

North Star Ballet  
School & Company

PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK

2019 - 2020



North Star Ballet  
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## INTRODUCTION TO NORTH STAR BALLET

Welcome to the North Star Ballet School (NSB). In this Handbook you will find information that will help you understand how the School functions and how to take advantage of the programs and services it offers.

### MISSION

The North Star Ballet is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1980 whose mission is to provide artistic opportunities for dancers and audiences in Interior Alaska by promoting outstanding dance education and performance. A volunteer Board of Directors governs the School, the Company, and the North Star Dance Collective. In addition to overseeing the operations of the organization the Board of Directors is charged with helping to raise funds to assist in keeping the programs affordable. The NSB is supported by a mix of earned revenue and contributions.

The NSB admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, national, and ethnic origin to all the programs and activities made available to students at the School.

### SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

“Dance education is a medium of enhancing the quality of life for children, youth and adults. Every human being has the right to move in ways that are primal, expressive, imaginative, and transformational” (*Dance as Education. Reston, VA: National Dance Association*).

Dance is a way of perceiving, a body of knowledge, and a personal and social experience. The act of dancing is not mindless doing, but involves exploration, focus, commitment, self-understanding and understanding others. Quality dance education beginning in early childhood and continuing through adulthood benefits the individual’s body, mind, and spirit and provides a means of fully perceiving the world, communicating with others and understanding the body in which we reside. Dance is important in the education of every child, regardless of whether he or she pursues a career in dance. The North Star Ballet provides dance education through a comprehensive, sequential curriculum taught by highly qualified professional faculty.

### PROGRAMS

## **CREATIVE MOVEMENT SYLLABUS**

The Creative Movement Program uses a core process of doing, perceiving, knowing, understanding, creating and evaluating. Activities present the uniqueness of each child in a non-competitive way while providing a full body involvement in a vigorous and enjoyable activity. The Program brings a child into contact with other children in an atmosphere of exploration that requires discipline, cooperation, and interaction. Based on natural movement targeted in a developmentally appropriate manner, the program uses basic dance concepts of tempo, level, direction, range of motion, spatial pathways and dynamics to develop critical thinking, motor skills, self-awareness and perhaps most importantly creativity. These activities provide a foundation that is applicable to every aspect of a child's development.

## **PRE-BALLET SYLLABUS**

The Pre-Ballet curriculum introduces boys and girls to the fundamentals of classical ballet, focusing on proper body alignment, classroom etiquette, ballet technique, terminology, and musicality. Students will work at the ballet barre and in the center of the room learning the positions of the arms and feet, and basic ballet vocabulary. There will be an increased focus on independent memorization of simple combinations. Additionally, students will learn to count music, helping them to dance on the correct musical counts. As part of the NSB community, children will learn much more than ballet. Exposure to dance reinforces important life skills including creativity, discipline, patience, and teamwork—all in a safe, fun, nurturing environment.

## **CLASSICAL BALLET SYLLABUS**

Ballet is a system of physical discipline that fosters strength, flexibility, control and kinetic awareness. Ballet training builds a sleek, well-defined musculature and a high degree of articulation. Ballet teaches self-discipline, respect for others, and builds self-confidence. Ballet's principles of body control can improve performance in other dance forms and in other athletic activities. Learning ballet is not only a means of acquiring good posture, agility, and physical prowess – it is a means of acquiring an aesthetic sensibility, an appreciation for beauty and the hard work it takes to achieve it.

The NSB's eight-year syllabus in classical ballet provides training for the student who seeks enrichment and recreation through dance as well as the

student with career aspirations. The program emphasizes a kinesthetic approach to movement through the understanding of anatomical principles and the dynamics of movement. In this way, all children may learn to dance.

The progression of ballet training parallels the physical and mental development of growing children. Ballet training is begun when a child is eight years old and has the physical strength and the mental concentration to undertake its demands. During the first four years of training children develop an understanding of how the body functions to accomplish basic technical elements and establish good working habits. At the intermediate level when the student has developed musculature and specific neuromuscular responses it is possible to accelerate the acquisition of vocabulary. At advanced levels, the mastery of the vocabulary is refined and emphasis is placed on stylistic presentation of the technique.

Pointe work is introduced at the intermediate level when students have developed sufficient strength in the foot to support the weight of the body. Pointe work is an extension of the ballet technique and the student must have a thorough understanding of basic technique, posture and placement before it can be successfully undertaken.

