

Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite at Cary Ballet
Private Learning Academy for the Pre-Professional Dancers of Cary Ballet Conservatory
Parent/Student Handbook and Contract
2022-2023

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Grade Level for 22-23: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Parent's Phone Number: _____ Student's Phone Number: _____

Parent's Email: _____ Student's Email: _____

The Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite Director will:

- Oversee academic progress of Scholars Academy students and initiate two-way communication with parents.
- Provide an initial consultation to families to aid and support them in selecting among the offered courses and to welcome them into our Scholars Academy family. This may be in the form of 1:1 virtual meeting, phone call, and/or email conversation.
- Provide and/or coordinate yearly testing administrative services of a nationally-normed exam.
- Maintain attendance records and academic transcripts for active students. Transcripts will show a combination of Academy grades as well as third-party courses and grades such as dual enrollment grades from enrolled community college programs. The director does not have control over the assignment of third-party grades but will support academic students in working towards achieving high grades in these courses. Transcripts are provided to parents and scholars at the conclusion of the academic year. A request for transcript prior to the conclusion of the academic year may be submitted with an additional fee. Exception: 12th graders applying for college and/or dance programs will be provided an "in-progress" transcript during the fall semester, at the time of application submission. Please note: the transcript will not be released if the account is delinquent.
- Oversee the Scholars Academy schedule and staffing to coordinate facilitation of the academic coursework listed in each scholar's plan of study. This includes contracting with subject-matter and/or pedagogical experts to provide instruction in various areas of our academic program curriculum. These experts will teach face-to-face, online, virtually, and/or via a combination of these formats.
- Design, select, and/or plan for implementation of regularly scheduled lessons for Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite students.
- Respond to and address the needs of students and families promptly and tolerate no negative gossip about students, teachers, and/or any aspect of the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite or the PTP program.
- Schedule and provide consultation, strategizing for support, clarification, etc. beyond the initial consultation, with faculty and/or myself, at the request of families, as needed (additional fee). It is the goal of the director to schedule such meetings within one week of the request being submitted by parents.
- Engage as a member of a team who will rally around the student throughout the year to support him/her towards success. This team includes the parent(s), student, Scholars Academy staff, PTP staff, as well as potentially the residential director, host parent(s), and a chosen physical therapist. The Scholars Academy within the PTP program and all associated components at Cary Ballet Conservatory pride ourselves on providing a fully supportive and integrated program with caring adults who support our students in all aspects of their lives. It is critical that the student and parent(s) engage as an active part of this team. **Empowering one another in our various roles will support a productive, positive, successful experience in dance, self-concept, academics, and life.**
- Support students and families in reaching their academic goals while simultaneously engaging in rigorous dance training.

The Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite Student will:

- Maintain regular attendance at all scheduled Scholars Academy sessions (including times of injury when PTP classes may or may not be attended).
 - Notify the Scholars Academy director by text message (704-796-6902) before any tardies or absences indicating the reason for the missed academic time (planned or last-minute). Follow up with the director to confirm a make-up session with a member of the Scholars Academy staff to be billed at tutoring rates.
 - Maintain a positive academic attitude and display respect at all times towards instructors, peers, self, the PTP program and instructors, and the director of the Scholars Academy. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
 - Take responsibility for academic goals and work diligently towards them.
 - Be responsive to the instructors and the director with prompt two-way communication.
 - Engage in self-paced schoolwork independently so as to achieve adequate daily progress.
 - Accept feedback as constructive criticism aimed at helping the student to grow academically or otherwise.
 - Engage as a member of a team who will rally around the student throughout the year to support him/her towards success. This team includes the parent(s), student, academic staff, PTP staff, as well as potentially the residential director, host parent(s), and a chosen physical therapist. The PTP program and all associated components at Cary Ballet Conservatory pride ourselves on providing a fully supportive and integrated program with caring adults who support our students in all aspects of their lives. It is critical that the student and parent(s) engage as an active part of this team. **Empowering one another in our various roles will support a productive, positive, successful experience in dance, self-concept, academics, and life.**
 - Engage in and give 100% focused effort towards all course assignments (online and face-to-face); recognizing that course assignments are previewed, adapted, and/or designed and scheduled by the Scholars Academy director based on research and best practices for teaching and learning and are non-negotiable.
 - Contact the Scholars Academy Director via email or text message with questions or concerns at any time and tolerate no negative gossip.
 - Behave in a manner that supports a studious environment and take care so as not to disrupt the work of others.
 - Arrive daily prepared with laptop/tablet, charger, ear buds with microphone or headset with microphone, and other necessary academic supplies.
 - Engage in schoolwork during break times, with the exception of a 30-minute lunch break. **IN THE ACADEMIC ROOM** when not in scheduled rehearsals.
 - Schedule and attend private or small group tutoring sessions to make-up for any absence(s) and/or for additional tutorial support for any course average that remains under 80% for more than one week of duration.
- *Additional fees applied @ discounted rates of \$50/30 minutes for individual tutoring; \$100/one-hour for individual tutoring; \$55/one-hour for small group tutoring.
- Accept that a consequence for failure to progress or behave as expected will be for the student to communicate with PTP Program Director, Mariaelena Ruiz, the parent(s), and/or the Academy director, about the nature of the issue and sit out of rehearsals and/or PTP dance classes.

The Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite Parents will:

- Maintain regular two-way communication with the Scholars Academy director.
- Maintain a positive and respectful attitude with respectful language at all times towards instructors, your student, parents, other students, and the Scholars Academy director. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- Support and expect the student's engagement with 100% focused effort **towards all Academy-related assignments and activities**; recognizing that course assignments are previewed, adapted, and/or designed and scheduled by the Scholars Academy director based on research and best practices for teaching and learning and are non-negotiable. ALL components of the Scholars Academy curriculum are integral in facilitating appropriate learning outcomes for each student. **Partial participation is not an option.**
- Contact the instructional staff with questions or concerns at any time and tolerate no negative gossip. Expect a response in a timely manner; faculty and administration strive to respond to communications from students and parents within 24-48 hours, 72 hours over a weekend. Communication will be responded to within, at the most, one week.

- Learn about and understand the research basis for the academy curriculum.
- With the support of the Scholars Academy Director, select from among the choice and optional course offerings for your scholar from among the offered courses.
- Understand that the individualized and group courses for core content at the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite are taught and/or overseen by qualified teachers.
- Understand that, in traditional public schools, private schools, and under NC Homeschool Law, the student and parent(s) have the ultimate responsibility for successful academic progress.
- Support the student's participation in the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite group administration of the yearly nationally normed assessment in the spring (required by all students) and throughout the year, if scheduled by the director.
- Understand that scheduling of outside testing such as the ACT, SAT, PSAT, AP, and other such examinations is the responsibility of the parent and is not to interfere with scheduled Scholars Academy attendance without notifying the director prior to scheduling.
- Support the regular attendance of your student; avoid scheduling physical therapy and other appointments conflicting with the Scholars Academy schedule. Afternoon appointments are acceptable with notice provided in advance to the director and with care taken to avoid math lessons. Morning appointments should be avoided.
- Understand that the Scholars Academy will be "online" in the case of adverse weather, natural disaster, continued or reinstated COVID-19 precautions, or during times when low attendance is expected, in relation to PTP-related travel. In addition, an occasional morning "off" may be granted as a positive reinforcement for "extra" good progress and/or attitudinal behavior. If a morning "off" is granted, scholars will be instructed of the expectation to meet the attendance requirement.
- Schedule and attend private or small group tutoring sessions to make-up for any absence(s) and/or for additional tutorial support for any course average that remains under 80% for more than one week of duration.
- *Additional fees applied @ discounted rates of \$50/30 minutes for individual tutoring; \$100/one-hour for individual tutoring; \$55/one-hour for small group tutoring
- Accept that a consequence for failure of your student to progress **or behave** as expected will be for your student to communicate with PTP Program Director, Mariaelena Ruiz, the parent(s), and/or the Academy director, about the nature of the issue and sit out of rehearsals and/or PTP dance classes.
- Engage as a member of a team who will rally around the student throughout the year to support him/her towards success. This team includes the parent(s), student, academic staff, PTP staff, as well as potentially the residential director, host parent(s) and a chosen physical therapist. The PTP program and all associated components at Cary Ballet Conservatory pride ourselves on providing a fully supportive and integrated program with caring adults who support our students in all aspects of their lives. It is critical that the student and parent(s) engage as an active part of this team. **Empowering one another in our various roles will support a productive, positive, successful experience in dance, self-concept, academics, and life.**
- Submit payments in agreement with the payment terms as selected at the time of registration and accept that a \$20 late fee will be applied to payments submitted more than five calendar days after the due date. On the fifth calendar day following the payment due date, the payment due, with the additional \$20 late fee added to the payment, will be charged to the credit card on file (3.5% processing fee additional). A credit card with contracted payment agreement is required to remain active and on file for all scholars unless full tuition and fees are paid up front.
- Agree that registration for the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite is a full academic-year commitment that continues through the last day of Scholars Academy classes for the 2022-2023 academic and PTP year.** Early withdrawal from the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite will also require immediate withdrawal from the PTP program. These two programs are complimentary. Even under these circumstances, full tuition is due immediately upon withdrawal for both the PTP program and this Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite. Non-payment of contracted obligations is unfair and detrimental to these programs and students/dancers as a whole.
- Agree that there will be no refunds or proration of fees due to absences, illness, injury, COVID-19 related need for distance learning for student, staff, or faculty, early completion of online coursework, early withdraw from PTP or Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite, or any other reason. **All yearly academic fees will be due regardless as our yearly staffing and budget will not change.**

²Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement _____

Faculty-Scholar-Family Travel Experiences/Intensives

Intensive experiences provide intentional groundwork and growth for our faculty-scholar-peer relationships that pour into our classes as scholars build onto these foundational experiences in and out of the classroom, for the duration of the academic year as well as their journeys through to graduation. The **2022 Fall Retreat** will take place **October 8th-11th, 2022**, in the outer banks of North Carolina at Emerald Isle. Scholars new and returning, alike, will engage in the fall retreat programming to include a trip to the pristine Shackleford Banks, an uninhabited barrier island, home to the wild banker ponies.

In **June 2023**, our scholars will attend a specially designed academic summer experience, **Summer Scholars, on the beautiful campus of Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, NC** where they will learn in the science labs with expert Pfeiffer University faculty, gaining hands-on skills that they will later transfer into their future classrooms during their collegiate studies. Exceptional scholars will be considered for academic scholarship to Pfeiffer, should they show interest in our close, personal, attentive, supportive, college environment. Scholars with dreams of attending small or larger schools will build skills and confidence in the college setting as they experience our renowned academic program; adding to their heavily dance-related high school transcripts and to their adolescent lives.

Our *2022 Fall Retreat* and *Summer Scholars* are part of our 2022-2023 academic programming and are required for all scholars. Lodging, most meals, and planned activities are provided at no additional cost to scholars. Transportation to and from intensives is the responsibility of each family. Collaboration and coordination among families is encouraged. Suggestions for B and B or other nearby lodging for parents/families who may wish to plan an extended vacation/trip are available. Please feel free to simply ask.

The **combination of virtual teaching and learning, blended teaching and learning, and face-to-face teaching and learning; along with our three pillars of enrichment including social-emotional teaching, 21st Century Skill development, and advanced science lab skills, is what makes our Scholars Academy so unique, innovative, and successful for our scholars.** Missing out on any component(s) of this program is not recommended and **will not** equate to the same level of educational rigor, quality, or ultimate learning experience.

*Contact Dr. Lowder, cbcacademicdirector@gmail.com, for the list of available courses for your student based on grade, academic background, goals, attitudinal dispositions, and maturity level.

***Please consider this non-traditional approach to educating the whole child/teenager and share one or two of the potential benefits that you hope your own family/child may realize. Jot down these hopes in the space below.**

Initials of Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement _____

Payment Options to Support All Families

Payment plans have been developed to enable families to choose the option that best supports each financial situation. Off-site experiences, while exciting and integral to our 22-23 academic year program, do come at some cost. As such, we have included both semester and monthly payment plans that have combined the overall costs of attending the academy. Total costs include tuition, materials and supplies, testing fees, registration and enrollment, travel retreats/intensives, and Summer STEM camp, as well as special Scholars Academy swag items to be worn during our travels to represent our school when out in the world.

Please consider the options below and circle your preferred plan for payment below for submission required tuition, enrollment, and activity fees.

Total Cost of Attendance for New Scholars:

Annual Payment: \$9,600 (apply a \$200 discount for payment by April 1st)

Semester Payment Plan: \$4,850 x 2

Monthly Payment Plan: \$980 x 10

Total Cost of Attendance for Returning Scholars:

Annual Payment: \$9,400 (apply a \$200 discount for enrollment by March 1st and payment by April 1st)

Semester Payment Plan: \$4,750 x 2

Monthly Payment Plan: \$960 x 10

Total Cost of Attendance for NC Opportunity Scholarship Recipients:

NC Opportunity Scholarship (applied towards tuition)

Annual Payment Plan: \$3,650, balance after scholarship (apply a \$200 discount for payment by April 1st)

