

VanDance Studio General Information for Early Registration 2019-2020

Lethbridge: 1920 2nd Ave S Lethbridge T1J 0G5 329-8813

Web Address: www.vandance.ca

Fax: 403-328-4275

Studio Email Address: all communication goes through the studio website. Be sure we have your email.

Each staff member has their own email address. As an example: vanessa.cowan@vandance.ca

Director: Vanessa Cowan (Tap, Musical Theatre and Jazz)

Ballet Mistresses: Nina Pavlova (Ballet, Pointe)

Ballet Team: Renee Skeoch RAD (Consultant), Amara Thrall, Heather Reddekopp

Instructors/Choreographers:

Heather Reddekopp (Modern/Contemporary, Young Ballet), Kelsey de Zwaan (acro, jazz, lyrical, preschool classes, ballroom), Amara Thrall (Young ballet, ADAPT Jazz Program), Sydney Peters (Acro choreo), Skylar Miyanaga (choreo), McKenna Shigemi (Rec classes) Madisan Cowan (choreo)

Instructors: All of the instructors at VanDance have a strong technical background and have all been trained in ballet. Most teachers hold teaching certification in RAD, ADAPT, CDTA, or Gilbert. Some teachers have danced professionally, entertained professionally, and choreographed for Theatre Companies, are examiners and adjudicators as well as having well over 100 years combined teaching experience. Your children are in good hands. At VanDance, we create a fun filled learning environment that has structure for maximized learning.

Biographies for our staff available on the website. We are lucky to have such a talented, well rounded staff. Each teacher is specialized in the discipline they are teaching.

Bookkeeper: Erica Hunt For Direct Communication: erica.hunt@vandance.ca

Classes Begin Monday Sept. 9. Check the VanDance website for updates right up until the day of your classes. Early registration schedule depends upon class numbers as well as teachers schedules. Our schedule can change.

Attendance: Students are to arrive for classes 10 minutes prior to class time. Please call or send an email to the studio if your child will be absent. Arrangements must be made to catch up on missed material. Regular attendance is extremely important.

Commitment: Our studio prides itself in the high calibre of its student body and the high quality of instruction that the instructors provide. All students need to attend regularly, work to their potential, respect others in class and have fun!

Class Cancellation: All fees are calculated on a 30 class per year fee schedule. Most classes receive 34-37. We reserve the right to cancel classes due to extenuating circumstances without refund as long as the lesson schedule does not fall below 30 per year. If schools are closed due to a storm, dance will be cancelled. If there are scheduling conflicts with festivals or workshops etc. classes may be cancelled or rescheduled. Students are always invited to attend another class that week as a make-up lesson. If you are not sure if classes will run, call the studio. We will always try to add a message to our voice mail as well as emailing and posting on the website. Classes run until year end show. If extra classes are needed beyond year end show, extra fees are charged.

Email Communication: We do most of our communication via email now. Paper notices are rarely sent home. We will add you to our email list but if you aren't receiving notices (one will be sent in Sept.) it is your responsibility to come into the office and be sure the email address we have is your correct address. Check your Junk Mail. In many cases, emails get written incorrectly on forms and then we have issues. Communication is key to your child's dance education.

Fees:

- There is a fee schedule on the registration form.
- **We do not collect monthly.**
- All fees must be into the office prior to Sept. 9 whether you are paying in full, paying by monthly post-dated cheques, debit or credit.
- Any late registrations (after Sept. 9) **or payments on regular weekly classes** will be charged a late fee of 5%. Please avoid these extra bookkeeping fees. This will be strictly enforced this season.
- There is a \$50.00 charge on all NSF cheques. You are also responsible for any bank or collection fees that may occur on your account.
- Registration Fee is payable once a year and is a non-refundable \$25.00 fee that covers book keeping fees, operating costs and insurance costs.

- There is also an additional \$25 upfront registration fee for all festival/exam students that cover the costs that we incur with the extra bookkeeping with entries and organizing as these programs have grown to take up the bulk of bookkeeping time.
- Costume fees are \$30.00 and are non-refundable. This is a costume rental fee for yearend show. You must supply shoes, tights and accessories that may be needed. We will be doing a lot of costume upgrades this year.
- **AT EARLY REGISTRATION ONLY:** If you recommend a new student to VanDance, have them write your name on the form. We will forward a \$25 credit to your account! (This pays your registration fee!)
- **AT EARLY REGISTRATION ONLY:** Save the GST on All classes paid in full in June. (This excludes registration and costume fees)
- **SPECIAL!** Tiny Tots will receive 4 months free when registering in June!

Withdrawal: One months' notice (in writing) must be submitted to the office (please email Erica and Vanessa to advise of any changes) in the case of a student withdrawing from class. Remember, this affects the entire class as dances are choreographed for the group of students.

Sept./May/Registration and costume fees are non-refundable. The spot in this class was reserved for your child and the costumes are chosen early in the year so they can be ordered, sewn, altered or purchased. Many decisions are made over the summer months!

