

Meet The Teacher

Jennifer Skiby Plunkett

My Students Call Me - Miss Jennifer or Skiby

My name is Miss Jennifer, though most people know me as “Skiby.” I’m the Dance Director here at ADW and also spend time in the classroom each week, teaching and rehearsing with our amazing students.

I grew up dancing right here at Dancer’s Workshop and discovered my love for dance at a very young age. I went on to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where I earned a BA in Communications with a minor in Dance. While in Las Vegas, I danced as a cheerleader for the Las Vegas Locomotives, a United Football League team.

After college, I danced professionally for Carnival Cruise Lines, completing two contracts and serving as Assistant Dance Captain for one. Following my return to Bakersfield and recovery from a knee injury, I was thrilled to come back to ADW as an instructor and then take over as Director! I also spent seven years working with Spotlight Dance Cup as a Show Director and Event Manager.

Today, I have a family of my own and feel incredibly lucky to share my passion for dance with the next generation of dancers at ADW!

Favorite Style of Dance:

My favorite styles to teach are Ballet & Musical Theatre, though my first loves were Jazz & Tap :)

My Favs:

Color - Yellow
Anything Disney
Daisies
Working Out
Sour Candy
Chocolate Chip Cookies
Coffee & Diet Coke



Meet The Teacher

Kalayna Olson

My Students Call Me - Miss Kalayna

Hey there! My name is Kalayna Olson and I am so excited to be back for another amazing season of dance! This will be my fifth year teaching at American Dancers Workshop and I have high hopes that it'll be the best one yet!

I trained in various styles at my hometown's dance studio, originally Whitman Dance Studio turned into Danica's School of Dance, for 9 years. I attended ADW's summer programs for a couple of years before I made the official switch in 2021 and finished out my dance training through my senior year. I started teaching in the summer of 2022 and have loved every minute of it! I love to see my students grow and see their hard work pay off in the end. I especially am grateful for the bonds I build with them. I always want to make sure the classroom is a space where they feel safe, comfortable, and excited to learn! I have also loved being a part of our Adult Dance Staff and continuing to grow my love for dance now as an adult!

Outside of the studio, I'm finishing my Associates Degree in Theatre Arts over at Bakersfield College to help reach my goal of becoming a drama teacher. I have continued to perform not only dance, but singing and acting as well, in plays at local theatres around town, especially at my favorite, The Ovation Theatre. I have also started choreographing for shows and working behind the scenes, and I'm loving learning all the ins and outs the theatre world has to offer!!

Favorite Style of Dance:

My favorite styles to teach/dance are Musical Theatre & Tap, but I really have grown to love every style!

My Favs:

Colors - All Pastels
Anything Disney
Lilies
Live Theatre
Sour Candy
Diet Coke, Coffee & Tea
The Beach



Meet The Teacher Emma Richmond

My Students Call Me - Miss Emma

My name is Emma Richmond, to my students Miss Emma! This will be my third year teaching here at American and I'm so excited to be working with your kiddos!!

American Dancers Workshop, ADW, has been my second home since the age of 3, when I began my dance journey. Ever since, I have been dancing here at American and couldn't be happier to now be teaching kids just starting their dance journeys as I did nearly 15 years ago. I am also starting my 6th season on the ADW Competition Dance Team and couldn't be happier for another year to do what I love with my my teammates that I also call my sisters. I am so excited to continue sharing my passion for dance with the next generation of tiny dancers!!

Outside of the studio, I am a senior at Frontier High School where I am a varsity cheerleader and an active participant in student council and Link Crew! I am so blessed to also have two nephews and a niece of my own from which my original love of kids originated! After this year, I do plan to attend a four year college majoring in child development and education!! I'm so excited to begin this year and season of dance as I'm sure it will be absolutely amazing!!

Favorite Style of Dance:

My favorite styles of dance to teach are Ballet, Tap, & Hip Hop! However, my favorites to dance are Musical Theatre, Lyrical, & Ballet!!

