

Academy Hours

Monday thru Thursday 5:30pm-7:30pm & Saturday 9:00am until 12:30pm
Fri. & Sun. – CLOSED

Some events/activities/classes/rehearsals may be subject to change.

*We break with Memphis-Shelby County Schools and for Federal Holidays.
Parent/Guardians will be notified thru remind101 of any schedule changes.*

TLWAD 2025-2026 Tentative Calendar

July 19, 2025	Online Registration begins
August 2 nd	OPEN HOUSE (10am -2pm) & RCDC Interest Meeting (12:30pm)
August 9 th	Classes Begin & RCDC Auditions 1pm
September 1 st	Labor Day (TLWAD Closed)
September 20 th	Winter Showcase 2025 Rehearsals Begin
October 13 th thru 18 th	MSCS Fall Break (TLWAD Closed)
October 18 th	Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K Walk at Shelby Farms (All TLWAD are welcome to participate)
October 20 th	TLWAD Classes resume
November 22 nd	Whitehaven Christmas Parade (All TLWAD dancers & parents are invited to participate – No Classes)
November 26 th thru 28 th	Thanksgiving Break (TLWAD Closed)
November 29 th	TLWAD Classes Resume
December 20 th	Winter Showcase 2025 – 2pm Show Only
Dec. 21 st thru Jan 2 nd	Winter Break (TLWAD Closed)
January 3, 2026	TLWAD Classes resume
January 19 th	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (TLWAD Closed)
February 21 st	Spring Showcase 2026 Rehearsals Begin
March 16 th – 20 th	MSCS Spring Break (TLWAD Closed)
March 21 st	TLWAD Classes resume
May 25 th	Memorial Day (TLWAD Closed)
June 2 nd	Performing Arts Camp begins
June 14 th	Spring Showcase 2025 – 2PM
June 28 th	Last Day of TLWAD Classes

www.remind101.com

ALL ACADEMY PARENTS MUST SIGN UP FOR THIS FREE SERVICE.

Academy reminders, messages, & contact are sent thru this service as well as emails.

How to sign up for Ms. Tevita's TL WILLIAMS ACADEMY OF DANCE notifications:

If you have a smartphone, get push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: rmd.at/tlwad

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app. Text @tlwad to the number 81010. You'll receive a welcome text from Remind. If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @tlwad to (563) 265-6842.

You will receive ALL updates via remind101.

Academy Handbook

2025-2026 SEASON

Offering Classes for Ages 3 & Up

Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, Baton, West African, Vocal & Musical Theatre, and Contemporary



T. L. WILLIAMS ACADEMY OF DANCE
www.tlwilliamsdance.com

4104 Elvis Presley Blvd. Suites A-B

Memphis, Tennessee 38116

901-398-4600

Follow Us on Facebook & Instagram [@tlwilliamsdance](https://www.facebook.com/tlwilliamsdance)

Welcome to **T. L. Williams Academy of Dance, LLC (TLWAD)**; we invite you to explore the world of performing arts. Students of TLWAD develop technique, performance quality, discipline, and self-confidence. Most importantly, they are taught in a professional environment with highly qualified instructors. TLWAD students develop respect for the art of dance and work toward becoming “the stars of tomorrow”. Dance education begins with an awareness of the body’s movement and its creative potential. Dance combines a mixture of discipline, poise, commitment, and artistic expression while improving balance and posture. We genuinely enjoy working with children, training future professionals, and look forward to years of learning and fun.

Our Mission Statement: “The mission of T. L. Williams Academy of Dance, LLC is to create artistically expressive dancers of good moral character from a diverse population.” Students of the Academy develop technique, performance quality, discipline, and self-confidence as well as respect for the art of dance and work toward becoming “the stars of tomorrow”. Our goal is to enable each student to reach their highest potential, at whatever age and level that may be. Therefore, our instruction is individualized to encourage best and facilitate each student’s development. Advancement is based on technical accomplishment, artistic development, emotional maturity, classroom interaction, personal work ethic, and readiness for the next level. The atmosphere in the Academy embodies traditional values of respect and discipline, while fostering in children a love for learning and a desire to discover their potential for excellence. The Academy augments these values with fairness, equal opportunity for all, kindness, and encouragement for every student. By providing students with a technically sound dance education and a fun, supportive, professional dance environment, the school strives to produce beautiful dancers that move with grace and confidence in life.”

