

# Academy Handbook



**Gateway**  
*Academy of the Arts*

**2020-2021**

# Gateway Academy of the Arts

## Academy Policy Handbook

Gateway Academy of the Arts began in 2006 and is under the administration, mission and vision of the Music and Worship Ministry of First Baptist Church of Melbourne, FL. All students are considered students of the academy and not of the individual teacher and therefore are afforded all the benefits and privileges of being a part of the Gateway Academy of the Arts Community. All instructors are professing Christians, adhere to the mission and vision of First Baptist Church of Melbourne, and are active worshippers in a local congregation where the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed.

### Registration

A non-refundable registration fee of \$25 per student is required each semester or session. A household family max of \$50 is available for families with multiple Academy students. An additional performance/costume deposit of \$75 per student is due with dance registration. These fees can be paid online at [www.gatewayacademyofthearts.org](http://www.gatewayacademyofthearts.org) or sent to **FBC-Gateway Academy (3301 Dairy Road, Melbourne, FL 32904)** or paid in the **First Baptist Melbourne Church office**. Your registration fee must accompany your registration form for lessons/classes to be scheduled. No lesson/class will be scheduled until the registration fee is paid in full.

### Gateway Music Operating Schedule

Gateway Academy operates on a year-round schedule with Fall, Spring and Summer Terms.

- Private Instruction is offered in weekly 20, 30, 45, and 60 minute lessons.
- Fall and Spring semesters for private music instruction are sixteen weeks in length.
- The Summer Semester has a six or nine lesson option to be scheduled with the instructor.

The Academy observes only Thanksgiving week and Spring Break week during the semester. There is a break of several weeks between semesters.

### MUSIC ACADEMY DATES

#### Fall 2020 Schedule:

Aug. 10	Lessons Begin
Nov. 20	Music Academy Recitals
Nov. 23-27	Thanksgiving Break ( <b>no classes or lessons</b> )
Nov. 30-Dec. 4	Make-up Week for Private Instruction – last week of semester

#### Spring 2021 Schedule:

Jan. 11	Lessons Begin
Mar. 15-19	Spring Break ( <b>no classes or lessons</b> )
May 3-7	Make-up Week for Private Instruction – last week of semester
May 7	Music Academy Recitals

## **Gateway Dance Operating Schedule**

Gateway Dance operates on a year-round schedule with a Fall through Spring Session that runs through the school year, and a short Summer Session.

- Class Instruction is offered in 30, 45, 60, 75 and 90 minute lesson blocks.
- The Dance session runs through the school year. Classes are offered Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday during the school year with occasional Wednesday & Saturday rehearsals.

The Dance Academy observes only Thanksgiving week, Winter Break, and Spring Break week during the session.

## **DANCE ACADEMY DATES**

### **Fall 2020 - Spring 2021 Schedule:**

**TO BE DETERMINED**

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR GATEWAY ACADEMY**

All Arts Academy students must commit to a full semester of study to ensure the integrity of a student's experience in learning the individual instrument or discipline. It is also important that the student arrives a few minutes early to each lesson. Dance Academy students are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes before their scheduled class time in order to be warmed up at class start. Any student arriving late will be taught only for the remaining minutes of their allotted lesson time. If the instructor is late for any reason, they will give a full lesson to the student or reschedule at the student's convenience.

### **Student Safety**

Please be prompt in picking up students so children will not be left unattended after lessons/classes. Parents and siblings may wait, but please do not leave children unattended. To create the best learning environment and minimize distractions, we do ask that parents and siblings wait outside of the classrooms, but parents can sit in on a private lesson if they choose. Please note that when your child is enrolling in Private Music Lessons, they will be taught in a windowed room with an adult instructor alone. Your child's safety is important to us, and all Gateway Instructors have been thoroughly background checked.

### **Enrolling Mid-Term**

Students may enroll at any time during the semester or session based on availability and director discretion. Tuition costs are pro-rated for the remainder of the term at a per lesson/class price. The non-refundable registration fee is still required for all students when enrolling mid-term.

## **Withdrawal**

The Academy operates on a semester & session schedule. If a student desires to withdraw from the Academy prior to the end of the semester or session, except in extreme circumstances, all fees for the semester & session are still the responsibility of the student. Withdrawal requests must be made in writing (includes email).