Special work for boys is introduced at the intermediate level. There is a specific vocabulary of steps for the male dancer and it is necessary to develop the strength and skill to execute this vocabulary.

At the advanced level, students may undertake *pas de deux* or partner work which involves the male and female dancers working together in a highly coordinated fashion to create an integrated whole.

## CONTEMPORARY SYLLABUS

Contemporary dance utilizes a dancer's classical ballet training and knowledge as a foundation for expanded movement vocabulary and expression. Contemporary class focuses on initiating movement from one's core and using the spine and limbs as equal sources for energy continuation. Class incorporates modern dance concepts such as head to tail connection, spine fluidity, efficient body movement, and carving through space. It focuses on full body movement through concepts such as suspension and release, oppositional pull, and linear and nonlinear lines and movement patterns. Class incorporates but is not limited to warm up,

spinal and limb articulation, floor work, turns, travelling, jumps, and phrase work.

## PLACEMENT

Students will be placed in classes that are appropriate for their level of physical and mental development. The NSB believes strongly in the need for children to work in a challenging learning environment with others of their own age and skill. Students ages 4-7 are placed in the class appropriate to their age. When they are 8 students may enroll in beginning ballet classes. Other students should arrange with the Artistic Director for a placement class. Students advance through the program progressively. Skill and knowledge developed at a lower level is essential to success at a higher level.

## STUDENT/INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION

The study of dance as an art form involves physical contact. Instructors will correct students using the “hands on” approach, a universally practiced technique of correcting a student’s body placement in terms of bones, muscles, and general alignment. This is comparable to instruction practiced in other physical activities such as gymnastics or swimming. Instructors may place their hands on the student to physically realign or correct body position with respect to proper dance technique. If students or their parent/ guardian feel uncomfortable with this, they and their parents/ guardians are encouraged to talk to the Artistic Director, their instructor, or the Executive Director.

## PILATES INSTRUCTION

The NSB provides training in the Classical Pilates Method of Body Conditioning to its company members. The system combines intense mental conditioning with physical training to produce a lean, lithe physique, proper body alignment, and balance. It has two components: mat work—learning the basic Pilates exercises and concepts; and apparatus work—an enhancement of the mat work or in some cases, a means of therapeutic exercise to address specific injuries or weaknesses.

## SCHOOL FACULTY

**Courtland Weaver**, *Artistic Director*, was raised in Kaysville, Utah, where he studied ballet at Clytie Adams School of Ballet from the age of nine until he entered the University of Utah on the Willem F. Christensen Scholarship. He accepted an apprenticeship with the Pacific Northwest

Ballet in 1981 and danced with that company until 1988. He spent the next three years as a freelance artist, dancing with numerous companies throughout the western United States, as well as performing professional musical comedy as a member of Actors' Equity Union. Mr. Weaver danced as a soloist with the Ballet of Los Angeles and Ballet Arizona. He choreographed works for several festivals and attended Robert Redford's Sundance Institute Dance to Video workshop in 1988.

In 1996, he taught at several private dance schools in the Basel/Mulhouse/Colmar region in Europe and continued dancing and choreographing with a small group of friends in a company called Art'maniac.

Mr. Weaver joined Alaska Dance Theatre in Anchorage September 2002, and was Associate Director from 2004-09. He taught ballet and was Managing Director of Fidalgo DanceWorks in Anacortes, Washington from 2011-14. He was appointed as Artistic Director at the North Star Ballet in 2014.

**Norman Shelburne**, *Founding Artistic Director and ballet teacher*, is a graduate of the University of Utah and a former member of Ballet West. He has danced professionally with Atlanta's Theater Under the Stars, the National Ballet in Washington, DC. and with the Norwegian National Ballet. He received his early training from Constance Hardinge in Bristol, Virginia. His teachers have included Ann Parson, David Howard, and Vera Volkova. He has served as Artistic Director of the Lexington Ballet in Lexington, Kentucky, as President of the Southeastern Regional Ballet Association and as a board member of the National Association for Regional Ballet.