Semester Payment Plan: \$1,875 x 2, balance after scholarship

Monthly Payment Plan: \$385 x 10, balance after scholarship

Payment Schedules:

Annual Payment-*due at the time of registration

Semester Payments-*Due 04/01/22 and 08/01/22

Monthly Payments-*Due 04/01/22, 05/01/22, 06/01/22, 07/01/22, 08/01/22, 09/01/22, 10/01/22, 11/01/22, 12/01/22, 01/01/23

The non-refundable tuition, enrollment, and activity fees are inclusive of the following:

*Registration fee to hold each scholar's spot in the program as well to support registration, application review, enrollment processing, course selection, consultation, etc.

*Supply Fees to go towards materials and supplies such as book club texts, textbooks and materials, curricular subscriptions, science lab kits, intensive materials and supplies, etc.

*Nationally-normed testing and administration fees

*Fall Retreat (Emerald Isle, NC)

*Summer Scholars Summer Camp (Pfeiffer University campus)

*Scholars Academy SWAG BAG

*Very few, limited scholarships are available to reduce the overall cost of attendance. Please inquire with the director if interested in being considered.

Additional Fees:

Application Fee: \$75 (for new scholars, only)

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Method of Payment:

Payment is to be made directly to “Scholars Academy” and is accepted via cash, check, debit or credit card through Apple Square or Quickbooks with required recurring automatic payments available for your convenience (w/ 3.5% processing fee), & electronic bank debit through Quickbooks (w/ 1.5% processing fee).

*Credit Card Authorization Form Required for Semester and Monthly Payment Options as well as for any remaining balance after NC Opportunity Scholarship award.

Authorization for Credit Card Use

PRINT AND COMPLETE THIS AUTHORIZATION AND RETURN.
All information will remain confidential

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

Credit Card Type: ____ Visa ____ Mastercard ____ Discover ____ AmEx CC #

Amount Authorizing to Charge (indicated total + an additional 3.5% credit card service fee): _____

* Trimester automatic draft _____ (USD) tuition and fees as listed in the Scholars Academy for the Gifted 2022-2023 handbook.

CVC Code

* OR

* Monthly automatic draft _____ (USD) tuition and fees as automatic drafts as listed in the Scholars Academy for the Gifted 2022-2023 handbook.

I authorize Dr. Laura Lowder, as a representative of the Scholars Academy for the Gifted, to charge the amounts listed above to the credit card provided herein. I agree to pay for this service in accordance with the issuing bank cardholder agreement and, ultimately, according to the terms listed in the 2022-2023 Scholars Academy for the Gifted Handbook. I agree to and approve my payment of these charges, even in the event of an early withdrawal from the Scholars Academy for the Gifted. I will not object to honoring charges or deny payment of contracted fees and I understand that the programmatic budget is set at the start of each academic year and as such, abandoned fees may negatively impact the students and the program.

Cardholder – Please Sign and Date 

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

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Curriculum Information
2022-2023

Dr. Lowder and/or Scholars Academy administration will be in touch with scholars (via parents) to set the course of study for this 2022-2023 academic year. Keep an eye out for an email to initiate this process.

Some of our courses utilize online curricula; our approach to the use of this online curricula is like the way in which schools use textbooks; they are a resource that provides sequential access to course content with a competency-based approach to teaching and learning. These course resources combine with the teacher-based support at Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite to build the course credits. Dr. Laura Lowder Educational Consultant and Scholars Academy director assigns final course grades listed on the report cards and transcript. Our curricula providers are not the school of record for our students and do not assign our students' final grades. The Academy reserves the right to contract with a different online curriculum provider at any point during the academic year or summer.

In addition to the individualized curricula set in consultation with Dr. Lowder, students will engage in goal setting, growth mindset/attitudinal activities, book clubs, writing, language usage and mechanics, science labs, and other face-to-face lessons &/or virtual lessons as a part of the Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite curriculum leading to an Academy report card and transcript. Report cards are provided 2x each academic year (end of January and end of the school year) as well as progress reports a few times each academic year.

Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite and Early Graduation Opportunities:

*An important note about the Scholars Academy early graduation policy: Scholars continuously enrolled in Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite are often offered, by Dr. Lowder, a course of study including dual enrollment courses with our partner institutions of higher education. Such scholars are often offered, by Dr. Lowder, an outline inclusive of multiple years of study leading to an opportunity for early graduation. This enables our top scholars the opportunity to graduate from Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite a semester or full academic year, early. It is the policy of the Academy for our scholars to be continuously enrolled, through the month of graduation, including the final semester(s) of study when coursework may be largely (or even fully) comprised of dual enrollment coursework. This continuous enrollment will include student' engagement in social & emotional classes, classes/meetings with Dr. Lowder, as well as English & literature with Academy faculty and opportunities to build 21st Century Skills, at a minimum. As with traditional high schools offering dual enrollment credits, Scholars Academy will include these credits towards the Scholars Academy accredited high school diploma, so long as continuous enrollment has taken place, with tuition & fees paid up to the date of graduation. Shortly following the point of graduation, the completed Scholars Academy transcript, marked "high school diploma earned", will be provided. At this point in time, graduation requirements for Scholars Academy will have been met and the scholar will officially graduate from our accredited private school. No additional tuition will be due following the presentation of the completed high school transcript.

*Contact Dr. Lowder, innovativepedagogyengages@gmail.com with specific course requests or inquiries for your student based on grade, academic background, goals, attitudinal dispositions, and maturity level.

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Scholars Academy

For The Gifted And Artistically Elite

Scholar's Contract

2022-2023

As a scholar of Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite, I promise to...

- ...join my classes with a positive attitude and ready to learn.
- ...stay engaged in my classes until my teachers dismiss me.
- ...keep my camera ON at all times.
- ...Ping my teacher if I am sick or will be late to a class.
- ...be respectful towards every human at all times.
- ...be responsible for my academic goals.
- ...take advantage of the many opportunities for learning at my school.
- ...understand that it is **TOTALLY NORMAL** to make mistakes as we learn and grow. I promise to give myself, my peers, and my teachers patience and grace, understanding that it is **OKAY** not to be perfect.
- ...understand and accept constructive criticism from my teachers and other scholars and use their advice to make my work even better. There are **ALWAYS** ways to improve our work.
- ...remember that learning is the **PROCESS** of **ENGAGING** in your school days, your classes, and in your assignments. It is not **JUST** turning in your work. Scholars have fun engaging in all parts of school.
- ...actually, **REALLY LISTEN** to hear what my teachers and peers have to say and consider where they are coming from, even if I do not agree with what they are saying. Respectful listening is an important part of effective communication.
- ...Ping my teacher if I have a worry, question, or concern.
- ...remember that my teachers love me and are here to help me to learn.

We are SCHOLARS and we are PROUD to learn at Scholars Academy!

Scholar and Parent Required on Each Page to Acknowledge Agreement _____

Scholars Academy for the Gifted and Artistically Elite
Supply List

One pack of standard size copy paper white (for the academic classroom)
One pack of standard size copy paper (multi-colored) (for the academic classroom)
notebooks/binder of your choice
One 2-inch, three-ring binder (for your Scholars Academy portfolio)
One pack of at least 40 clear sheet protectors (with three-ring holes) *avoid frosted texture
Pencils (any kind)
Pens *Fun colors highly encouraged
One roll of Scotch tape
One tiny stapler
Two multipacks of sticky notes *Fun colors highly encouraged; any sizes and shapes
Supply pouch or zip bag to hold your sticky notes, pens, pencils, stapler, and tape (have fun with this)
A small chair cushion (optional-make it fun)
Multi-function calculator (graphing calculator if enrolled in Algebra or above)
*Laptop or tablet, charger, and ear buds w/ mic or headset with mic required daily
*It is highly recommended for all scholars at Cary Ballet to have an unlimited hotspot enabling on their personal cell phone and/or electronic device. The wifi at CBC becomes overloaded at times and having hotspot ability will support uninterrupted access to online course content.

TO BRING ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:

Writer's Notebook:

- pictures of yourself
- a composition notebook (without spiral edge is best)-decorate your notebook with your pictures!
- a narrative essay to introduce yourself and your goals for this year handwritten

Contract Commitments & Signatures:

_____ Scholars Academy Director Signature	_____ Printed Name	_____ Date
_____ Scholars Academy Student Signature	_____ Printed Name	_____ Date
_____ Scholars Academy Parent Signature(s)	_____ Printed Name(s)	_____ Date
_____ Scholars Academy Parent Signature(s)	_____ Printed Name(s)	_____ Date

Additional Notes for the Director:

**CBCAcademicDirector@Gmail.com, ALONG WITH THE COMPLETED ACADEMY HANDBOOK.
PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT IN HARD COPY FORM. A DIGITAL COPY IS PREFERRED.**