## **Make Up Lessons**

It is the student's responsibility to contact the Gateway Office (321.723.0561) if a lesson is to be missed, unless otherwise informed by your instructor. One make-up lesson for private instruction is granted only for an excused absence in which the instructor is notified at least four hours prior to the lesson. It is the Academy policy that an excused absence consists of student illness, extreme emergency, or death in the family. An unexcused absence includes homework, athletic events, school activity or vacation. Only one make-up lesson for an excused absence per semester will be granted. The final week of each semester is Make-Up Week and a student's one make-up lesson will be scheduled during this week.

Should the instructor miss a lesson, the instructor will make up the lesson at a convenient time for the student. All Music make-up lessons will be held at the Academy facility of First Baptist Church of Melbourne. No Music make-up lessons are permitted off the premises. If no convenient time can be arranged, the student's account will be credited for the lesson. A missed lesson by the instructor does not count toward the one make-up lesson reserved for the student at the end of the semester. There are no make-up lessons for class instruction.

## **Dismissal**

In the unfortunate event that a student's behavior or excessive absenteeism compromises the learning environment of him/her or others, the Academy holds the right to dismiss the student and end the relationship without refund.

## **Facilities Maintenance**

The facilities of Gateway Academy of the Arts are provided courtesy of the First Baptist Church of Melbourne. Supplies and facilities should remain as they were before use of the classrooms. Please:

- Leave restrooms and waiting areas as you found them.
- Do not use church supplies intended for church use, including food/drinks/craft supplies.
- Do not allow children to run in the halls or play with church items/supplies.

## **Summer Semester**

A \$15 non-refundable registration fee applies, maximum of \$30 per family. For private lessons, the student may choose six or nine private lessons over the summer term at the scheduling discretion of the teacher and student. Tuition for the summer session is as follows:

	<b>Six Lessons</b>	<b>Nine Lessons</b>
<b>30 minutes</b>	\$135	\$200
<b>45 minutes</b>	\$200	\$300

Additionally, several special camps and workshops may be offered in week-long or block schedules. These may include Strings Camp, Dance Camp, Worship Dance Weekend, etc.

### **Special Events**

- Winter & Spring Music Recitals
- Community Recitals
- Dance Recitals & Productions
- Summer Camps

## **Instruction**

**Private Instruction** is offered weekly in the following areas of study. Private instruction fees apply.  
(Beginning age level at teacher's discretion)

Bassoon	Cello	Flute	Guitar	Organ
Piano	Violin	Voice	Dance	

**Class Instruction** is offered weekly in the following areas of study. Class instruction fees apply.

Creative Movement	Pre-Ballet	Ballet	Pointe
Hip-Hop	Jazz	Tap	

## **Recitals**

The Academy offers various opportunities for performance and presentation throughout the year. Each student is highly encouraged to participate in at least one recital each year. Each music semester has its own final recital at the end of the term.

## **Gateway Dance Tuition**

Class Dance Instruction rates/payment plans are available online at [www.gatewayacademyofthearts.org](http://www.gatewayacademyofthearts.org).

Tuition fees are instructional fees only.  
Costume fees, books and personal supplies are the responsibility of the student.  
A performance/costume deposit of \$75 is due with registration.

Please visit our website [www.gatewayacademyofthearts.org](http://www.gatewayacademyofthearts.org) for Dance Attire and Dress Code.

No jewelry or gum in class!  
Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle.

## Gateway Music Tuition

Full semester tuition is payable online or in the church office. Payment for each semester should be made in full prior to the first lesson of each term. All accounts must be paid in full before the end of each semester. No student with an outstanding balance will be permitted to register for another semester, thereby forfeiting their slot in the studio. A payment plan is available upon request for a nominal fee.

20 minute private lesson - \$220 (Preschool Piano Exploration Only)

30 minute private lesson - \$330

45 minute private lesson - \$498

60 minute private lesson - \$660

Tuition fees are instructional fees only.  
Books and personal supplies are the responsibility of the student.

**All mailed correspondence (registration forms, payments, etc.) should be sent to:  
Gateway Academy of the Arts  
c/o First Baptist Melbourne  
3301 Dairy Road  
Melbourne, FL 32904**

Tuition may be paid by cash, credit card, or by check\* in the First Baptist Melbourne Church Office.