**Wendy Walker**, *Ballet Mistress*, began her early ballet training with the North Star Ballet under the tutelage of Norman Shelburne and Susan Perry. Ms. Walker began her professional career in 2007 with the Richmond Ballet, performing in classic and original productions for two seasons. Ms. Walker then worked with the Missouri Contemporary Ballet as a performance artist, where she also choreographed and set her own works on the company. In 2010 Wendy moved to Chicago to work as a freelance performer and instructor, training Hubbard Street and River North. Ms. Walker also began to work with Siboney, a mambo company that blends ballroom, Latin, and Afro-Cuban influences. Ms. Walker returned to Fairbanks in 2011 to complete her Bachelors in Psychology at

the University of Alaska Fairbanks while simultaneously creating *hINge*, a start-up contemporary company, and performing with Candela, a local Latin band. Upon returning to Fairbanks, Ms. Walker joined the North Star Ballet as a resident artist and part time faculty member, with her involvement increasing to full time faculty in August 2016 and director of the North Star Dance Collective in 2018.

**Ruth Merriman**, *Director of the Creative Movement Program and Pilates Instructor* holds an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Development from the University of Alaska. Her background in dance and research in the field of creative movement has led to her development of a program for children ages 4–8 that includes classes during the year and a themed summer Creative Movement Dance Camp incorporating movement, visual arts, and dance history. She credits much of the program's success to raising her own four children. "Dance for young children should be a joyful experience in a positive, noncompetitive environment that enables children at all levels of ability to feel successful." She has been a PMA Certified Pilates Instructor since 2015.

**Elizabeth Parr**, *Pre-Ballet and Ballet Instructor* attended North Star Ballet for 14 years before going on to graduate cum laude with a BFA in Dance from Cornish College of the Arts. She has continued her education by completing American Ballet Theater's National Training Curriculum for Pre-Primary through Level 5, interning with Pacific Northwest Ballet, and earning a certificate in Brain Compatible Dance Education from the Creative Dance Center in Seattle, WA. Elizabeth has performed professionally with Lyric Light Opera, New Vision Dance Co, ÆON Contemporary Dance, Emerald Ballet Theater, and ARC Dance. Most recently Elizabeth served as the School Administrative Director for Evergreen City Ballet in Renton, Washington.

**Madeline Hunter**, *Creative Movement Instructor*, began studying at North Star Ballet in the Creative Movement Program. For the next 14 years, she continued her ballet training under the guidance of both Norman Shelburne and Sue Perry. Her personal experience in Ruth Merriman's Creative Movement Program, as both a student and helper, has led to a greater understanding of the importance of shaping a child's appreciation for dance. She is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

## THE NORTH STAR BALLET COMPANY

The North Star Ballet Company is a regional performing company that offers pre-professional stage experience to the career-oriented dancer and performance opportunities to the recreational dancer. The Company provides arts enrichment for the Interior annually through two major productions, *The Nutcracker* and a Spring Gala.

The Company has two levels of membership: Senior Company and Junior Company. Auditions are held at the beginning of each season, are publicly advertised, and are open to any NSB student. Students in C2 and above may audition for the Senior Company. Students in at least B2 may audition for the Junior Company. Placement is at the discretion of the Artistic Director and is based on ability, experience, and enthusiasm. Company members must sign a contract for the season. The contract outlines the responsibilities of company membership and the responsibilities of the Company to the dancer.

The NSB produces a full-length production of *The Nutcracker* for the Christmas season. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to be part of a large theatrical production, experience the excitement of working together to accomplish a common goal and enjoy the rewards of commitment.

Auditions are held each fall for children's roles. There are roles for 80 children in two separate casts. Children must have passed their eighth birthday to be eligible to audition. Every effort is made to include as many children as possible. Roles are cast according to ability and enthusiasm, but a major consideration also has to be that a child can fit into the costume for a role.

The cost of producing *The Nutcracker* far exceeds ticket revenues thus a nominal performance fee is charged for each participant to help defray the costs. Parents are provided with a rehearsal schedule and are also expected to volunteer time in preparation for or in running the production.

## THE NORTH STAR DANCE COLLECTIVE

The North Star Dance Collective is a group of classically trained dancers committed to the vitality and accessibility of the arts in interior Alaska. Blending classical ballet with contemporary vocabulary in original choreography, they aim to make classical dance accessible in Fairbanks through venue specific work and cross-community collaboration while providing the opportunity for adult dance artists to grow and perform.

## **SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

### **CLASS SCHEDULES**

Class Schedules are available in the lobby and include tuition rates, a calendar of important dates, and a summary of school rules. The schedule is subject to change as classes without sufficient enrollment may be cancelled. Questions about the schedule or tuition payment should be directed to the School Registrar.

### **REGISTRATION & TUITION**

Tuition is payable in advance at the beginning of the semester. Special arrangements to pay otherwise may be made with the Registrar. Refunds will be made only in case of injury or extenuating circumstances. Requests for refunds and questions should be addressed to the Registrar.