Class Placement: The Studio Director reserves the right to place students at the level of technique where they can best achieve their full potential. Students will be promoted to higher technical levels as their work progresses (not on timetable basis). The art of dance IS NOT a “microwave” science; therefore, technique, skill, and performance quality take time and effort to achieve. TLWAD students are encouraged to attend dance workshops, conventions, and/or competitions.

Attendance: All students must report to class, every session, on time to take full advantage of the class. Students who are more than 10 minutes late may not be allowed to take class and will be considered tardy. However, students ARE encouraged to sit quietly and observe class. *Poor attendance will have a direct result in placement advancement.* Regular attendance is essential to maintain and or advance in your designated level. **If an injury occurs; LET THE INSTRUCTOR KNOW IMMEDIATELY.** Students should still attend class to observe and learn the lesson. There are NO REFUNDS OR ADJUSTMENTS made for missed classes. Substitute teachers are used occasionally when TLWAD instructors are performing in shows, have additional professional commitments, and/or due to illness. *Absences: Please contact us via remind101 chat, email, and/or call the Academy phone if your dancer will arrive late and/or will not attend class and/or rehearsal. We do understand illnesses, emergencies, and other unforeseen things happen.*

Discipline & Class Etiquette: Discipline in the Performing Arts not only refers to a student’s behavior in class, but the effort that is shown in class. *All girls should have their hair styled in a ballerina bun or in a design that has the hair pulled away from the face and off the neck (specifically for BALLET CLASSES).* Earring studs may be worn, but no other jewelry is allowed, as it is a safety hazard. Proper dance requires discipline. Students are required to be on time to class and must enter class with proper attire on. See dress code for more information. Anyone arriving in inappropriate attire or is more than ten minutes late to a class *may be* asked to sit and observe class instead of participating. Gum is not

DRESS CODE FOR CLASSES

DANCERS MAY NOT DANCE IN SOCKS FOR ANY REASON

*No sweatshirts OR T-shirts will be permitted in class
(unless the instructor gives permission).*

BALLET: Hair: Girls MUST wear a ballet bun or French roll. PONYTAILS or HANGING HAIR is not allowed in ballet class. Girls – **TLWAD Black leotard (ONLY)**, suntan/caramel/mocha tights. **NO PANTYHOSE.** The colors of our shoes and tights for girls at TLWAD should be complementary to their skin tone (such as suntan, caramel, or mocha). Elastics MUST be sewn on ballet shoes. Boys – plain, Black or white t-shirt, male tights (jazz pants are acceptable), thin white socks, & black ballet shoes with elastics sewn. Older boys should wear a dance belt. **Students who are enrolled in Intermediate Ballet Levels and above must wear a waist belt & purchase Gail Grant’s Ballet Dictionary (THESE ARE MANDATORY SUPPLIES THAT ARE REQUIRED TO HELP WITH TERMINOLOGY AND BODY ALIGNMENT).**

POINTE: This class is a yearlong commitment. Attire: same as Ballet. Beginner Pointe students MAY NOT have toe pads, foam, or lamb’s wool. Dancers should be fitted for Pointe shoes at Barbara’s Dancewear OR Cordova Dancewear ONLY. **ORDERING POINTE SHOES ONLINE IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.**

JAZZ and LYRICAL: Any color leotard, suntan or black tights, dance tank tops, jazz pants, or dance shorts (appropriate length, please). The required shoes for jazz are black jazz shoes (no laces) AND/OR caramel jazz shoes - Capezio Style #EJ2. Hair must be pulled away from the face.

CONTEMPORARY (ages 12 & up): Any color leotard, tights, jazz pants, jazz capris, or unitard/biketard (no crop tops), bare feet.

TAP: Black leotard, suntan tights, black jazz pants or black leggings, & tap shoes. Dancers are NOT allowed to take tap class without tap shoes. The instructor may ask them to sit and observe quietly. Tap Shoes: Capezio Child “Fluid” Lace up Tap Shoe - Style No: CG17C or Capezio Adult “Fluid” Lace up Tap Shoe - Style No: CG17 (Caramel for Tapping Tutus I, II, III; black for other levels).