Parent Viewing: We will try to have a parent viewing sessions in November and February this season! On occasion teachers may require the parents to attend a class to view if they feel it is beneficial to the students. Otherwise, we ask that you leave your children with us for maximum focus, results and fun. If you have concerns, please utilize our studio email and write it to the attention of your child's instructor. Please try not to address concerns between classes as teachers are trying to give each class their full attention.

About Our Programs: We have several different programs at our studio to suit the needs of each individual child. Please be sure of the program that you are getting involved in. We have classes for 3 year olds to adults.

Recreational Programs: This program is for those students who wish to come to class for fun, excitement, exercise and the pure enjoyment of learning the art of dance. We place students into the recreational classes by age and ability. Dancers in the recreational program can attend one time a week or ten times a week! Our recreational classes are also based on a specially designed curriculum. It is not a free for all!

Age as of Dec 31/19	Class (on the schedule look for this color)	Description
3 years ½ hr class	Tiny Tots	Based on Ballet, a very good intro to dance, all the basics.
4 years ½ hr class	Kinder Tots	Tap/Ballet Combo class for Kindergarten age students. A good tap and ballet combo for the little ones. Students should have had a year of Tiny Tot or be 5 years of age.
5-6 years ½ hr class	Pre-Primary 1 Ballet and Primary Tap 1 and Jazz/Hop	All of our programs are stepping stone programs and these classes continue building on the skills developing in the Kinder Tot program and are also a stepping stone to the exam and festival programs. Each or every second year the students move to a higher level...once skills are met.
Recreational Class Levels	Beginner-Intermediate Level	These classes are offered to recreational students who wish to dance for fun. There is no experience required. Classes in Tap, Jazz and Hip Hop are available! If you are not studying ballet, these are the classes for you!
Festival/Exam Class Levels	Beginner-Advanced Levels Multi colors depending on ballet grade level	These classes are designed to encourage students to participate in both exams and competition level classes. These classes are for students who are more serious and dedicated to dance. Participation in festival and exams are left to the complete discretion of the instructors as is class placement.

Exam and Festival Programs: These classes are meant for those students wishing to participate in classes that encourage exam and competition participation. These classes require a much greater commitment of time and effort. Home practice time is essential as well as dedication to in class work.. Most festival level classes are required to attend 2-4 evenings per week. Most of the work is done in regular class time however, there are also some required weekends and extra rehearsals that are essential. There are also entry fees for exams and festivals on top of regular class fees. The other requirement is that all festival students must participate in a **minimum of 2 ballet** classes per week. 4 to Senior level students **must** be participating in **3 ballet classes per week** to maintain and build on the high technical standard required. We recommend as many ballet classes as you can fit into your schedule as this is where you build your technical base! **It is up to each individual instructor to determine whether a class is ready to participate in the festivals in that season; It is a privilege, not a given. These classes focus on striving to attain the level required. If your child is not ready to participate in festival they will still be included in yearend show.**

Festivals we are gearing up for have not yet been determined, however I would like to see the studio take part in Dance Power Lethbridge(March 17-22), Peak Invitational Edmonton (April 13/14 over Easter break) and Moose Jaw Dance Inspirations (May 6-10) We will meet in early fall to determine as there are other local festivals we could consider.

Other time and costs that are incurred by the parents of the festival/exam participants are:

- **Entry fees to the festivals and Exams throughout the year. This fee goes directly to the exam or festival company.**
- **A \$25 admin fee (this fee goes toward all of the extra book keeping hours with the festival/exam program entries which is extensive) this fee is taken at the time of Fall registration from all Pre Primary year 2 students and up.**
- **There may be a small fee for props that are used by a class and transportation for props if necessary. The use of props is at the discretion of each contracted teacher, but to stay competitive and up to date, props are essential in some routines. As in every extracurricular activity, volunteers are always needed and appreciated and this would cut the cost down considerably. The teachers go above and beyond for your children. We ask for your support.**
- **Stage rehearsal fee of approximately \$ 5 is added on to group entry fees to cover the cost of the Yates rental fee as well as the teacher's time as we always try to rehearse on stage before the performance season begins.**
- **Extra festival group rehearsals. If a class has not done enough practice and a dance is not coming together, an extra rehearsal may be required. The cost is split for teacher's time between the entire class for extra practice. Extra exam practice costs are split between the students who attend the extra lesson.**
- **Travel and hotel costs are the responsibility of each individual participant.**
- **Extra costume fees: For the most part, the \$30 costume fee paid at the beginning of the season covers all your costume fee expense. In the rare case, if the costume that is required is beyond our means, we may ask for an additional rental fee. We will always discuss with parents before going ahead with this. We try to budget well when it comes to costume while trying to have the students look appropriately dressed.**
- **Exam attire should be tidy and new. You may be asked to buy new shoes or a bodysuit and tights.**

Exams are offered in RAD Ballet , Gilbert Tap Exams, and ADAPT Jazz. This season we will be doing a fall session for Major ballet grades and all other exams we will be doing in May/June.

Major level students, as always, must be working at a major ballet level as well as graded to attain the required standard. Three class minimum! No exceptions to this long standing rule as we felt the senior program suffered in technique and commitment. We will not make exceptions this season. Senior level is attained by commitment, strength, technique, performance and attitude. Senior/Major level classes are assigned at the complete discretion of each individual teacher of the discipline!