Payments by check\* should be made payable to **FBC-Gateway Academy**

\*Please note the student's name in the memo line on your check.



Get a GRIP!!



Gateway Recruitment Incentive Program

- As families that are already part of the Gateway Academy of the Arts community here at First Baptist Church of Melbourne, we realize that you are our best advertisement. You already know the quality of the arts education we provide and our commitment to being a Christian "gateway" into our community.
- So rather than giving lots of money to advertisers to promote Gateway Academy, we'd rather give you the money and allow you to "Get a GRIP" on your family, friends and neighbors.
- For every new student who enrolls in Gateway Academy and tells us you told them about Gateway, we will credit your account for one week's class or lesson.

## Our Academy Director

**Dr. David A. Hasker** came to First Baptist Melbourne as Worship Pastor in August 2003 and had a vision for starting Gateway Academy of the Arts from the first time he set foot on the church campus. Prior to coming to Florida, he served churches as Minister of Music in Maryland, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Sacred Music from Liberty University and the Master of Church Music from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. While serving as Minister of Music in Virginia, he returned to the classroom to complete a Master of Arts in Religion from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and taught Church Music courses and conducting as an adjunct professor at Liberty University. In 2010 he became the first graduate of the Doctor of Ministry in Worship Leadership from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

## Gateway Academy Music Instructors

All Academy instructors are considered professionals in their field and have strong performance or educational expertise. Most faculty hold a bachelor's degree, with many having graduate degrees. All instructors are professing Christians and adhere to the mission and vision of First Baptist Church of Melbourne. Additionally, a criminal background check has been completed on all faculty members.

### Cello

**Dr. Tom Silliman** has been the orchestra director and string teacher with the Brevard County School District for over twenty-five years and is currently teaching in the Bayside High School feeder chain and serving as orchestra director at Southwest Middle School in Palm Bay. He is the assistant principal cellist of the Brevard Symphony and previously served as the artistic director/concert orchestra conductor of the Brevard Symphony Youth Orchestra. He frequently performs with many other organizations in the Central Florida area and performs with his wife Becky in the Highwire flute and cello duo. Prior to moving to Brevard County, he served as professor of string education at Southern Utah University for three years. Dr. Silliman has a Bachelor of Music degree in cello performance from James Madison University and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in cello performance from Arizona State University. Dr. Silliman is also an active member of the Worship Orchestra at First Baptist Melbourne.

### Guitar

**Kim Jacobs** knows what it feels like to have a passion to play the guitar and to work hard to accomplish it. It is her desire to help others accomplish their goals and avoid bad habits and pitfalls along the way. She is personally attracted to all forms of guitar styles enjoying the growl and sustain of a heavily distorted tube amp as well as the simple beauty of acoustic finger-style guitar or just playing rhythm. But mostly, Kim loves to raise her instrument up in praise of God and offer back what He has so graciously given to her. She is an active member of the Praise Band at Grace Life Church in Rockledge as lead guitar.

Her formal training allowed her two years to study classical guitar, music theory and musicianship from Ohlone College and the Mission San Jose School of Guitar in California. As a teacher, Kim is especially interested in developing a strong foundation from the beginning by teaching good technique, note reading and theory. Her professional experience includes playing for weddings and special family events, being a rhythm guitar player in bands, leading worship services in local churches and teaching guitar to children and adults.

## Piano

**Le Ann S. Hasker** is the wife of our Academy Director, Pastor David A. Hasker. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and the Master of Education in Educational Administration from Liberty University. She has taught elementary music professionally in both Christian and public schools in Indiana, North Carolina, Virginia and Florida. She holds Orff Level III Certification and is currently the elementary music specialist at Columbia Elementary School. She has taught piano privately for over 25 years. She serves in the Worship Choir and as the Children's Choir Coordinator at First Baptist Melbourne where she oversees six musical ensembles for Preschoolers and Children.

