

# ORLANDO BALLET SCHOOL

## Managing Academy Training and Virtual Schooling

Orlando Ballet School understands that committing to a full day of dance instruction alongside fulfilling academic studies can be challenging to students and their families. We would like to make sure you have as much information as possible to assist in your student's successful dance experience. A common academic choice for many of our full-time student dancers is enrolling in Florida Virtual School as a Flex student. The FLVS Flex program allows for students to complete their assignments on their own timeline and attend live virtual classes as they are able within their schedules. In addition, FLVS Flex instructors are available for questions and feedback by both email and text message from 8am-8pm Monday-Friday allowing your student to receive help if needed at a time more convenient to their busy schedules.

To support a successful dance and academic school year for your student, we have gathered suggestions for utilizing FLVS Flex from our experienced full-time students and their families and would like to offer the following tips:

**\* Avoid registering your student for more than 3 classes at one time.**

Although the FLVS Flex program is a flexible one, there are still basic pace requirements in most courses, often requiring 3 assignments to be included per week in each course. By keeping the academic roster at no more than 3 courses at a time, you will avoid a lot of undue stress.

**\* Keep your student's assigned teacher well informed.**

During your welcome call with the teacher, make sure they know of your student's full time dance training schedule so they can have appropriate pace and schedule expectations. If your student is falling behind in their work, reach out to the teacher (or make sure that your student reaches out) and make sure they understand the circumstances. Teachers will most often be very understanding, but without communication your student may find themselves inadvertently withdrawn from a class.

**\* Keep your student's schedule even more flexible during the Nutcracker rehearsal and performance season.**

Many of our students avoid having a full roster of academic courses during the months of October, November, and December since they are busy with Nutcracker rehearsals and performances. They can always catch up after mid-December and during the holiday school break.

**\* Create a calendar of course assignments and virtual classes that you and your student can follow.**

This will assist in staying on task and keeping their coursework schedule organized, but also keep in mind that there will be activities that cause a disruption in the calendar and to always stay flexible. You can catch up during the summer and other times off from dance training.

**\* Encourage your student to bring their schoolwork and materials to OBS.**

There are breaks in their daytime dance schedule that can be used to accomplish some school tasks. Oftentimes, students will work

together during these break times.

**\* Be sure to document their training for school credit.**

Most FLVS Flex participants are registered with the county as homeschool students, even if all of their academic credits are received through Florida Virtual School. One benefit to this is that you can count their dance hours as credit towards courses such as Physical Education and Fine Arts. This is not a difficult process, it is only necessary that you provide a sample of their schedule and a description of their "coursework." The guidance counselor assigned to your student through FLVS is a wonderful resource and that person can be emailed at any time for assistance with credits or other concerns.