

# Meet the Teacher Jennifer SKIBY PLUNKETT

**My Students Call Me: Miss Jennifer  
or Skiby**



## **Favorites:**

Color: Yellow  
Anything Disney  
Daisies  
Working Out  
Sour Candy  
Chocolate Chip Cookies  
Coffee

## **Favorite Style of Dance:**

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

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!

# Meet the Teacher Kalayna OLSON

**My Students Call Me: Miss Kalayna**



## **Favorites:**

Color: Blue  
Disney  
Starbucks/Dutch Bros  
Reese's  
Dr Pepper  
Anything Cozy!

## **Favorite Style of Dance:**

My favorite styles to dance/teach are Tap & Musical Theatre!

**I began dancing at the age of 6 at Whitman Dance Studio. After a few short years, ownership switched over and the studio became Danica's School of Dance. I trained there for 9 years in recreational and competitive dance. I starting attending ADW for summer dance in 2019 and made the official switch in the summer of 2021. I started teaching in 2022 and have loved getting to make an impact on my students and enjoy getting to see their growth.**

**Although i'm no longer dancing recreationally/competitively, I still continue performing in community theatre productions around town!**

# Meet the Teacher

## Lauren Jackson

My Students Call Me: Miss Lauren



### **Favorites:**

Color: Teal  
Chocolate Everything!

### **Favorite Style of Dance:**

I have always loved ballet and now I love to teach ballet.

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 5 years this fall.

When I am not teaching dance, I homeschool my three girls or watch them dance here at ADW.

Meet the Teacher

**BrenLea SMITH**

**My Students Call Me: Miss Brenlea**



**Favorites:**

Color: Green & Orange

I love coffee

Reading & Learning about  
history!

**Favorite Style of Dance:**

My favorite styles of dance are tap and jazz. Tap has always been my number one favorite to do, while jazz choreography is my favorite to teach.

I grew up dancing at Dancers Workshop where I started because the owner, Cathy Correa was my grandmas best friend. I quickly fell in love with dancing even though it took my feet awhile to catch up to my heart and brain. I first taught my own classes at 16 and love 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.



# Meet the Teacher

## Bella Garza

**My Students Call Me: Miss Bella**



### **Favorites:**

Color: Green & Pink  
Anything Girly  
Sephora  
Target  
Hair Accessories  
Coffee Shops  
Blankets  
Candles

### **Favorite Style of Dance:**

My favorite style is Hip-hop, but I truly love every style.

**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.**

# Meet the Teacher

## Lily Garza

**My Students Call Me: Miss Lily**



### **Favorites:**

Color: Purple & Pink

Flower: Lilies

Season: Summer

Treats: Chocolate, Candy, and  
Energy Drinks

### **Favorite Style of Dance:**

Jazz and Hip-hop  
are my absolute  
favorites to teach!

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

**Fun fact: My sister, Ms. Bella, also works here! I've been a dance instructor at American Kids for almost three years now.!**

**I started dancing at the age of 3 at American Kids and began competitive dancing 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 in teaching! I returned to recreational dance in the spring of my sophomore year, but unfortunately couldn't continue into my senior year due to an injury.**

**I'm now 18 years old and a freshman 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.**

# Meet the Teacher Jane Lee Chung

My Students Call Me: Miss Jane



## **Favorites:**

Color: Purples, but also anything bright or neon :D

Animals: Foxes and Wolves

Subjects: Reading (Fantasy fiction and classics) and Writing

Treats: Chocolate and Toffee

Hobbies: Gaming

I also just love all things retro and vintage

## **Favorite Style of Dance:**

I love to teach Skills and technique, including ballet and jazz. I also love contemporary and musical theatre.

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.



# Meet the Teacher **ALISSA Garza**

**My Students Call Me: Miss Alissa**



## **Favorites:**

My Two Cats  
Working Out  
Food  
Shopping

## **Favorite Style of Dance:**

Lyrical!

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.



# 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 two 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 10 years.**

**This is my second 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've built 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!**

## **Favorites:**

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

## **Favorite Style of Dance:**

My favorite style to teach is ballet, but my favorite styles to dance are lyrical and ballet.

# Meet the Teacher

## Emma RICHMOND

### My Students Call Me: Miss Emma



#### **Favorites:**

Color: Pink  
Daisies and Roses  
Reading  
Sour Candy  
Diet Coke

#### **Favorite Style of Dance:**

My favorites styles of dance to teach are ballet, tap, and hiphop! However, my favorites to dance are musical theater, lyrical, and ballet!!