**Sara Rhodes** has been playing the piano since the age of five. Having a natural ear for music, she quickly became proficient, even as a young child. Being the daughter of an Air Force Major, she moved often and was constantly awarded new opportunities to serve in every church music department. At the age of thirteen, she began formal training under a local teacher, Leigh Julian. During this time, Sara began to teach and share the gift of music with peers and young students alike. When she moved away to attend college in Jacksonville, Florida, she continued her musical education, both in voice and piano. Sara graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Secondary Education and Music. Today, she and her children attend First Baptist Melbourne where she works on staff as Ministry Assistant to the Worship Pastor and is actively involved in the music department. Sara has taught private piano for over twenty years.

**Lisa J. Wilt** has been a private piano teacher for all ages for over 17 years. Since 2007, she has specialized in preschool piano which has inspired her to become the author of Piano Pals Program, a book designed for young musicians. In addition to piano, her background includes teaching elementary music for 18 years in Texas and Florida public and private schools. Also, she has taught preschool for 5 years in several local Christian schools. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education, with minors in organ and music theory from The University of Texas at Austin. She earned a Master of Music degree with an emphasis in Kodaly Pedagogy, solfege, and folk song analysis from Sam Houston State University in Texas. She is also certified in Orff Levels I- III from Jacksonville University and the First Steps in Music course. Lisa has a passion for teaching piano and loves to make learning meaningful through games, manipulatives, improvisation, and familiar pieces. Lisa is an active member of Coastline Community Church.

## Piano/Flute

**Linda Hill** received a Bachelor of Science in Music Performance from Radford University and a Master of Music Education from Florida State University. She taught beginning band for over 1 year and has taught private music lessons for 30 years. She has participated in the Space Coast Flute Choir, toured as a flutist with the Celebrant Singers, arranged Christian songs and performed for various churches under her Sounds of the Master's Flute ministry. She has been active in the music ministries of each church she has attended. Currently, at First Baptist Melbourne, she enjoys playing the flute in the Worship Orchestra.

## Violin

**Jenna Cobb** has been teaching violin privately for over 15 years. As a student, she was concertmistress of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra in Atlanta, and became assistant concertmistress of the Atlanta Chamber Orchestra serving for three years before relocating to Melbourne. Jenna is most passionate about playing sacred music in the church. She has involved herself in church orchestras and soloing since the age of 13. She is currently an active member of the Worship Orchestra at First Baptist Melbourne. Excellence and wholeheartedness in worship is one of her primary goals for her students.



## Violin

**Sarah Dowell** graduated with a B.M. in violin performance from Grand Valley State University, studying classical music under Dr. Gregory Maytan and Megan Crawford as well as jazz with Michael Drost. Prior to that she received training under Carla Trynchuk, graduate of the Juilliard School of Music. In 2015, Sarah placed first in GVSU's Concerto Competition, soloing the first movement of Jean Sibelius' Concerto in D minor. In 2016 and 2018, she premiered several new works composed for the GVSU New Music Ensemble National Parks Tours. Sarah served in the Battle Creek Symphony and Holland Symphony Orchestra. She currently shares music in a Christian duo called Living By The Stream. She attends First Baptist of Melbourne. Sarah has taught students at her home studio and at various academies. She knows how important it is to inspire and capture the interest of students. Thus, she incorporates classical, improvisation, fiddle, jazz, and other genres of interest to the aspiring student.

## Voice

**Sarah Benedick** is returning as a vocal instructor at Gateway Academy. She has over 15 years experience teaching students healthy vocal habits and helping them develop their God-given talent. Sarah developed a passion for singing at an early age, and often sang with her mother at church and other local events. Throughout her high school and college years she performed in musical theater productions, sang in choirs & vocal ensembles, and was active in her church music ministry. She studied Vocal Performance at Anderson University, Indiana, was a member of the AU Chorale, and was an understudy in the leading role of La Boheme. Sarah's desire is to use her gifts in the local church and beyond. She is a guest worship leader at various churches in the area, has performed in local community events, and was a member of the Indialantic Chamber Singers in Melbourne, FL. Sarah and her family are currently attending Central Life Church, where she serves as a keyboard player on the worship team.

