

Unveiling Excellence: Exploring the Upper Scholars Academy at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School-Part I

In the realm of education, certain institutions shine brightly as beacons of high expectations and achievement, guiding and nurturing the bright minds of tomorrow. Among these, the Upper Scholars Academy at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School stands tall, offering a transformative educational journey for students seeking to unlock their full potential.

Situated at the intersection of academic rigor and holistic development, the Upper Scholars Academy at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School represents a sanctuary where intellect, creativity, and ambition converge to shape the leaders and innovators of the future.

A Haven for the Exceptional

At the heart of the Upper Scholars Academy lies a commitment to academic excellence and intellectual exploration. With a rigorous curriculum designed to challenge and inspire, students are encouraged to delve deep into subjects ranging from advanced mathematics and science to humanities and the arts.

The academy's faculty comprises a cadre of dedicated educators, scholars, and mentors who not only possess deep subject matter expertise but also share a profound passion for nurturing the talents and aspirations of their students. Through personalized attention and mentorship, faculty members foster an environment where intellectual curiosity thrives, empowering students to push the boundaries of their own potential.

A Holistic Approach to Education

Beyond academic pursuits, the Upper Scholars Academy recognizes the importance of holistic development. Through a rich tapestry of extracurricular activities, community service initiatives, and leadership opportunities, students are encouraged to cultivate a well-rounded skill set that extends beyond the confines of the classroom.

Whether through participation in pre-pro dance training, engagement in artistic endeavors, or involvement in community outreach programs, students are equipped with the tools and experiences necessary to become compassionate, socially responsible citizens poised to make a positive impact on the world.

A Culture of Excellence and Innovation

At the Upper Scholars Academy, excellence is not simply an aspiration—it is a way of life. The academy's vibrant learning community fosters a culture of innovation

and collaboration, where students are encouraged to think critically, communicate effectively, and embrace diversity of thought.

Through interdisciplinary projects, research opportunities, and collaborative ventures, students are empowered to tackle complex challenges, explore new frontiers, and pioneer groundbreaking solutions to real-world problems. In doing so, they not only expand the boundaries of human knowledge but also emerge as trailblazers in their respective fields.

A Gateway to Future Success

As students embark on their journey through the Upper Scholars Academy for the Gifted, they are not merely preparing for the challenges of today—they are laying the foundation for the triumphs of tomorrow. Armed with a world-class education, a global perspective, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, graduates of the academy are poised to chart their own path to success, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and determination to shape a brighter future for themselves and for generations to come.

In essence, the Upper Scholars Academy at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School represents more than just an educational institution—it is a beacon of hope, a catalyst for change, and a testament to the transformative power of education. As the world continues to evolve and embrace the promise of tomorrow, the academy stands as a steadfast guardian of knowledge, innovation, and human potential, illuminating the path forward for all who dare to dream.

[Learn more](#) about the program and tuition (click 'Apply Now' for information. Financial Aid may be available through Scholars Academy. For more information, please [inquire](#) with the director or reach out via email @ drlowder@scholarsacademy4thegifted.org.

Dr. Laura Lowder

Director & Curriculum Coordinator

K-12 AIG, K-12 Reading Specialist, Dyslexia Structured Reading Therapist (in progress)

National Board Teaching Licensure

Scholars Academy for the Gifted & Artistically Elite

Professor of Education, Pfeiffer University

Mom of 5 highly-gifted, twice-exceptional children, 4 who are thriving at SA4theGifted
& 1 who is thriving at UNC-Chapel Hill

The Academy Schedule: Exploring the Upper Scholars Academy at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School-Part II

"A Day in the Life at Upper Scholars Academy for the Gifted"

7 a.m.	<i>Rise and Shine</i> - As the sun gently peeks through the curtains, students at Upper Scholars Academy awaken to a new day of exploration, dancing, and learning. Some students may choose to begin their day with meditation to invigorate their minds and bodies.
8 a.m.	<i>Morning Level 8 class</i>
9:30 a.m.	<i>Transition to Academic Space on-site</i>
9:45 a.m.	<i>Interactive Live Class</i> - Students gather in their virtual classrooms for an engaging, live session with expert faculty members. Today's lesson might involve advanced mathematics, discussing complex theories in physics, or exploring the intricacies of literature. Class sizes are kept small to ensure personalized attention and foster dynamic discussions.
10:30 a.m.	<i>Interactive Live Class</i> - Students gather in their virtual classrooms for a second engaging, live session with expert faculty members. Today's lesson might involve advanced mathematics, discussing complex theories in physics, or exploring the intricacies of literature. Class sizes are kept small to ensure personalized attention and foster dynamic discussions.
11 a.m.	<i>Independent Classwork</i> - With textbooks and notebooks in hand, they retreat to their chosen study spot, whether a quiet corner of the porch or a cozy nook in the room. Within this fleeting hour, triumphs and challenges abound. Moments of clarity illuminate the path forward, while obstacles provide opportunities for sustained analysis and problem-solving. Yet, with each hurdle overcome, students emerge stronger and more resilient.
12 p.m.	<i>Lunch and Optional Student-led Clubs</i> - During the lunch break, students gather virtually to enjoy a nutritious meal and socialize with their peers. Afterward, they participate in student-led clubs and mentorship programs, where they collaborate on projects, engage in lively debates, and exchange ideas with like-minded individuals. From drawing club to yearbook, leadership, and graduation planning committees, there's a diverse array of extracurricular activities to suit every passion and talent.

1 p.m.	<i>Self-Paced Study and Acceleration</i> - After lunch, students have dedicated time for self-paced study and acceleration. They dive into their textbooks, online resources, and research materials, exploring subjects that pique their curiosity and challenge their intellect. Whether delving into college-level science, composing poetry, or mastering a new language, students have the flexibility to tailor their learning experiences according to their interests and abilities. <i>Optional 1:1 Instruction (scheduled individually)</i> - For students seeking additional support or guidance in specific areas, optional 1:1 instruction sessions are available with expert faculty members. Whether struggling with a challenging concept or eager to explore a niche subject in greater depth, these personalized sessions offer tailored assistance and encouragement, empowering students to reach their full potential. Many students add 1:1 instruction for their math classes so that they have “just-right” support combined with the ability to accelerate forward at exactly their own pace.
2:30 p.m.	<i>Transition to Warm Up for afternoon Level 8 classes</i> - As the official classes come to a close, students have the opportunity to pursue their passions and interests in the studio for course credit to inspire creativity and innovation.
3 p.m.	<i>Afternoon Level 8 classes</i>
6 p.m.	<i>Reflection and Relaxation</i> - As the day draws to a close, students take time to reflect on their achievements and experiences. They journal about their insights, challenges, and aspirations, cultivating a sense of self-awareness and gratitude. Some may unwind with a leisurely walk, while others immerse themselves in a captivating book or engage in stimulating conversations with friends and mentors. Most importantly, students end their dance/school day with a goal of NO HOMEWORK. Scholars Academy prioritizes quality over quantity and works hard to ensure that school work fits within the regular school day so that our students can find balance in their lives of peers, self, and family during the evenings and on weekends. <i>After Dance: Rest and Rejuvenation</i> - With the day's endeavors behind them, students prepare for a restful night's sleep, knowing that tomorrow holds endless possibilities for growth and discovery. As they drift off to sleep, their minds brim with excitement and anticipation for the adventures that await at Upper Scholars Academy at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School.