



Student and Parent Handbook
2024-2025

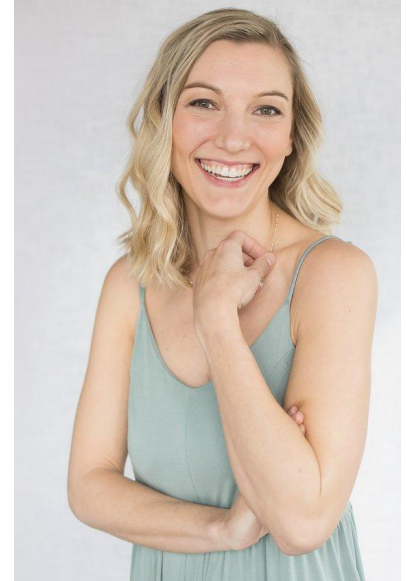
ABOUT THE STUDIO

We are located at 1500 E. 77th Street.

Founded in 1985 by Jill Kunstle as Music in Motion, today BritZa is led by former student and teacher Amanda Hahn and has grown to encompass acting and singing as well as dancing.

In all areas, BritZa Performing Arts Studio aspires to inspire, equip, and encourage students of all ages that "you can do hard things" — no matter who you are.

The BritZa team cares for each student individually, both in class and outside it. With a foundation laid on the gospel of Jesus, BritZa creates a wholesome environment that allows students to feel supported, improve their skills, and become part of a loving family.



Amanda Hahn
Owner

CORE VALUES

Individuality: Every student is unique. Teachers meet students wherever they are in their performing journeys to help them gain confidence in their bodies, practice self-care, and become the best version of themselves.

Encouragement: Every student is loved. Teachers practice (but don't impose) Christian principles in their classes to train, uplift, and care for students so they feel empowered to reach their personal creative goals.

Excellence: Every student is capable. Teachers employ high-level training and standards to instruct students in their craft, helping students achieve growth they didn't believe possible when they first began.

2024-2025 STAFF

Amanda Hahn
Director, Owner, Lead Instructor

Janette Obermueller
Director of Theatre

Maddisen Barness
Assistant Director, Lead Instructor

Emily Smith
Lead Instructor, Discover Dance Instructor, Vocal Instructor

Necedah Oros
Dance Instructor, Discover Dance Instructor

Kate Stahl
Dance Instructor

Erin Weyers
Dance Instructor

Mary Beth Davis
Director of Billing

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STUDIO POLICIES

COMMUNICATION

BritZa Performing Arts Studio's primary communication method is through email at info@britzastudios.com. Our team has a system in place to assign emails to the correct teacher. Communication to BritZa staff through their personal social media, phone numbers, or personal email addresses will not be responded to. Messages to the BritZa Facebook and Instagram accounts will be answered; we will also post reminders on social media and in the BritZa Chat Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1140038626133669> .

Please report absences through your BritZa account.

There is not sufficient time between classes for instructors to address concerns properly. If you wish to speak with an instructor, please send an email to info@britzastudios.com. All matters pertaining directly to the studio - whether it be fees, scheduling, placements, or performance opportunities - may also be communicated by email. You may leave a message on the studio phone (605) 371-8888, but please note the fastest way to get in touch is through email.

REGISTRATION

Registration is on a first come, first served basis. All registration for classes at BritZa Performing Arts Studio takes place online through our website (www.britzaperformingarts.com). We require a minimum of 8 students to be enrolled in a class to run a class.

TUITION AND ADDITIONAL FEES // RECITAL CLASSES ONLY

Current pricing and additional fees can be found on our website: <https://www.britzaperformingarts.com/class-info>

Our pricing structure allows families to grow with us! This structure makes it easier for parents to say "yes" to trying out different dance styles at a younger age, and in turn allows us to invest into higher-level continuing education for our teachers which will allow our

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advanced classes to soar to new heights!

Costume/Registration Fee is a one-time fee each year and is non-refundable.

Charge is per student, per class. This fee secures your spot in the class and covers the cost of the costume for the spring recital. Babes & Mini Movers Classes have only one registration fee as they wear the same costume for both their Ballet and Tap dances. If a student drops a class, they will NOT receive a costume.

