



www.silambamhouston.org

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Student Handbook 2018-2019

About Silambam

Silambam Houston is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt arts organization and a premier Indian classical arts school in the Houston area, with classes offered in Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, and Carnatic music (vocal and violin). Silambam aims not only to impart arts education, but also to turn out well-rounded, artistically sensitive and culturally refined individuals. Students receive a holistic education, which includes firm grounding in arts theory and cultural history, basic Indian classical music instruction, fitness and body conditioning, and rigorous fundamental training and technique refinement. Much emphasis is placed on mental and physical discipline, and on the importance of practice, passion, dedication, and perseverance. Senior dance students and graduates of Silambam Houston Arts Academy are eligible to audition for the Silambam Houston Dance Company, a professional dance company that regularly creates and performs original productions at high-profile venues and events throughout Houston, most recently at the Miller Outdoor Theater in June 2018.

Policies

1. **Attendance:** Attendance at every class is compulsory, except in the case of extenuating circumstances (this does not include birthday parties, weddings, or play dates!). Your musician or dancer will progress fastest when classes are attended with regularity.
2. **Make-up classes:** If absence is foreseen but unavoidable, please call ahead to inform the teacher. Classes missed *due to illness or extenuating circumstances only*

can be made up if informed in advance, at a mutually convenient time. Missed classes should be made up within a month.

3. **Punctuality:** At Silambam, we teach the importance of punctuality. Please come to class ON TIME, preferably five minutes ahead of time. Each class will begin and end on time.
4. **Attendance at Performances:** Observing good dancing is an integral part of your dancer's education. Please make every effort to attend as many performances by local and visiting artistes as possible. Attendance is mandatory at one performance in the Fall and one performance in the Spring semesters. A brief written report, signed by a performance organizer, participant, or Silambam instructor present at the performance, must be turned in for each performance attended. A list of performances to choose from will be supplied at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters. Failure to attend may result in the student being barred from the Annual Recital.
5. **Dance attire:** Every student must wear black ankle-length stretch tights, comfortable enough to dance in, and a cotton, short-sleeved (no long or puff-sleeves) *kurta/kameez*. A cotton (not synthetic material) *dupatta/angavastram* must be brought to tie around the waist. Older students must wear a dance saree tied over a *salwar* or black tights. Please wear a *bindi* unless you have religious/cultural reasons not to.
6. **Hair style:** Loose hair (short or long) bothers and distracts the dancer; hair must be pulled back neatly from the face, short hair pinned back, long hair in a ponytail or braid. Bangs, if any, must be pinned back.
7. **Practices:** Every student is required to practice at least two times a week, 30 minutes each. A log of practices must be kept, noting the date and duration of practice and adavus/items practiced. This must be brought to each class.

8. **Binder:** All students will be given a 3-ring binder, and are required to bring this to each class. Practice logsheets, class notes, homework assignments, research papers, performance reports, and reading material are all required to be filed in this binder.
9. **Observing classes:** Parents are requested not to sit in on classes. This is typically distracting to the students and to the instructor. Parents may sit in on one class every two to three months; this should be arranged in advance.
10. **Website:** The Silambam website is intended as a resource for students and parents. It contains information on the school, policies, class schedules, and upcoming cultural events in Houston. The web address is www.silambamhouston.org
11. **Class notes and resources:** Class notes, audio recordings, dance theory notes, etc. can be found on the Student Portal at <http://silambamhouston.org/Home/student-portal.html>. Please contact your teacher for access to this resource, which is available to registered students only.
12. **Recital:** We typically present a low-pressure student showcase at the end of each year. Parents will be also able to watch their children perform at the Navratri/Dussehra open house; see below.
13. **Open House:** Every year during Navratri/Dussehra, an annual open house will be held. Parents, family and friends are welcome to this event. This is your opportunity to see your dancer's progress, as well as interact with the teachers. This will be during class time on Friday October 19, and Saturday October 20, 2018.
14. **Performance Policy:** Students who have reached the Advanced 1 level will receive their *salangai* (bells) and will be trained to perform at a group event called the *salangai pujai*. However, to conform to established standards, the time to *arangetram* (solo stage debut) will be at least 7-8 years, and will depend on the ability and quality of the student. *Arangetram*-track and post-*arangetram* students will be offered various performing opportunities at cultural events through the year. If you want quick results and/or frequent performing opportunities during the learning stages, this is not the right school!

