Ballet Tech Division (Ballet Tech 1 and Ballet Tech 2)

Students in our Ballet tech program benefit from multiple classes a week taught by our progressive and pre professional faculty but are not required to train with the same demands as a Ballet 5A-7A or Pre-Professional level student. Our Ballet tech levels are designed for the student who enjoys a strong emphasis on classical ballet but is involved with other outside actives (theatre, musicals, sports). Ballet tech students are given the opportunity to audition and be cast in our Nutcracker performances. There is also a special Ballet tech spring workshop designed to highlight this program.

Pre Professional Division (Pre Pro 1,2,3,4) and (Trainee 1 and 2)

These are our highest levels within our school. Placement in these levels results in a very detailed handbook of expectations and qualifications. These can be read on our website on our pre professional page.