TAPPING TUTUS (ALL LEVELS): Same attire requirements for ballet and tap classes (jazz pants for girls are optional).

TINY JAZZ/HIP HOP COMBO CLASS: Same attire requirements for jazz and hip-hop classes.

WEST AFRICAN (ALL LEVELS): Leotard, tights, lappa (African skirt), fitted t-shirt (boys), jazz pants or loose comfortable dance pants, & bare feet for all.

BATON (ALL LEVELS): Black short-sleeved leotard, suntan or black tights, black jazz pants or jazz capris, & black jazz shoes. There may be times when we are outside for tossing skills where the twirlers will need light weight tennis (weather permitting).

HIP HOP (ALL LEVELS): T-shirt or leotard, jazz or sweatpants, and tennis shoes. Dancers ARE NOT allowed to take Hip Hop without tennis shoes or in school uniforms (unless permission is granted by the instructor).

VOCAL & MUSICAL THEATRE: Comfortable clothing suitable for movement.

Class Descriptions and Information:

Tapping Tutus - Ballet and Tap Combo Classes: These classes are for beginning dancers. Each level of Tapping Tutus (I, II, III) focus on teaching the fundamentals of dance and encourage creativity through the medium of dance. Class times are divided between both dance styles to give students a chance to develop their movement base and rhythm. As the dancer progresses, he/she will be moved to more technical classes.

Tiny Jazz/Hip-Hop - Combo Class: These classes are for dancers who are age 5 thru 8 focusing on teaching the basic fundamentals of jazz and hip-hop. This comb class will help dancers develop technique, vocabulary, and confidence in performing both styles of dance

Ballet (Beg/Int/Adv): These classes are designed to give students a detailed knowledge of classical ballet which includes technique, alignment, terminology, musicality, and artistic expression. Basic anatomy and kinesiology is also taught to develop their understanding of how their body moves. Students are evaluated and placed in these levels by the Director.

West African Dance: This class introduces students to contemporary and traditional West African dance styles, history, culture, and geography. In a supportive, community-centered environment, students will gain a new consciousness about themselves, as well as learn strength-building and movement techniques set to high-energy, West African drum rhythms.

Pointe: Dancers who are technically ready and wish to take Pointe MUST obtain permission from the director. The dancer MUST take at least two ballet classes/week to enroll in Pointe. *This class is a yearlong commitment.* Pointe class concentrates on the transference of ballet steps from demi-pointe to pointe and is introduced only when a dancer has developed sufficient strength in the feet and legs necessary for this discipline. Pointe classes build upon the ballet technique and offer students the chance to study classical ballet variations. Pointe work requires continuous study to develop the correct musculature, and all pointe shoes must be approved by the instructor before wearing. **Pointe is a year-long commitment.**

Jazz (Beg/Int/Adv): These classes focus on traditional jazz vocabulary and various styles of jazz, including Broadway jazz, lyrical jazz, and commercial jazz. The class focuses on developing strength, flexibility, correct alignment, and coordination, drawing heavily from ballet technique and alignment. Students will create a sense of individuality and originality and will learn to think quickly and respond effectively. The goal is to develop dancers who are expressive, dynamic, musical, and passionate.

Lyrical/Contemporary: The Lyrical/Contemporary class explores the creative and artistic side of the soul through a strong foundation in ballet and jazz technique. Emphasis will be on transitioning between traditional methods and incorporating new, subtle movement challenges. This style of dance is constantly evolving in response to current trends in contemporary movement. Due to the technical demands of this style, this class is by invitation only. Students wishing to take this class must be enrolled in two ballet classes & jazz class to be eligible.

Tap Levels (Beg/Int/Adv): Tap combines dance and percussion and explores a variety of styles, including the two traditions of rhythm tap (hoofing) & Broadway tap. Each of these styles focus on exercises that increase control & rhythm.