Christmas Show Fee: Select classes performing in the Christmas show will be charged a \$40 fee per student/per class. This fee will cover the cost of costume rental/cleaning, any needed extra rehearsals, and digital video files of the performance. This fee will be added to your account Sept. 27th, 2024. See our website for classes involved in the Christmas show. This fee is non-refundable.

Spring Show Fee: Each registered dancer will be charged a \$55 fee. This cost will cover the annual recital t-shirt and digital video files. This fee also helps cover other productions costs. This fee will be added to your account January 27th, 2025. This fee is non-refundable.

Class Tuition

For recital classes, August tuition will be ½ of the monthly installment price, September-May will be full monthly installments. Current pricing and additional fees can be found on our website: <https://www.britzaperformingarts.com/class-info>

PAYMENTS

Payments are to be made in full and are due the 1st of each month. Payments must be made through your BritZa Account. You can sign up for AutoPay within your account, and your credit card will automatically be charged on the 5th of the month. BritZa Performing Arts Studio does not accept checks as a form of payment. A \$20 late fee will be charged to all accounts not paid in full by the 25th of the month. A \$40 late fee will be added to all accounts 60 days overdue. Accounts more than 65 days overdue are subject to the removal from class. There will be no refunds once tuition has been charged.

DROP OR CHANGE CLASS

All class changes must be submitted by email to info@britzastudios.com. Once a request to change a class has been received, an adjustment will be made. Students are considered

enrolled and tuition is charged until the student is dropped from the class. Teachers are not responsible for informing the office about students dropping or changing classes. There will be no refunds once tuition has been charged.

OBSERVATION OF CLASSES

BritZa Performing Arts Studio encourages parents to observe their child's dance instruction. Please keep the lobby noise to a minimum. Keep in mind that for the students in class to do their best, they need to be able to focus on the teacher. Young children MUST be under the supervision of a parent or guardian at all times.

CLASS ABSENCES

We encourage consistent attendance. We understand conflicts or illness may cause dancers to miss a class. If a dancer needs to miss class due to illness, vacation, school event, etc. an email should be sent to info@britzastudios.com informing the studio of your child's absence. You may also mark your child's absence by logging into your BritZa account.

TARDINESS

All students are expected to arrive on time and in the appropriate class attire. We understand that an uncontrollable circumstance may delay you. Classes are designed to warm up muscles slowly and properly. Jumping into a class that has already begun may cause injury.

If you are tardy, please see the instructor, apologize for your late arrival and ask whether you may join the class or need to sit and watch. Respect your instructor's decision in this matter, as they are only looking out for the student's best interests.

STUDENT PLACEMENT POLICY

We try our hardest to keep students enrolled in the same level classes as the grade they are in school. There are circumstances in which a student may need to dance up or down a level to encourage the most progress. Student placement is at the discretion of the instructor with the studio owner's approval.

INJURY

In the case of an injury which prevents a student from dancing, a note from a doctor is required. Parents are expected to send an email to info@britzastudios.com to explain the situation and inform the teachers of actions taking place for a full recovery. The instructors at BritZa Performing Arts Studio are not doctors and should not be placed in the position to determine if it is safe for your child to dance with an injury.

HEALTH

We encourage our dancers to be healthy. Dance is like any other sport and dancers should be aware of how they treat their bodies as athletes. Please encourage your child to make healthy eating choices and to properly fuel their body prior to class. If a student is sick, running a fever and/or contagious, please do not have them attend class. Finally, be sure your dancers get the appropriate amount of sleep. Muscles are repaired during the REM cycle. Additionally, lack of sleep reduces the blood flow to muscles and can lead to injury.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The safety of our students, teachers, and parents is of utmost concern. If the weather is bad (snow, ice, dangerously cold, or stormy), we may cancel classes. Generally we follow the Sioux Falls School District closures. Sometimes, however, the weather and roads may clear in time for our afternoon and evening classes. In the event of the studio being closed due to weather, an email will be sent out. We have allowed for one snow day per class in our current schedule. Multiple canceled classes due to inclement weather will have a scheduled make up day. We will also post updates on Instagram, Facebook and in the BritZa Chat Facebook group.