15. **Curriculum:** Silambam follows a comprehensive syllabus, for each artistic discipline offered. Please refer to our website for more details.

16. **Fees:** Tuition may be paid via recurring automatic monthly payments, or in a single annual payment. Recurring payments will be processed on the 5th of each month. Any changes or cancellations to recurring payments must be communicated by the 20th of the previous month. The fee structure is as follows:

a) Registration Fee: An annual registration fee of \$25 is due on registration each year; this covers administrative expenses.

b) Tuition: Our tuition is based on an eleven-month dance year. Students who pay annually receive one month free. A 5% discount is available for siblings. All students must be registered with Silambam and have paid the annual registration fee of \$25 (this fee is not included in the fee schedule below). We are not set up for drop-in and pay-by-the-lesson students.

Bharatanatyam + Music	Monthly Autopay Aug-Jun	Annual 1 payment in Aug	Music only*	Monthly Autopay Aug-Jun	Annual 1 payment in Aug
<i>PreNatyam</i>	\$65	\$650	<i>30 min /week</i>	\$40	\$400
<i>Beginner</i>	\$80	\$800	<i>60 min /week</i>	\$70	\$700
<i>Intermediate</i>	\$85	\$850	<i>Private lesson</i>	\$25 per hour	
<i>Advanced</i>	\$90	\$900	<i>Kathak or Kuchipudi</i>	Monthly	Annual
<i>Post-Arangetram</i>	\$95*	\$950*	<i>Beginner</i>	\$75	\$700
<i>Private lessons</i>	\$60 per hour		<i>Intermediate</i>	\$80	\$750
			<i>Advanced</i>	\$85	\$850
<i>All Silambam Bharatanatyam students receive Carnatic music lessons (required as part of our curriculum) at no additional cost.</i>			<i>*Post-arangetram students can serve as student instructors for the younger classes, and receive a discount on tuition. Please contact Mrs. Krithika Mohankumar to apply to the Student Instructor program.</i>		

17. **Class Schedule:** Our schedule of classes for both locations is on our website at <http://www.silambamhouston.org/Home/schedule.html>

18. Important dates and holidays:

<i>August 10, 2018</i>	First day of class for dance year 2017-2018
<i>August 31/ September 1, 2018</i>	Classes held as usual (Labor Day weekend)
October 19/20, 2018	Navratri/Vijayadasami Open House
<i>November 23/24, 2018</i>	Thanksgiving weekend; no classes (potential makeup days)
<i>December 21/22, 2018</i>	Winter break; no classes
<i>December 28/29, 2018</i>	Winter break; no classes (potential makeup days)
<i>March 15/16, 2019</i>	Spring break; no classes (potential makeup days)
<i>May 24/25, 2019</i>	Classes held as usual (Memorial Day Weekend)
<i>June 21/22, 2019</i>	Last class days for dance year 2018-19.
<i>June 23, 2019</i>	Student Showcase

Contact information:

Email or Remind messaging is the best way to reach us! We request you to refrain from using text, Facebook, or Whatsapp messages to contact faculty, staff, or Board members to discuss official Silambam business. Please use Remind messages or the following email addresses instead.

For enquiries relating to curriculum, class notes etc.

Lavanya Rajagopalan: lavanya@silambamhouston.org

Krithika Mohan: krithika@silambamhouston.org

Raji Natarajan: raji@silambamhouston.org

Anusha Venkatramani: anusha@silambamhouston.org

Kalpana Subbarao: kalpana@silambamhouston.org

Nithya Sherman: nithya@silambamhouston.org

Nilamani Venisetty: nilamani@silambamhouston.org

General enquiries, tuition, registration etc: admin@silambamhouston.org

For questions relating to governance: board@silambamhouston.org