My Favs:

Colors - Pink
Daisies & Roses
Reading
Sour Candy
Diet Coke



Meet The Teacher Brenlea Smith

My Students Call Me - Miss Brenlea

I grew up dancing at Dancers Workshop where I started because the owner, Cathy Correa, was my grandma's best friend. I quickly fell in love with dancing, even though it took my feet a while to catch up to my heart and brain. I first taught my own classes at 16 and have loved getting to nurture life long relationships with my students and watching them grow into young adults. I have a beautiful, hilarious daughter that shares my love of dance and I love getting to watch her learn and grow from the best teachers around!

Favorite Style of Dance:

My favorite styles of dance are Tap & Jazz. Tap has always been my #1 favorite to do, while jazz choreography is my favorite to teach.

My Favs:

Color - Green & Orange
I Love Coffee
Reading & Learning about
History!



Meet The Teacher

Lily Garza

My Students Call Me - Miss Lily

Hi, I'm Lily (or as my students call me, Ms. Lily)!

Fun fact: My sister, Miss Bella, also works here! I've been a dance instructor at American Kids for over three years!

I started dancing at the age of 3 at American Kids and began competitive dance when I was 8. While I took a break from dance at 16 to focus on color guard at my school, I've always stayed involved by teaching! I'm now 19 years old and a sophomore at Bakersfield College, majoring in Elementary Education. My goal is to transfer to Cal State Bakersfield for my junior and senior years. After college, I plan to become an elementary school teacher. But in the meantime I will be continuing my passion for teaching through American Kids.

Favorite Style of Dance:

Jazz & Hip Hop are my absolute favorites to teach!

My Favs:

Colors - Purple & Pink

Flower - Lilies

Season - Summer

Treats - Chocolate, Candy, & Energy Drinks



Meet The Teacher

Bella Garza

My Students Call Me - Miss Bella

My name is Bella Garza, and I am a dance instructor here at ADW. My love for dance began at the age of four, right here at ADW. While taking classes over the years, I joined our competition team at age 11 and competed until my senior year of high school at age 17. In addition to taking classes, competing, and finishing school online, I began teaching at the age of 15 in 2019.

After graduating from high school, I continued to teach and dance recreationally while attending cosmetology school. After earning my license, I began working behind the chair at Society Strands as a co-stylist.

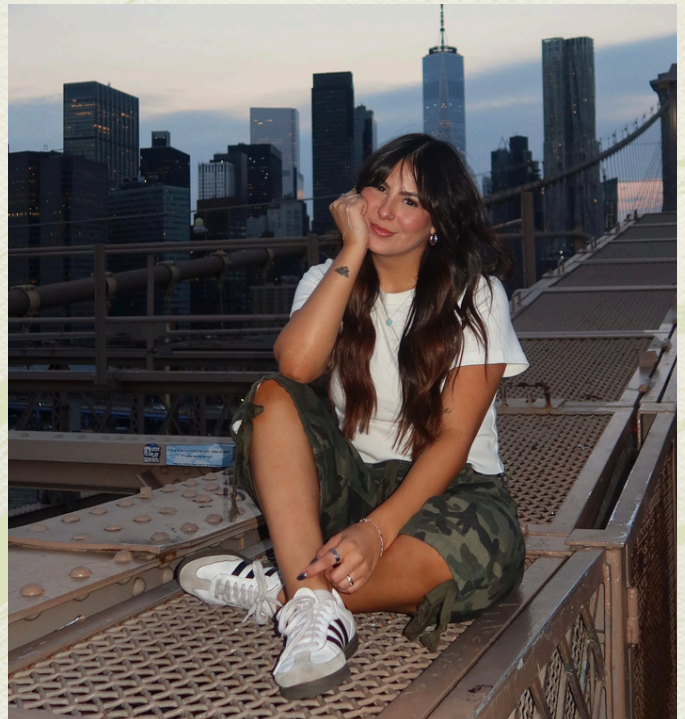
These days, you'll find me at the dance studio two days a week, primarily teaching Pre-K in the morning and hip-hop classes in the afternoon. When I'm not at the studio, I work at the salon three days a week and stay busy on weekends spending time with family and friends—and resetting for the week ahead.