### **STUDENT ASSISTANTS**

Student assistants help in all the creative movement classes, pre-ballet, and in the first two levels of ballet. Student assistants help the instructor in managing the class and demonstrate as needed. Under the supervision of an experienced teacher, student assistants gain valuable knowledge in working with young children, in the class syllabus, and in teaching methods. Students who have reached the C2 Level in Ballet may apply for assistant positions. Students are chosen on the basis of maturity, dependability and enthusiasm. Students who wish to participate in the program should contact the Director of the Creative Movement Program or the Artistic Director before the end of the semester prior to the semester they wish to be involved. Student assistants earn tuition or volunteer credits based on the number of classes they assist. Students are expected to be punctual, dressed appropriately and be prepared to work diligently.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The North Star Ballet School awards a number of tuition scholarships each year. Scholarship awards based on a student's financial need, physical suitability for ballet training, or special need for ballet training. Scholarship applications are due at the beginning of each school year. Applicants must provide a copy of their most recent Federal Income Tax Return. The Scholarship Committee reviews a student's scholarship application and financial information and in consultation with the Artistic Director, determines scholarship awards.

The Sue Perry Jordan Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship awarded to one student each year. Candidates will be judged on their physical, mental, and emotional suitability for ballet technique, as well as their dedication to their class and company commitments.

The Walt & Marita Babula Scholarship is a need-based scholarship awarded to students at the B2 level and up who show the talent and commitment necessary for ballet training. Candidates will be judged on: financial need, their physical, mental, and emotional suitability for ballet technique, as well as their dedication to their class and company commitments. Please speak to a faculty member about applying.

## ACADEMIC COORDINATION

Many schools grant Physical Education credit or exemption for ballet instruction. Check with your academic advisors if this is of interest and speak to the Registrar to obtain necessary documentation. NSB encourages participation in PE activities. NSB will also provide documentation of volunteer hours if the student helper prefers that to tuition credit.

## PARENTS' WEEK

Parents and friends are invited to observe classes during Parents' Week. Students are prepared for observers during Parents' Week and their presence then is of special importance to validate and reinforce progress.

## CLASS DEMONSTRATION

As part of the course of instruction, students are expected to participate in the Class Demonstration at the end of the year. The demonstration is an opportunity for students to share their progress with others and to build stage presence and performance skills. The Class Demonstration provides a clear picture of the training process. Preparation for the class demonstration is done in class and it is important that students be in classes the weeks before the demonstration. The Class Demonstration involves one staging rehearsal at the theater prior to the actual demonstration. Parents are provided with information about the Demonstration and a schedule of the rehearsal. If a student can't participate, please inform the faculty.

## TEACHER CONFERENCES

The NSB encourages parents to schedule individual conferences with the Executive Director, Artistic Director, Ballet Mistress, or individual teachers whenever necessary. Any problem should be brought to the attention of the Artistic Director promptly to ensure that each student's needs are addressed immediately and appropriately. Conferences should be scheduled through the School Registrar.

## CLASS CANCELLATIONS

Any class without an enrollment of at least five students may be cancelled. The NSB will be closed if the temperature is 45 degrees below zero or colder as verified by calling 844 and when the North Star Borough School District closes school due to weather or travel conditions.

## LIABILITY

Every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of each student in the classroom. The NSB does not assume responsibility for injuries that may result from participation in classes or other activities associated with the School. Parents or students of legal age must sign a release of liability before registration will be accepted.

## INJURIES & ILLNESS

In the event a student is injured in class parents will be immediately contacted and informed of the injury. In the event of an emergency or serious injury, NSB staff will call 911 and parents will be notified immediately.

A student with any physical complaint should make the instructor aware of the problem before class. The instructor will be able to determine the extent to which a complaint may affect a student's participation and make recommendations. Minor problems may mean modifying class work temporarily or undertaking rehabilitative exercise. Certain minor problems may indicate the need for a physician's attention.

Please be considerate of the health of classmates and Instructors. If your child is ill, please do not let them attend class. Call NSB to let their instructor know. Don't let your child return to class until they are completely well.

#### **LOST & FOUND/ BORROW BUREAU**

NSB keeps a "borrow bureau" in the waiting area that contain items students may borrow in an emergency. Borrowed shoes should be returned immediately following class. Borrowed clothing should be returned clean and placed back into the clothing box as soon as possible.

Lost and found items are kept in baskets in the back hallway. All items will be donated to charity if not claimed by the end of each semester.

