

Tap Exam Letter of Intent 2019

Exams for Tap are scheduled for Wed May 29

Entry Deadline is Feb 15

Hello, it is that time of year again that we need to start thinking about the goals of the 2018-2019 dance seasons. I feel that it is important that we set goals for our children/students to keep them moving forward, improving their skills and accomplishing their own goals. In my 30 years of teaching experience, I have learned that when students have their mind made up that an exam isn't in their future, their drive and attention to detail isn't as focussed. Improvement in technique is at a much slower rate.

Tap Exam Information:

- Tap Exam Date: Wed May 29 2019. Exams take place during the day.
- Tap Exams are usually done every second year for the older grades and every year for the first few. The Gilbert exam program is designed to do a year of technique and a year of exam performance. In some cases, students are ready within a season to do the next exam. This is at the instructor's discretion. With the exams being in June, we have found it much easier in the past few years to get through a grade in a year.
- Be aware that there is an age requirement for each grade. Special conditions can be requested only if the student is in an "exceptional" position. Remember, there is no rush. The examiner wishes to see the students at their strongest!
- **Minimum Age Requirements**

Primary 1	4 years
Primary 2	5 years
Tap 1	6 years
Tap 2	7 years
Tap 3	9 years
Tap 4	11 years
Tap 5	13 years
Tap 6	15 years
Tap 7	16 years
Tap 8	17 years
Tap 9	18 years

In order to participate in tap exams, students need to commit to doing their part in reaching this goal.

- Students **must practice** on a regular basis and know the exam material. They must get the required music and work on the technique and the musicality of each exercise. As students all learn differently and at a different pace, practice should have started in fall. Most have admittedly not been practicing thus far.
- Students must memorize and understand the questions for the grade and be able to answer them loud and clear.
- Students must attend the required extra exam preparation classes. These classes will be in April and May.
- Students must attend tap class on a regular basis. Attendance can become an issue for some students.
- **Students should not procrastinate. Practice must start now in order to succeed. Practice cd's went home early in fall and are included in fee. The exam cd (with fast, non-worded music) will go home to all paying exam participants.**
- Some students may require several extra private or semi-private lessons with Vanessa or a mentor to master the exam skills.

There is some required effort from the parents as well.

- Parents are responsible to pay the exam fee upfront and by the required date. We will not come looking for you. There is a 25% surcharge from Gilbert exams for any late entries. The studio does not like to enter late. We want to be on time.
- Parents are asked to assist the students in learning the exam questions well in advance. PLEASE!! Practice these questions ASAP. The students will get these questions in Feb and are asked them regularly in class.
- Parents are also asked to be sure students are putting in practice time. (We only get 1 tap class a week for tap exams where ballet gets 2 or 3. Practice time is essential to the success of these exams)
- Parents need to provide the proper exam attire. The required attire is available at Classique Dancewear and needs to be clean or new. You cannot send your child in just any dance suit. The uniform is required. It is required for mock exam and exam day.

As the instructor,

- I will be sure the students learn and have a good understanding of each exercise as well as the exam dance.
- I will be sure to ask the exam questions in tap class so that the students understand what these questions are all about.
- I will be available for extra rehearsals in preparation for the exams. We also have mentors available.
- When we get closer to the exams, I will send out updates on what the students need to be working on and keep the parents informed.
- I will inform the parent or child if the child does not seem to be ready for the exam and we will have the student wait until the next season. It is not in anyone's best interest to go into an exam and do poorly, or fail. We want our exam students to excel as does our examiner. She does not want to fail anyone but she marks according to what she sees in the exam.

What will you need in order to do your exam?

- Tap shoes that fit you properly and that aren't too big for your feet. Heels need to stay in your shoes when standing on the balls of the feet. Please check your child's shoes.
 - If you wear paten tap shoes with a ribbon, your Mom or Dad will need to get some elastic and do an elastic tie in your shoes immediately. No ribbon tie ups please.
 - The exam notes which include questions. These will be sent home with the exam cd in February as we have just started fast music.
 - There are 2 cd's required to practice this exam(with the exception of Primary levels with 1 cd). Both are now included in your exam fee.
1. **A technique cd** which plays slow with voice it is an excellent tool for rhythm and musicality. This is the cd all students should be working with first. Included in the exam fee. These are the new cd's with exam technique only and have the slow exam dance on them. An excellent practice tool for ALL. This Cd Went Home Early in Fall to All Students!
 2. **The exam cd** which usually comes after Christmas. This cd along with the notes is also included in your exam fee.