LOST ITEMS

Please label all belongings with first and last names. The studio cannot be held responsible for lost items. The lost and found box will be emptied in May after the conclusion of the recital.

CLASS STYLE DESCRIPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Ballet - A classical dance form demanding grace and precision and employing formalized steps and gestures set in intricate, flowing patterns to create expression through movement.

Tap - A dance style in which dancers create rhythms with their toe, heel, or entire foot.

Jazz - A dance form matched to the rhythms and techniques of jazz music. Students enrolled in Jazz must also be enrolled in Ballet. Starting in the 7th grade, Lyrical may be substituted for Ballet.

Musical Theatre - A dance form that combines many styles of dance and allows dancers to explore expression and storytelling, not only through movement but also through facial expression.

Hip Hop - A dance style usually danced to hip-hop music, that evolved from hip-hop culture. BritZa Performing Arts Studio always uses clean music and will only teach age-appropriate movement!

Lyrical - Lyrical dance challenges dancers to use motion to interpret music and express emotion. A lyrical dancer's movements attempt to show the meaning of the music.

Contemporary - Contemporary dance tends to combine the strong but controlled legwork of ballet with modern that stresses on the torso. It also employs contract-release, floor work, fall and recovery, and improvisation characteristics of modern dance. Unpredictable changes in rhythm, speed, and direction are often

used as well. In order to enroll in Contemporary students must also be enrolled in Ballet.

Pre-Pointe - Before a student may dance en pointe, they must further develop and strengthen the muscles necessary to go en pointe. Many factors are involved in pointe readiness, including the strength of the legs, feet, and ankles. Correct alignment and correct classical ballet technique are imperative. Pre-pointe allows the instructor to assess readiness, offering a safe atmosphere for proper evaluation of the important skills. Completion of this class is required prior to qualifying for Pointe class the following year. Students enrolled in Pre-Pointe must also be enrolled in Ballet.

Pointe - A part of classical ballet technique that concerns pointe work, in which a ballet dancer supports all body weight on the tips of fully extended feet within pointe shoes. Students may not miss more than 5 classes throughout the year. Pointe requires intense dedication to improve and perfect skills, as well as to reduce the chance of injury. Students must pass the Pre-Pointe class prior to being invited onto Pointe. Students enrolled in Pointe must also be enrolled in Ballet.

ADVANCED LEVEL CLASSES

We have updated our policies for our advanced classes. We have some large class sizes moving into the high school level in the next few years and to accommodate our current students, we have added an Advanced II class to allow another level of growth and excellence in our dancers. Students will need to apply to be in the Advanced II level classes. We have added required summer class hours to help maintain technique and skills to help keep our dancers safe when they return to class in the fall.

- Expectations are explained here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-4lgQLxJg3auTej1Dc6rg_Ss7yt-sV8x/view?usp=sharing
- Advanced I contract: <https://forms.gle/nc5X8bveyXLJZXxi8>
- Advanced II application and contract: <https://forms.gle/g2DTir8BrJ743aE76>

EARNING A SENIOR SOLO

All senior students who have participated in at least 3 classes per week for 5 consecutive years (8th-12th grades) will earn a Senior Solo. All other seniors will be honored at the end of the spring performance.

We have compassion for students who are trying to make decisions on where to delegate their time. If a student drops for 1 semester during their 8th-11th grade years, he/she will still be allowed to do their senior solo. Students must email info@britzastudios.com to communicate their plan for a solo.

EXTRA PROGRAMMING

DISCOVER DANCE PROGRAM (WALKING-AGE 5)

The Discover Dance Early Childhood Program is a series of movement classes designed to introduce children to the creative and expressive world of dance. Each program offers children the opportunity to develop their natural movement ability in a multi-sensory environment.

Music, movement, visuals, and props will enhance your dancer's love of the art form and the unique conceptual approach to dance education will provide the opportunity for cognitive growth.

These classes have their own pricing structure, do not perform in either recital and are not subject to the registration fee.

THEATRE

These semester-long classes will use the power of imagination to explore the fundamentals of musical theater. We will use the basics of storytelling, acting, creative theatre games, group singing and movement for the stage. Students will have a great time rehearsing and performing musical theater songs and scenes from Broadway shows. The semester will end with a 10 minute showcase on the final night of classes for families to enjoy what we've learned!