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

American Dancers Workshop, ADW, has been second home since I first started dancing at the age of 3. I have been dancing ever since that day when I instantly fell in love with dance and pursued it as my passion!! I have also been on the competition team here at American for a number of years now where I have experienced some amazing wins and am so grateful to have gained sisters for life from my teammates! 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 junior at Frontier High School where I am a varsity cheerleader and an active participant in student council and my community service club Interact!! I am so blessed to also have two nephews and a niece of my own from which my original love of kids originated!

I'm so excited to begin this year and season of dance as I'm sure it will be absolutely amazing!!

# Meet the Teacher

## SOPHIA ACOSTA

My Students Call Me: Miss Sophia



### **Favorites:**

Color: Green

Strawberry Acai Lemonade

90's Rock

Traveling

### **Favorite Style of Dance:**

Hip Hop!

My name is Sophia Acosta, and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as your child's dance teacher. At 18 years old, I've had the privilege of participating in six leadership programs during my high school years, including Link Crew, Leaders in Life, and Kern County Student Leadership. These experiences have not only honed my leadership skills but also deepened my passion for guiding others. Go class of 25'!

Dance has always been a significant part of my life, and I believe it's a powerful way for individuals to express themselves. I've actually been dancing at ADW since I was four years old. My goal is to help each student discover their unique voice through movement and creativity. Outside of dance, I enjoy indulging in Starbucks, attending concerts, and savoring sour candy. I am attending college to become a burn unit nurse!



# Meet the Teacher

# ALYSSA PFIEFFER

My Students Call Me: Miss Alyssa



## **Favorites:**

Color: Green and Teal

Candles

Pepsi

Dutch Bros

Snowboarding

My Dogs

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 degree 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 and Jazz



# Meet the Teacher

## JOSELYN CORTES

My Students Call Me: Miss Joselyn



**My name is Joselyn Cortes and I have been dancing at ADW since I was four years old and have been on the competition team for 8 seasons now, this year being my 9th. I have been a dance teacher here for about three years. I am currently a senior at Garces Memorial High school. I love to be involved in school activities and showcase my passion for dance there as well. I am on the varsity cheer, dance, and lacrosse team. I also enjoy hanging out with my horses and family at home!**

### **Favorites:**

Color: Pink  
Dr Pepper  
Disney & Marvel  
movies  
Pizza  
Halloween

### **Favorite Style of Dance:**

Jazz and Musical  
Theatre!

# Meet the Teacher Jaymee Baker

**My Students Call Me: Miss Jaymee**



I love all styles of dance and I love teaching them even more! I started dancing at the age of nine, and teaching at fifteen. I will be starting my senior year of high school this fall. When I am older, I hope to be an athletic trainer for a sports team. One of my biggest accomplishments as a dancer is earning tap-related scholarships each year for the past four years in a row. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to teach something that I love so dearly to others.

## **Favorites:**

Colors: Purple, Black, & Silver

Music: Metal

Drink: Dr Pepper

Flower: Tulips & Lilies

Food: Anything Chocolate

Bean & Cheese Burritos

## **Favorite Style of Dance:**

Tap and Musical Theatre!

# Meet the Teacher

## Jordyn Navarro

### My Students Call Me: Miss Jordyn



#### **Favorites:**

Colors: Blue, Teal, Sage, Plum, Anything Earthy  
Dancing  
My dogs  
Trying New Things  
My Faith  
Peanut Butter Anything  
CHOCOLATE  
Fruit & Veggies  
Outdoor & Adventures  
Vacations  
Spa Days  
Escape Rooms

#### **Favorite Style of Dance:**

My favorite styles to *teach* are Tap and Lyrical, but my favorite styles to *dance* are Lyrical and Musical Theatre.

Hi! I'm Jordyn, a 17-year-old dancer who has been dancing at American Dancer's Workshop for the past 9 (or 10, I lost count) years and competing for 8 of them. Dance has always been a huge part of my life—from earning first-place awards to receiving a near-perfect score for my lyrical solo in 2023, the stage is where I truly thrive. Competing pushes me to grow, introduces me to incredible professional teachers, and helps me build unforgettable bonds with my teammates.

I've been teaching at ADW for the past two years, which has become one of the most rewarding parts of my dance journey. I'm passionate about helping young dancers fall in love with dance the way I did. I aim to motivate them to grow stronger, master their technique, and build confidence—while always keeping the joy and fun in every class. I truly value the opportunity to get to know each of my students individually. Building strong connections allows me to uplift, encourage, and support them both as dancers and as people. My goal is to create a space where dancers feel seen, supported, inspired, and excited to improve.

Outside the studio, I'm a senior at Liberty High School, where I've been on the dance team since freshman year and currently serve as the ASB Public Relations Commissioner. When I'm not dancing or at school, you'll find me cooking, baking, painting, spending time with my friends, working out, or hanging out with my three dogs—who just might be my best friends. I believe there's nothing better than a peaceful day at home, a good movie, and quality time with the people (and pets) I love.