#### **DRESSING ROOMS / LOCKERS/ CUBBIES**

Coats, street clothes, street shoes, and school bags are to be kept in the dressing room during classes. Students may store these items in the cubbies or lockers that are provided in each dressing room, outside the studios, or in the back hallway. Please make sure to retrieve only your own belongings when you leave.

#### **PICKING UP STUDENTS AFTER CLASS**

Parents are expected to pick up students promptly after classes. Please contact the School if you are delayed or anticipate a delay. The NSB is only responsible for students once they are in the building. Parents are

responsible for their child entering and exiting the building safely. Children may not wait outside the building.

## **CODES OF CONDUCT**

In order for NSB to achieve its goals we need and request the cooperation of everyone involved: the students, staff, and families. Everyone is expected to conduct themselves in a positive manner at all times. Negative behavior such as bullying, gossiping, yelling, fighting, stealing, destroying, or defacing property, being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, using profanity or offensive language, playing pranks or practical jokes, or engaging in horseplay, or being disrespectful or confrontational may result in disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion from the School. Possession or use of alcohol or tobacco or illegal possession or use of drugs at the NSB Studio or any NSB function will not be tolerated. Weapons in the NSB building or at NSB functions are strictly prohibited.

### **STAFF**

All staff will act honestly, professionally, objectively, positively, fairly, and, courteously when interacting with students, families, volunteers, and other staff. Each staff member will carry out his or her professional work with skill, care, and regard for the technical and professional standards expected of him or her.

### **PARENTS**

We ask that parents:

- Respect the expertise and decisions of the NSB faculty and staff;
- Support your dancer-student at all times;
- Be courteous and respectful to staff, students, and other parents and keep observations about all students positive;
- Be aware of people who are around you. Young students are very sensitive. Negative comments or comments beyond your expertise can turn the most positive experience into a negative one. Instead, attempt to develop positive solutions and avoid gossip.

If you have concerns, see the Artistic Director or Executive Director, rather than discussing them with other parents.

### **Attendance at Classes**

Students **must** be on time for class. For safety reasons, instructors may require that late students not participate in class if, in the opinion of the instructor, the student is not physically prepared - warmed up - to participate. Only classes missed due to illness or extenuating circumstances may be made up. Make-up classes should be scheduled with the instructor.

### **Attendance at Rehearsals and Performances**

Parents are provided with a schedule of rehearsals and performances for children participating in *The Nutcracker* or Spring Gala. Children must attend all scheduled rehearsals, costume fittings, and dress parade. Any child who misses a rehearsal for any reason except illness may be dropped from the cast. We cannot make exceptions. Children who are ill will be excused, but we ask that you notify us before the rehearsal at 451-8800. Rehearsals will begin and end promptly. Please pick up your child immediately at the end of the scheduled rehearsal.

### **In the studio please**

- Arrive in time to adequately prepare for class. Lack of proper warm-up could lead to injuries;
- Follow the NSB dress code;
- Use the bathroom **before** class, rehearsal or performance begins;
- Raise your hand to ask a question;
- Bring your dance supplies in your dance bag. Leave snacks in your dance bag - no eating or drinking in the studios, except closed containers of water;
- No cell phones allowed in the studio;
- Be respectful of the instructor and other students. Verbal or physical conduct that has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for others will not be tolerated. and
- Enjoy your class!

### **Social Media**

We expect everyone to conduct themselves in a professional manner and to respect the privacy of others when referring to the North Star Ballet when using social media.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED STUDENT QUESTIONS

**Ballet Shoes:** Ballet shoes should fit snugly, but must not cramp the foot. The toes should be spread out completely within the shoe. Shoes that are too tight will hamper the ability of the foot to work properly. In shoes that are too large, the foot will slip. All ballet shoes must have an elastic sewn in to fit snugly across the ankle to keep the shoe on. To determine the position of the elastic, fold the back of the shoe downward to the inside sole. The elastic should be sewn in at the crease thus formed and at the angle of the fold. Because a child's foot is growing constantly, new shoes must be obtained periodically. Ask for help positioning the elastic if you have not done this before.

**Pointe Shoes:** When a student is ready to begin pointe work, Ms. Walker will provide all the information necessary to order the shoes. Shoes are ordered from an outside distributor. There are a wide variety of makers and styles, and shoes are selected according to the student's specific needs - the size, the type of shank (the reinforcement within the shoe), and the vamp (how high the shoe comes up on the foot in front). It may take several tries to achieve the proper shoe. New shoes must not be worn until Ms. Walker sees the student in the shoe and approves the fit.