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VOCALS

Your voice is one of the most powerful tools you have. We would love to teach you how to use it! Our singing classes are designed for students to learn age-appropriate music theory and vocal techniques in a group setting. Not only will each grade level learn to read music, but they will also work on a performance piece to share with their families at the end of our time together.

NON- RECITAL CLASSES

Dance technique classes are designed to improve the dancers' technical dance skills, abilities, and performance quality. This is also a great class for students who are new to a style and would like to try it out without the commitment of a recital.

These classes have their own pricing structure, do not perform in either recital and are not subject to the registration fee.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

THEATRE & VOCAL

Each summer we put on a children's musical. Theatre and vocal classes may have a showcase at the end of their sessions. Classes will be communicated by email regarding showcases.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

Only classes noted on the schedule perform in the Christmas performance at the Washington Pavilion on December 8th, 2024. This is a shorter show which allows us to hold the dress rehearsal that same day. We are still in the works of finalizing details regarding dress rehearsal time and performance time. Registered families will receive extra details as they get set.

Tickets are to be purchased by each audience member. Ticket sales cover the cost of the theater rental, stage technicians, program printing and much more.

END-OF-YEAR PERFORMANCE

We conclude each year with our year-end recital. We begin choreography after returning from Christmas break in January. Consistent attendance is vital to the choreography of the piece and to developing a strong working relationship with the other dancers in the piece. Students will perform both Friday and Saturday, May 9th & 10th, 2025. If a conflict arises and you are unable to perform in the recital, please email info@britzastudios.com ASAP as this affects the entire class.

Dress rehearsal is held at the Washington Pavilion Thursday, May 8th, 2025. Dress rehearsal is designed to help the dancer understand the expectations for the performance and build theater skills, to help dancers understand the stage layout and to develop a level of comfort in front of an audience. It also allows teachers to set lights, finalize blocking and address any costume issues. Dress rehearsal is mandatory for every dancer performing.

Tickets are to be purchased by each audience member. Ticket sales cover the cost of the theater rental, stage technicians, program printing and much more.

EXTRA PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

We love giving our students extra opportunities to perform in front of an audience. Some examples are: Our summer musical, performing at charity events & Skyforce games!

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

- There is to be no unsolicited talking in class.
- There is no hanging on the barres in class at any time.
- There will be no food, gum, or beverages allowed in the studio.
- Students are to treat their teacher and peers with respect at all times. Students are to clap with the teacher at the end of class as a "Thank You".
- There is zero tolerance for inappropriate behavior inside the classroom. If the

classroom etiquette is not followed, the teacher has the right to dismiss the student from class.

- There is zero tolerance for bullying inside or outside the classroom. If a student is discovered as bullying another student, the student bullying will meet with the Studio Director. Possible dismissal from the studio may result.
- The use of alcohol, cigarettes, illegal substances, and weapons is strictly prohibited at BritZa Performing Arts Studio. Students in violation will be dismissed immediately.

DRESS CODE AND APPEARANCE

- Dressing rooms are provided for both boys and girls. There will be no dressing in the bathrooms.
- All students are required to wear their hair in a ponytail, braid, or bun. Students in ballet in the 5th grade and above are expected to have their hair in a proper ballet bun. Proper hair is part of ballet etiquette.
- No jewelry or watches are to be worn to class with the exception of stud earrings.
- No visible undergarments under the students uniform. Underwear should not be worn under tights.
- Students MUST wear the required attire with appropriate hair in order to participate in class.
- For specific class dress code visit www.britzaperformingarts.com

SHOP ELEMENTS OF THE ARTS

Get what you need for class right at the studio in our retail store Elements of the Arts! Short on time? Place your order at www.elementsofthearts.com and we'll have it ready for pickup at the studio.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO RELEASE

By registering for a class at BritZa Performing Arts Studio, you give permission to BritZa Performing Arts Studio to use photos/videos of your child for advertising purposes, social

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media platforms and/or on the BritZa Performing Arts Studio website. Please email info@britzastudios.com if you prefer not to grant permission.