## Gateway Academy Dance Instructors

### Dance Director

**Debra Gierling Poole** returned to Gateway in 2016 for Gateway's 10th Anniversary Season and is thrilled to be back as the Director of Gateway's Dance Academy. At the age of 12, Debra was offered full scholarships to train with the Bolshoi in Moscow, Russia and the Kirov in Washington, DC. Although she did not accept either of those engagements, she went on to pursue a professional career in dance as a performer, choreographer, teacher and coach. Debra has 25+ years of teaching experience and has spent even more years dancing. She is a graduate of Belhaven University, having obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ballet, Magna Cum Laude. She is the Founding Director of Cornerstone Dance, a non profit organization, which utilizes dance as a medium to serve, love and share the message of hope. Debra loves utilizing her gifts to minister within the church and beyond. She has been blessed to teach and perform all across the United States and throughout more than a dozen countries. As a performer, she has danced with East Coast Dance Theatre, Jacobs Pillow, Ballet Magnificat!, Belhaven Dance Ensemble, Phoenix Dance Theater, Polarity Dance Theatre, Doxa, Space Coast Ballet, Japan Mission, Glory Dance, Living Stones, Illume, International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem, Arrows International, Beijing International Christian Fellowship, Dánzale, Dawn Branch Works and many others. She has made eight trips to Israel to serve through dance with the International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem, but took a sabbatical to return as Director for Gateway Dance. Debra and her family attend church at First Baptist Church of Melbourne.

## **Beginning Combo / Pre-Ballet / Tap**

**Susan Baden** was raised in Brevard County Florida. She discovered a love of dance at an early age and had the privilege of receiving her dance training from Erika's School of Dance. Areas of study included ballet, modern, jazz, and tap under the instruction of Erika Rappa and Deborah Crisafulli. During her 18 years at Erika's School of Dance, she performed with their dance company in multiple productions including Coppelia and their annual production of The Nutcracker Ballet. Susan also has a background in musical theater and has performed in The King and I and Gypsy with the local community theater. Susan currently resides in Satellite Beach with her husband Patrick and her daughter Hadassah. She and her family attend East Coast Christian Center in Viera.

## **Ballet**

**Ann Bower** graduated from Melbourne High School in 1971 and took a job with Disney World, Orlando, dancing in the opening parade as a Tomorrowland dancer. Her serious ballet training was received while earning a BFA at the University of South Florida under the direction of Haydee Gutierrez and Royes Fernandez. In New York, studies continued with Richard Thomas and Barbara Phallis. Roles include Giselle, Les Sylphides, Paquita and Coppelia. Moving back to Melbourne, she opened *The Ballet School* and taught for 23 years. She has most recently taught for *The Dance Factory*. Ann attends Discovery Church in Orlando. She and her husband Doug, have three grown children, three beautiful granddaughters, and Sophie, their little miniature schnauzer.

## **Ballet / Jazz**

**Whitney Stites** graduated with her Associate in Arts degree from Eastern Florida State College in 2006, transferring to Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBA) to major in Dance Pedagogy. She graduated Cum Laude from PBA's School of Music and Fine Arts Department receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree with a minor in Exercise Science. Whitney also had the honor of being chosen as the Dance Department's Outstanding Graduate of 2009. One of her greatest achievements was auditioning for and receiving a role in the reconstruction of Merce Cunningham's Septet. Upon graduation, Whitney began teaching at Heather's Dance Studio. In the spring of 2012 Whitney was hired to teach the dance classes at Eastern Florida State College's Melbourne campus. Whitney is an American Ballet Theatre® Certified Teacher, who has successfully completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Primary through Level 3 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum. She also works with Project Dance, a not-for-profit organization which promotes change in our communities and inspires young dancers. Whitney hopes to continue working in the Central Florida area inspiring and educating the next generation of dancers. Whitney attends Calvary Chapel Melbourne.

## **Hip Hop**

**Nestor "Buyett" Funelas** moved to New York and Los Angeles, California from the small town of Palm Bay, FL for Music and Dance. While in New York and LA, he studied in critically acclaimed training facilities such as Broadway Dance Center, Steps on Broadway, Millennium Dance Complex, Movement Lifestyle, Debbie Reynolds, IDA (Hollywood) and Edge. He toured the country with All Access Productions after having attended the University of the Nations for a degree in theology and performing arts. After many years of teaching and performing throughout New York and Los Angeles, Nestor saw a need to break away from the traditional molds of the industry and musical theatre and merge his performing arts experiences with a message of hope and change for a new generation. In 2011, Nestor moved back to Brevard County where he developed and launched Sole180 Productions. Nestor attends church at The House.