Bullying: Bullying is intentionally aggressive behavior that can take many forms (verbal, physical, social/relational/emotional, or cyberbullying — or any combination of these); it involves an imbalance of power and is often repeated over a period of time. The bullying is generally unprovoked and can consist of one child bullying another, a group of children ganging up against one lone child, or one group of kids targeting another group. Common behaviors attributed to bullying include put-downs, name calling, rumors, verbal threats, menacing, harassment, intimidation, social isolation or exclusion, and physical assaults (Definition of Bullying by Deborah Carpenter with Christopher J. Ferguson, Ph.D.). T. L. Williams Academy of Dance, LLC DOES NOT support or promote bullying in any manner. Please report any instances of such immediately to the director or an instructor. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Any disruptive behavior, use of profanity, ridiculing of other students, and/or making the learning environment uncomfortable due to bullying could result in immediate expulsion from the class.

First Aid/Safety: Students and teachers have access to a first aid kit which is necessary for minor injuries. TLWAD's first aid kit is at the Front Desk. TLWAD will NOT provide materials which are necessary for specific classes. (Ex. Tape, Band-Aids for Pointe, hair pins, or hair ties).

Closings & Academy Information: Schedule changes will be given in advance (*unless there is an emergency*). TLWAD will break with Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS) for Fall Break, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break, and for all federal holidays unless otherwise noted in the Academy Handbook (*there is no tuition adjustment for these breaks*). Please check your email, remind101.com, and/or call the studio for closings due to inclement weather. *It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to sign-up for remind101 and/or come inside the studio to check for info notices, and/or any other information that parent/guardian(s) should know.*

Tuition & Payment Information: The yearly registration fee is \$40. Tuition is automatically withdrawn via credit/debit card (a 3% processing fee will be charged, or a minimum fee of \$3) on the 25th of each month. **Tuition is delinquent after the 2nd. A \$15 late fee will be assessed to all delinquent accounts. Parent/Guardian(s) are responsible for ensuring that payment is received by the due date.** There are NO REFUNDS OR ADJUSTMENTS made for missed classes. All tuition is based on four lessons per month (*schedules may change*). *Fifth lessons are considered a bonus and are used to offset any missed classes due to holidays throughout the year when the studio is closed.* **Tuition is not prorated, refunded, or credited for classes missed or holidays observed.** Your child will not be permitted to attend classes or participate in any performance unless your account is current. Parents/guardians are responsible for the 33% collection fee and any legal fees (if necessary) that will be added to delinquent accounts. **All parent/guardian(s) who are responsible for payments MUST have a credit/debit card on file to use for transactions, including but not limited to tuition, costume fees, registration, etc. It is the cardholder's responsibility to ensure that cards are current, active, and chargeable.** Students who miss a class will be allowed to make up the missed class. Students have one month to attend another class as make-up. **This is not a "swapping class or trying out another class session".** Please check in at the front desk before the start of class so that the instructor is aware of the make-up. **When withdrawing from TLWAD, parent/guardian(s) must give a month's notice in writing. You will be billed for the upcoming month if a withdrawal notice is not given 30 days in advance.**

Adult Dance Classes: These classes are designed for recreational dancers, focusing on building strength, flexibility, musicality, and technique in their respective dance styles. Students of all ages

and experience levels can enjoy the health benefits of dance classes in a fun, supportive environment.

Drop-In Classes: Drop-In classes are available for a Trial Class. Please call or email us for more information on your preferred class. *Drop-In class fees are \$10/class.*

<i>(Note: These prices are subject to change.)</i>	
Monthly Instructional Rates	
Technique Class	PRICE monthly rate
1 Class/week	\$60.00
2 Classes/week	\$120.00
3 Classes/week	\$180.00
4 Classes/week	\$240.00
Unlimited Classes/Week	\$270.00
POINTE CLASS	\$30.00
COMBO CLASSES	\$65.00
DROP-IN CLASS (Trial Class)	\$10.00 EACH

Meet the Instructors...