If you are not doing the exam you should still purchase the practice cd (which is a must to keep up to your class), they are \$10.00/cd. **Do not** duplicate these cds. VanDance pays a licence fee to Gilbert exams each and every year to give us the copy rights for all exam material. All students not participating in the exam need to keep up with their class mates. Do not get behind as you will be disappointed not to move along with your class. It is recommended that all tap students use the practice cd.

This Gilbert Tap System Works!! It provides students with a good strong tap skills and work ethic!

Fee Schedule:

- Fees include 2 extra exam classes (if more are required, you will be billed for extra time) and a mock exam. If you are practicing faithfully, you should not need extra. They also include the exam cd and notes copy right fee (where required). Dancewear is available from Classique and should be clean or new.
- No late entry fees as there is a 25% to Gilbert Exams surcharge for late entries.
- Reminder: **Tap** Exam fees will carry over from year to year. As the entry deadline is Feb 15, and for some students, it is difficult to tell if they will be ready for the exam or not, for this reason, Gilbert exams allow us to carry the fees over if the child is not ready. **There is NO refund of fees.** Gilbert Exams keeps the payment on file until the exam is complete. There is no sharing of fees between friends or siblings.
- There is no benefit for anyone to fail a tap exam! I have worked with this examiner for over 25 years and I ask you to please trust my judgment whether your child is ready to participate. She will not pass students who are not ready for the next grade.

FEES AND ATTIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMS (no change in fees from last season)

Grade	Fee	Fee Including GST	Uniform Required for Exam	Tap Shoe Color
Primary 1	\$ 72.00 +GST	77.60	RAD Pink Tank Bodysuit and beige tights	Black Patten Tap Shoes
Primary 2	\$ 75.00 +GST	78.75	RAD Pink Tank Bodysuit and beige tights	Black Patten Tap Shoes
Grade 1	\$ 85.00 +GST	89.25	RAD Pink Tank Bodysuit and beige tights	Black Patten Tap Shoes
Grade 2	\$ 93.00 +GST	97.65	RAD Navy Tank Bodysuit and Beige Tights	Black Tap Shoes
Grade 3	\$ 99.00 +GST	103.95	RAD Navy Tank Bodysuit and Beige Tights	Black Tap Shoes
Grade 4	\$ 103.00 +GST	108.15	RAD Navy Tank Bodysuit and Beige Tights	Black Tap Shoes
Grade 5	\$ 111.00 +GST	116.55	Black Bodysuit in a style flattering to you and black tights	Black Tap Shoes
Grade 6	\$ 125.00 +GST	131.25	Black Bodysuit in a style flattering to you and black tights	Black Tap Shoes
Grade 7	\$137.00 +GST	141.75	Black Bodysuit in a style flattering to you and black tights	Black Tap Shoes
Grade 8 (Teachers)	\$ 149.00 +GST	156.45	Black Bodysuit in a style flattering to you and black tights	Black Tap Shoes
Grade 9	\$195.00	204.75(must have an 85% or above in tap 8)	Black Bodysuit in a style flattering to you and black tights	Black Tap Shoes

 Please return to the office on or before Feb 15

Name _____ Age as of Feb 15/2019 _____

Grade this student is eligible for _____

_____ My child will participate and I understand all of the requirements to participate in the Tap Exam Program and he/she will be trying for the exam this season. The exam fee is attached.

_____ My child will not be participating in the exam but would like to purchase the practice cd in order to practice and keep up with the class. \$10 for the cd is attached.

Payment (including GST) _____

cheque # _____ or Cash \$ _____ No Credit Card Payments

I agree to the above criteria to participate in the exam program:

Parent Must Sign _____

Student Must Sign _____

I wish to participate in extra private or semi-private lessons for extra help _____

Miss Vanessa will try to schedule several semi privates for those requiring extra help.