Favorite Style of Dance:

My favorite style is Hip Hop, but I truly love every style!

My Favs:

Colors - Green & Pink
Anything Girly
Sephora
Target
Hair Accessories
Coffee Shops
Blankets
Candles



Meet The Teacher Breanne Bottoms

My Students Call Me - Miss Brea

Hi, I'm Miss Brea! I've been dancing at American Dancers Workshop since I was 2 years old, and I'm still training and performing here today. I'm also on the ADW dance team, which has been a huge part of my life for the past 11 years.

This is my third year teaching at the studio, and I've really grown to love being on the other side of the classroom. Getting to help younger dancers improve and watching their progress each week is one of the best parts of my job. I also really value the relationships I build with my students, it's rewarding to be part of their dance journey and help them grow. I'm excited to keep learning, teaching, and being part of the ADW family!

Favorite Style of Dance:

My favorite style to teach is Ballet, but my favorite styles to dance are Lyrical & Ballet.

My Favs:

Colors - Pink
Cheeto Puffs
Twix
Wake Surfing
Dr. Pepper
Dutch Bros
Skiing
Disney/Marvel
Coffee



Meet The Teacher Lauren Jackson

My Students Call Me - Miss Lauren

I began dancing when I was 2 years old. I danced at a studio in Tehachapi, CA, and at Civic Dance Center in High School. I attended Chapman University in Orange, CA, for my B.A. in Dance. While in college I was able to study under professional dancers and choreographers in ballet, jazz, modern, and tap. After college, I moved home to start a family. I taught dance at Dancers Turnout Academy for 6 years. I have been teaching at ADW for 6 years this fall.

When I am not teaching dance, I homeschool my three girls or watch them dance here at ADW. I also like to join the ADW Adult Dance classes on Saturdays.

Favorite Style of Dance:

I have always loved Ballet, and now I love to teach Ballet!

My Favs:

Colors - Teal
Candy/Chocolate
Snacks
Cookies
Homemade Bread



Meet The Teacher

Jane Lee Chung

My Students Call Me - Miss Jane

My name is Jane Chung, and I've been immersed in the world of dance for over 30 years, with more than 15 years of teaching experience. My early competitive career led to titles such as Miss Dance Educators of America and Miss Teen Dance USA in the early 2000s. After high school, I spent a decade in Los Angeles coaching and adjudicating for Sharp International and Next Level Dance.

Following an achilles injury, I returned home and opened The Beat Dance Complex, where I continued to teach and share my passion. After the birth of my first child, I stepped away from business ownership to focus on motherhood and returned to school to pursue my BA and MA in English, aiming to teach literature and writing at the college level. In 2018, I joined American Dancers Workshop as an instructor and marketing team member. After a brief pause during the pandemic, I'm thrilled to be back teaching at ADW and continuing to nurture these young and talented dancers.

Favorite Style of Dance:

I love to teach Skills & Technique, including Ballet & Jazz. I also love Contemporary & Musical Theatre.

My Favs:

Colors - Purples & Anything Bright/Neon
Animals - Foxes & Wolves
Subjects - Reading (Fantasy Fiction & Classics) and Writing
Treats - Chocolate & Toffee
Hobbies - Gaming
All things Retro & Vintage!



Meet The Teacher **Alissa Garza**

My Students Call Me - Miss Alissa

My name is Miss Alissa Garza, and I've been a part of the competition dance world since the age of 5 right here in Bakersfield. I started competing at age 6 and I completed my dance career at Precision Dance Center in Delano, when I was 18 years old.

