

ST. LOUIS **BALLET SCHOOL**

BECOME A TEACHER ASSISTANT!

It is fulfilling to learn how to work with young dancers and help guide them in their dance education. As an assistant, you will be helping in the lower levels you've already conquered! Being an Assistant helps the teacher perform their job better and helps the younger students be more successful in class. Plus, you can include this as volunteer hours the office is happy to sign off on.



Compensation and Benefits:

When students become teacher assistants, they are not only compensated, they learn valuable skills. Teacher assistants are compensated by receiving 2 free performance tickets to every Saint Louis Ballet performance series. For the 2018-2019 season, that means a total of 10 tickets worth over \$500 for free! These free tickets are given in addition to any other complimentary tickets received as a cast member in a production. Furthermore, assistants will learn what it is like to be a ballet teacher and how to specifically work with younger dancers. In addition to learning valuable teaching skills, assisting in the younger classes actually increases ones understanding of ballet. By correcting younger students, assistants increase their knowledge of ballet by understanding of the nuances of each step.

Responsibilities/Guidelines:

- *****Please be on time for class.** If you will be late, call the office and inform them of an approximate time of arrival. If you will be absent, it is your responsibility to get a substitute. If you are unable to get a sub, please let the office know ahead of time so we can help you out.
- Dress like a role model – hair in bun, leotard and tights. Skirts are allowed when assisting.
- Get to know the students by name. It helps to use their names as much as possible and/or associate something about the student that helps you remember; i.e., Susie has red hair or Mary wears glasses, etc.
- Tuck in ties on ballet shoes and help with the changing of the tap shoes. (First class – teacher will spend time checking shoes and making sure the ties are not too long.)
- Always stand in front of the class with the teacher and demonstrate the steps. Be a line leader. Please learn the lesson plan of the teacher in case of emergencies when the teacher has to attend to another matter outside the class. It is a tremendous lifesaver to the teacher when the assistant can continue the

class.

- Take initiative! If children are not responding to directions – like “stand up” or “move to the side of the room”, encourage them (move them) to the correct positions.
- We try to encourage parents to take their children to the bathroom BEFORE class because at this young age, it’s very distracting to the class when one of the students has to use the restroom. It creates the “copy-cat potty” syndrome. If they must use the restroom, you can escort them to the bathroom and encourage the dancers to get back to class.
- At the end of class, you can help the teacher distribute the stickers for the students to put on their cards as well as distributing the children’s dance bag/shoes. We will only be handing out coloring papers for holidays or once a month – not every class as we have done in the past.
- The preschool classes can be very trying and sometimes you have to be extra kind and patient with the little ones. But they also can be very funny, beautiful and loving. Try to enjoy them – they are all so cute in their “ballerina” clothes!
- When preparing for the recital besides demonstrating, please learn how to do the dances with your hands. It will be up to the teacher if you will be demonstrating on stage, walking the students out on the stage, and/or demonstrating in front of the stage with the teacher. During Dress Rehearsal and Recital Time, you will be the teacher’s right-hand assistant!! Try to stay with the class as much as possible. The children as well as their parents will be looking up to you as a role model and helper.
- The last, but most important thing – please enjoy yourself! It can be a very rewarding and educational experience for you. The teachers all love and need your help!