Bettye F. Williams,
Asst. Director
& Baton Instructor



Karl "With a K" Robinson,
Contemporary & Jazz
Jazz Instructor



Santyria Johnson,
West African
Instructor



Chrystal Grandberry,
Vocal & Musical
Theatre Instructor

Meet the Director

Tevita L. Williams-Dumas is a native of Memphis, TN who has studied dance for over 40 years. She is the Artistic Director & Founder of T. L. Williams Academy of Dance, LLC, River City Dance Company, and a tenured teacher with Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS) as the elementary Movement/Dance Education Specialist at Rozelle Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA) Elementary School (29 years). Mrs. Williams-Dumas earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance Performance from Southern Methodist University (SMU), completed her teacher certification through the University of TN @ Knoxville, a Master of Science in Education Degree from the University of TN @ Martin, and Education Specialist Degree from Walden University. She is currently pursuing an Educational Doctorate in Teacher Leadership & Educational Policies through The University of Memphis. Additionally, Tevita received her dance and theatrical training from Memphis Children's Theater, Ballet Memphis, Memphis Park Commission Entertainers, and River City Ballet Company. Tevita is an award-winning teacher & choreographer who has several awards, grants, and recognitions to her credit: 2012 & 2006 Freedom Awards Choreographer; (2012-2015)



Bellevue Baptist Church Music Quest Production (Director of Choreography); 2013 Barnes & Noble "My Favorite Teacher" City Winner; 2012 "I Teach, I Am" Honoree; 2011 MCS Prestige Award Winner; 2004 Rotary Award for Teacher Excellence; Dance Educators of America (DEA) Outstanding Choreography Awards (2002, 2004, 2006, 2011, & 2012); Shelby County Teacher of the Year district and regional K-4 winner (2009), World Basketball Association North MS Tornadoes Dance Team (director/choreographer), Memphis City Schools Blues Renaissance Camp (choreographer), artistic director & choreographer for the Memphis Park Commission's Annual Beale Street Show, Rotary Club Professional Development Grant Winner (2002); Rotary Club Teacher Initiative Grant Winner (1997 & 2000); MCS Model Technology Classroom Grant (1997); New York City Dance Alliance (NYCDA) Commendations (1998-2002, 2004, & 2006); & a Dance Teacher Achievement Plaque at Showstopper American Dance Championships (2000). Under her direction, several of her students have won scholarships to regional & national workshops/competitions, been accepted to the Governor's School, earned Platinum, High Gold, Gold, and/or Silver Medals in dance competitions, as well as regional & national titles. Tevita has also choreographed debutante cotillions and/or pageant openings for The Memphis Chapter of Links, Inc., The River City Chapter of Links, Memphis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Golden Circle Social/Civic Club (Tupelo, MS). She is the co-founder of Showstoppers Annual Spring Concert at Rozelle CAPA Elementary School. Mrs. Williams-Dumas is a member of several organizations that improve the quality of life and the performing arts: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Memphis Alumnae Chapter, Dance Educators of America, Southern Association of Dance Masters (Board Member/Teacher), TN Association of Physical Education, Health, Recreation, & Dance, Girl Scouts of America, The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. – Beta Eta Chapter, and National Dance Education Organization. She is also a member of Cummings Street Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Eddie Jones, Pastor. Tevita's passion is instructing and training young dancers through arts and academic integration. As a dedicated arts supporter & educator, she provides approximately \$10,000 in scholarships each year to young aspiring dancers in River City Dance Company by choosing to give up a yearly salary as artistic director so that she can provide assistance to dancers and their families. She is an avid supporter and fundraiser for the American Cancer Society as team captain for Dancers Against Cancer – Memphis (Making Strides Against Breast Cancer) and The American Heart Association (Kid's Heart Challenge). Tevita also is currently or has served on the following committees for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated – Memphis Alumnae Chapter: Jabberwock, Jewel Court, Arts and Letters (former Co-Chair), and as dance instructor/facilitator for Delta Fine Arts Summer Dance Institute. Since her first day as Dance/Movement Education Specialist at Rozelle CAPA Elementary School (11/17/94), many have often heard her say, "I can honestly say that I have never left work saying that I had a bad day. It may have been hectic, busy, and full of surprises; but nothing ruins my day." Ms. Tevita is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education Degree at The University of Memphis with a concentration in Educational Policy. As a founding member of Whitehaven Arts Alliance, Tevita's passion for her work shows a commitment to giving children an arts-rich experience that will enrich their lives one step at a time.