After high school, I attended California State University, Bakersfield, where I earned my degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. Outside of college I discovered my love for teaching dance. I joined the ADW family almost 10 years ago, and since then, I've been proud to help grow our lyrical program. What began as a small part of the studio has now become a standout department, consistently earning high point overall awards at competitions—and even winning our first national title in 2018!

By day, I work full-time as a Project Coordinator for KSI Engineering, and by night, I'm back in the studio doing what I love. Teaching dance is not a job to me, but a passion. I feel so lucky to share that passion with our amazing students and to help them build confidence, technique, and discipline through dance.

Favorite Style of Dance:

Lyrical!

My Favs:

My Two Cats
Working Out
Food
Shopping



Meet The Teacher **Alyssa Pfeiffer**

My Students Call Me - Miss Alyssa

My name is Alyssa Pfeiffer, and I'm so excited to be a part of the ADW family —this time as a teacher!

I grew up dancing at ADW and trained here for over 13 years. I

was a proud member of the competition team for 7 of those years, where I gained not only valuable dance experience but also lifelong memories and friendships.

During high school, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the Radio City Rockettes Summer Intensive in New York City, which was an unforgettable experience that further fueled my love for dance. After graduating, I continued my performance journey by cheering for two years at Bakersfield College while pursuing my education.

I'm currently completing my externship in Cardiovascular Sonography, and while my studies keep me busy, I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to share my lifelong passion for dance with the next generation of dancers.

Favorite Style of Dance:

My favorite styles to teach are Lyrical & Jazz!

My Favs:

Color - Green & Teal

Candles

Pepsi

Dutch Bros

Snowboarding

My Dogs



Meet The Teacher

Kate Baker

My Students Call Me - Miss Kate

My name is Kate Baker, and I have been a part of the dance world since I was 5 years old. I danced competitively until the age of 15 and was a member of my high school's dance team for 3 years. Soccer is actually what got me into dance! I would ask to play goalie on my peewee soccer team just so I could watch the dance class going on next door! When I joined the ADW family in January 2025, I knew I had found a new family that was going to hold a special place in my heart forever!

In 2025, I graduated from Liberty High School. I was a proud member of Link Crew, Student Leadership, and the dance team. I met some of my best friends at Liberty! I currently attend Bakersfield College and am about to start my second year there. My major is undecided as of right now, but I hope to work somewhere in the medical field!

Outside of the studio, I love hanging out with my friends and family and playing with my dachshund puppy, Willie! He is my tiny best friend and has taken over my whole heart! I love baking (which is ironic because of my last name!), reading, and watching my favorite show, Grey's Anatomy. I grew up watching Dancing With the Stars and So You Think You Can Dance with my mom and Nana, which obviously made me love dance even more!

My goal is to create a safe and inspiring environment for my students. The best part of being a teacher is seeing my students get better every day and seeing the joy on their faces when they get a new trick! I am new to ADW this year, and I couldn't be more excited to share my love of dance with others!

Favorite Style of Dance:

My favorite styles of dance are Jazz & Lyrical!! While I love performing Lyrical, I love teaching Jazz choreography more!

My Favs:

Color - Dark Blue & Green

Daisies

My Puppy Willie

Candles

Dutch Bros

Lake Days

Hot Dogs (Especially Bacon Wrapped!)



Meet The Teacher

Gigi Hutchison

My Students Call Me - Miss Gigi

My name is Gigi Hutchison, I have been dancing at ADW since I was 2 years old, and this will be my 4th season on the competition team. Dance has always been such a big part of my life and I am so grateful for all it has given me! I am so excited to get to share my love of dance with my students and help grow their passion for dance!

Outside of dance, I am a Junior at Bakersfield Christian High School. I am on the varsity cheer team and student council.

I love being involved with everything at school. I also love spending time with my family and friends. In my spare time, the beach is one of my favorite places to relax. I also love baking cookies and testing new recipes!