**Careers in Dance:** The professional dance world is extremely competitive. Only a very small percentage of students taking dance classes will be able to successfully pursue a career as a professional dancer. A student's physical suitability, kinetic aptitude, musicality, and expressive talents are a few of the determining factors. There are, however, a number of ways that a student with a passion for dance can find a fulfilling career. Teaching, dance therapy, dance injury and nutrition, history and criticism, and photography are a few of these opportunities. Excellent training and performing opportunities are essential in any dance related field. At the NSB we do not discourage any student from pursuing their aspirations of being a professional dancer. We believe it is important for a student to discover and understand their own talents and limitations and to be able to make their own decision. This happens quite naturally as the student matures and it is extremely important to an individual's growth and happiness to follow their passion to its logical outcome. The faculty is always ready to provide advice to parents regarding a student's potential and progress.

**The Company Call Board:** The Call Board is a bulletin board next to the main entrance to the North Star Ballet School. The weekly rehearsal schedule and other important information are posted on the Call Board. This information may change from day to day as the artistic staff think necessary. Dancers in a professional company know to check the Call Board for the rehearsal schedule daily. Dancers in the North Star Ballet Company and Junior Company are expected to check the Call Board. While parents are welcome to check the Call Board, it is the responsibility of each company member to know when they are to be present for rehearsal.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED PARENT QUESTIONS.**

### **What does my child wear to class?**

Girls: Plain, black, short-sleeved leotard, pink or skin-toned tights, and pink or skin-toned ballet shoes. Boys: white t-shirt, black tights, and black or white ballet shoes with white socks. Please adhere to this dress code. Dance skirts, tutus and costume type attire can be very distracting to your child as well as other students. Hair should be securely fastened away from the face and neck. Ballet students A1 and up should have their hair in a bun. Jewelry may not be worn.

### **What can I do to prepare my child for class?**

Please arrive on time and please ensure that your child has had the opportunity to use the restroom and eaten a healthy snack prior to class.

### **Is regular attendance important?**

Absolutely. As with any lesson, dance training proceeds through learning progressively complicated skills. Each class builds on the past as new dance concepts are introduced. Please inform the instructor if your child is unable to attend for any reason. It is important that your child arrive to class on time. The beginning of class is a vital opportunity for your child to feel part of our dance family through our warm up activities.

### **How will I know how my child is doing in class?**

Your child's teacher is available to discuss your child's progress and any concerns or comments that you may have. If there is an issue with your child's behavior in class, an instructor will contact you. Anytime you would like to discuss your child's progress you may contact the instructor by calling the North Star Ballet School at 451-8800.

### **If my child misses class, can they attend a makeup class?**

Students in the Ballet curriculum (Boy's Ballet, A1 and up, and Contemporary Dance) should make arrangements with their instructor to schedule a make-up class should they have to miss a class. In the Creative Movement program make up classes are only available by prearrangement in the case of illness, injury, or family emergency. Make up classes are not available for students who choose to miss class due to a birthday party or similar event.

## **SUPPORTING THE NORTH STAR DANCE FOUNDATION**

### **VOLUNTEERING**

The NSB and the North Star Ballet Company rely on volunteers to make its programs possible. Their dedication and hard work are absolutely essential to the success of the organization. A spirit of community, cooperation, and accomplishment has been the guiding force of volunteer activity associated with the NSB. Volunteers can help with chaperoning, costuming, performing events, fundraisers, housing guests, picking up artists at the airport, helping with transportation, receptions, and other possibilities. If you are interested in volunteering, please talk to Elizabeth Parr (Volunteer Coordinator) or go to the volunteer's link on our website: <http://nsbfairbanks.org>

### **CONTRIBUTIONS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

We work hard to integrate our mission with a solid and diversified income stream. We support a school of classical ballet and produce two performances each year through a mix of revenue (ticket sales, tuition, and concessions), donations, government grants, and facilitated by almost 2,200 hours of service provided by 130 volunteers. We rely on contributions so that we can:

1) keep tuition to the Ballet School affordable for families; 2) keep ticket prices for performances at levels that young families can afford; and 3) provide scholarships and work-study opportunities to the ballet school each year.

As a 501(c)(3) educational charity, the NSB accepts contributions in any amount to help support our programs. Donors will receive a Tax Receipt. Donation forms are available online or at the office.