Dress Codes: In order to run a disciplined dance class, students are required to dress appropriately and respectfully in each class. Please do not wear or bring jewellery to class. Hair must be tied off the face and neck for all classes and MUST be worn in a bun for all ballet classes and preferably tap classes as well. No one is to wear outdoor footwear in the studio area. The dress code seems to soften through the year however this is not our wish!! Please be sure your child is dressed properly and we will do the same at our end!

Are You New to the Studio? If you are new to VanDance and have danced at another studio or program and are unsure where you fit into our classes, class placement lessons can be done over the summer months in order that the instructors can get a better idea of which level class the child fits into. We try to place by age and ability. These assessment classes are billed to the student at the instructor's private lesson rate. This is one on one time. Please call Vanessa to set up assessment times.

Hip Hop: There are several great choreographers who have offered their services for weekly workshops and choreo but are unavailable for the entire season. I have decided to bring in these teachers throughout the season and to workshop the Hip Hop program this season. We will be asking for choreography and be using snippets and pieces from different choreographers. We will then be responsible for patterning, cleaning, putting the numbers together. I will be putting Miss Kelsey and Miss Heather in charge of mashing up these combos and styles.

When I bring in a teacher for choreo this season, they will also be available for solo/duo choreo as well as offering a workshop class on the weekend.

I think this will be a great mind expansion year for the kids in Hip Hop. They will get many different styles and lots of new input.

Costs: There will be NO extra costs on top of a regular class fee for all regular class time. If the students take part in the "extra" workshop class or choose to have choreo set, then there would be extra costs set by the individual instructor.

Ballroom: Monday evenings, Kelsey will be offering a 10 week Ballroom session. She will be covering 3 different styles within' this introductory course: Waltz, Salsa and Swing will be her focus within this session. This would be a great opportunity for the expansion of your dance knowledge this season! The 10 week session will be 100.00

Required Dancewear is available at Classique Dancewear 322 7th St. S 329-8778

Class	Wear on Top	Wear on Bottom	Shoes	Extras
Tiny Tot 3 years	Any color or style bodysuit	Pink ballet tights	Ballet Shoes	May wear a ballet (chiffon) skirt
Kinder Tot 4 years	Same as above	Same as above	Ballet Shoes and Black Patten Tap Shoes	Same as above
Ballet/Pointe Classes	Solid color bodysuit. RAD tank in pink, blue or navy or solid black is best	Ballet Pink Microfibre Tights	Ballet slippers	May require character shoes and a practice character skirt by Oct.
Tap classes	Same as ballet	Any color Can add shorts or skirt. Pants not recommended as they get under the heels.	Prim-Tap 1 black patent Tap 2-9 Black Leather Tap shoes Some festival classes may require beige at festival time	Can wear skirt or yoga capris. No long sweats or jazz pants please!
Jazz/Lyrical/Musical Theatre/Stretch/ classes	Same as Ballet or Tap	Same as Tap	Black Jazz oxfords is best Beige may be required for costume time.	Jazz pants are optional and may need to be removed to see the legs.
Modern	Same as Ballet	Same as Tap	Bare Feet or foot undies	Jazz Pants, shorts or capris optional
Hip Hop	Tight fitting outfit	Tight Fitting outfit	Black Hip Hop Runners	Ask you teacher if unsure
Boys	Tighter t-shirt	Shorts or sweats	Black shoes in correct style	

- **Shoe SWAP:** You may submit your shoes for sale or needed on our Facebook page or on our website. There is also a bulletin board at the studio for this purpose. There are always people looking. You will be able to connect with the people you need.
- Class placement is at the complete discretion of the teaching staff. Your child will be placed in a class that is appropriate for their age and ability level. Ballet level determines level. Major/Senior level is for the students who have achieved a major ballet level. Class placement into this level for all disciplines will be left up to the discretion of the teacher in the discipline.
- Be sure to confirm your class times at Sept. registration if you registered in June. Check our website for updates right up until Sept. 10 as we are always trying to improve our schedule. We reserve the right to make any needed changes to the schedule.

Please remember our summer ballet classes started June 11 and our Inspire Dance Workshop will take place August 27-29. Registration for both of these programs should be immediate so that the instructors know if they have enough students to run the program!

Thank you for entrusting your child's dance education with VanDance. It is our goal that your children learn not only to dance but lasting lessons of work ethic, team work, and make friendships that last a lifetime.

We are thankful to be able to offer the most diverse program in southern Alberta to students of all ages and abilities in a fun, caring environment.

- All placements are determined by ballet grade.
- Please trust your child's placement to the instructors.
- We try our best to accommodate all early registration (June) requests but please remember we are dealing with 8 age groups, 8 time slots per day, teachers availability (as some teachers are only available certain days...all of our teachers have other job commitments), time of the evening for age group, what classes are available to each group, trying to get all students on 2-3 evenings a week... There is a lot that goes into scheduling and we truly try our best.

Welcome to the VanDance Family...Get set to Work Hard and Have Fun!

VanDance...A Great Place to Grow Up!