Favorite Style of Dance:

Lyrical & Tap

My Favs:

Color - Pink
Coffee
The Beach
Hibiscus Flowers
Polka Dots
Shoes
Pickles



Meet The Teacher Elynn Eldridge

My Students Call Me - Miss Elynn

My name is Elynn, and I am excited to begin my first year teaching at American Dancers Workshop! I have been dancing at ADW for the past eight years and have loved being part of the studio community. I am currently a member of the competition team and have been competing for the past four years. Dance has always been a passion of mine, and I am excited to share that passion with my students.

One of the most rewarding parts of teaching is watching dancers grow in both their skills and confidence. Growing up at ADW, I was fortunate to have teachers who created a positive and encouraging environment, and my goal is to provide that same experience for every student. I strive to help each dancer reach their full potential while making sure they feel supported, valued, and excited to come to class. Outside of the studio, I am a sophomore at Centennial High School and have been involved in ASB since my freshman year. I also enjoy volunteering at my church, where I discovered a love for working with children through Vacation Bible School. I am excited for a great season and look forward to working with all of the amazing dancers and families at ADW!

Favorite Style of Dance:

I love all styles of dance, but Jazz & Lyrical have always been my favorites!

My Favs:

Color - Purple
Working Out
Being with Family & Friends
Baking
Reading
Sephora
Dutch Bros



Meet The Teacher

Chloe Stueve

My Students Call Me - Miss Chloe

Hi! My name is Chloe, I am 20 years old, and I am so excited to be joining the ADW family for my first year of teaching!

I began dancing at just two years old and grew up training in both Bakersfield and Valencia, California. Throughout my dance journey, I was incredibly fortunate to learn from many talented instructors and compete on several competitive dance teams. Along the way, I received numerous scholarships and awards, which gave me the opportunity to train with inspiring mentors who each helped shape me into the dancer I am today.

I've always loved working with children, especially growing up surrounded by so many younger cousins. I'm currently studying in college to become an elementary school teacher, and I have a true passion for helping young students build confidence, learn new skills, and discover a love for dance just as I did.

When I'm not in the studio, I enjoy spending time with my husband, family, and friends. I also love reading, watching movies, visiting Disneyland, and traveling. I can't wait to meet all of our dancers and be a part of their dance journey this season!

Favorite Style of Dance:

My favorite styles to teach are Ballet & Technique. Throughout my dance training, I was often told that I was a very technical dancer, so strong technique has always been a priority and a passion of mine. I especially love working on turns, jumps, and flexibility—they've always had my heart! As a performer, Jazz was my favorite style to compete in, but I also loved dancing Lyrical. I'm excited to help my students build a strong technical foundation while developing a love for every style of dance.

My Favs:

Color - Pink & Light Blue
Working Out
Reading
Concerts
Dirty Soda
Chocolate Chip Cookies
Puppies



Meet The Teacher Peyton Jackson

My Students Call Me - Miss Peyton

I initially started dancing when I was 2 years old at another studio.

After about 5 years of training there, I took a break for a little while. I eventually started dancing again here at ADW and this will be my sixth year with this amazing dance family! Outside of the studio, I am a dedicated member of my school's ASB team where I have been elected at yearbook executive, president, and this year as a 12th grade representative. I've also volunteered with many Kern dance alliance programs and I'm always excited to participate in other dance opportunities in my community! After I graduate high school this year I'm going to save until I can move to go dance in orange county at OCC's dance department. This will be my first full year of teaching my own dance classes although I have been working at AKSC for over 2 years and have been on dance staff since last October.

Favorite Style of Dance:

I enjoy dancing Ballet/Pointe and surprisingly Hip Hop. I have enjoyed teaching Ballet and Jazz this past summer!

My Favs:

Color - Pink

Making My Own Coffee At Home

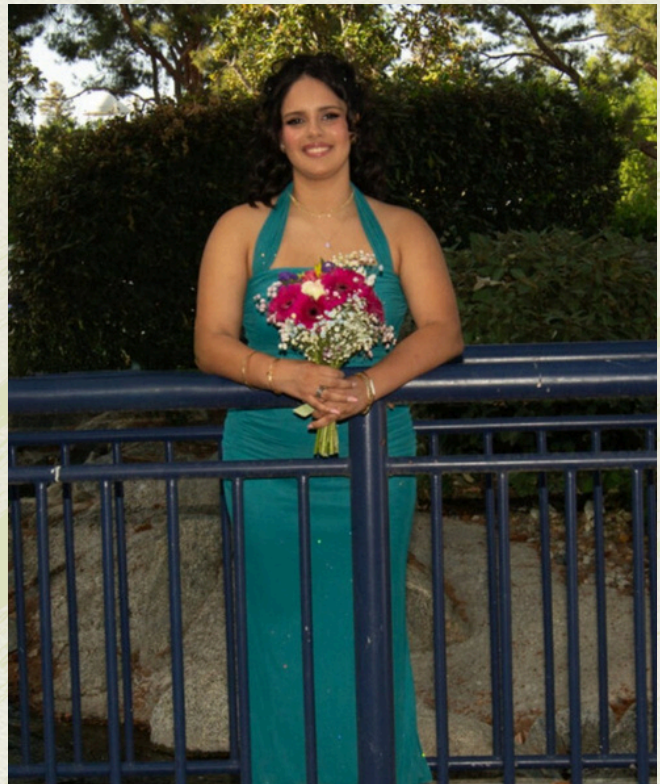
Finding New "Healthy" Energy Drinks

Going To See Local Bands & Concerts

Eating Del Taco

Dressing Up Fancy For Fun Events

Halloween Costumes



Meet The Teacher Kaitlyn Spriet

My Students Call Me - Miss Kaitlyn

Hi! I'm Miss Kaitlyn! I am 14, almost 15 years old (In October), and this is my first year teaching! I started dancing when I was 2 years old and I have been at American Dancers Workshop since I was 4. I joined the ADW competition team in 2023 making this my 4th year competing! This fall I'll be attending Liberty High School as a freshman, and I'm excited to continue growing both as a student and a dancer, and now a teacher too! I can't wait to share my love for dance with each of my students by creating a fun, positive, and encouraging environment where they can build confidence, learn new skills, and enjoy every class. I'm so excited to be part of the ADW teaching staff and help inspire the next generation of dancers!

Favorite Style of Dance:

I love every style, but my favorites are
Musical Theatre & Jazz!

My Favs:

Color - Blue
Lilies
Dr. Pepper
My Family
My Friends
Disney
My Dog
Dutch Bros



Meet The Teacher Hannah Richert

My Students Call Me - Miss Hannah



I'm a Bakersfield native and high school Social Studies Teacher with 12 years experience in the classroom. Before my career as a school teacher, I was a dancer and dance teacher. I started dancing at Dancers' Workshop with Cathy Correa at age 6. I began working as Cathy's assistant at 14 and was teaching my own classes by 15. I continued to train and teach with Cathy as she transitioned the studio to American Kids' Sports Center but eventually left when I moved away to attend San Francisco State at age 20. In San Francisco, I taught recreational dance classes in the Student Rec. Center and took classes at ODC Dance Commons in the Mission. When I returned home after graduation, I taught pointe classes at ADW for a couple of years until I had my first child. After becoming a mom, I took a break from dance and earned MAs in Teaching and American History. When the ADW Adult Dance Program began, I was nervous to take classes again after such a long time. But it has brought me so much joy to reconnect with dance and remember this part of myself. I also started teaching classes in the adult program this year. It has been so fun to help other former dancers reconnect with dance, and an even cooler experience to teach adults taking their very first dance classes ever!

Now I'm excited to return to the youth dance program at ADW and teach ballet and tap to my own daughter, Phoebe, and her friends. I can't wait to see how they learn and grow this year.

Favorite Style of Dance:

Tap & Ballet!

My Favs:

Coffee

Reading

Camping

Traveling

Discussing History & Politics

