

# VanDance Studio General Information for Registration 2020-21

Lethbridge: 1920 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S Lethbridge T1J 0G5 329-8813

Web Address: [www.vandance.ca](http://www.vandance.ca)

Fax: 403-328-4275

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

**Each staff member has their own email address. As an example:** [vanessa.cowan@vandance.ca](mailto:vanessa.cowan@vandance.ca)

**Director:** Vanessa Cowan (Tap, Musical Theatre)

**Ballet Mistress:** Nina Pavlova (Ballet, Pointe)

**Ballet Team:** Heather Reddekopp, Kelsey deZwaan and Renee Skeoch RAD (Consultant)

**Instructors/Choreographers:**

**Heather Reddekopp (Modern/Contemporary, Young Ballet), Kelsey de Zwaan (stretch, acro, lyrical, preschool classes, ballroom),**

**Amara Thrall (ADAPT Jazz Program), Skylar Miyana (PreSchool classes), McKenna Shigemi (Rec classes) Madisan Cowan (Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap, Musical Theatre)**

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 is structured for maximized learning.

Biographies for our staff are 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](mailto:erica.hunt@vandance.ca)

Classes Begin Tuesday Sept. 8. 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 5 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. Do not attend if experiencing any COVID symptoms as per AHS guidelines.

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: This season, all fees have been calculated on a 34 class per year fee schedule. Most classes receive 35-38. We reserve the right to cancel classes due to extenuating circumstances without refund as long as the lesson schedule does not fall below 34 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. Our season will be extended into June this year. \*See also COVID-19 info for the studio below.

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. 8 whether you are paying in full, paying by monthly post-dated cheques, debit or credit.
- Any late registrations (after Sept. 8) 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 \$35 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 \$35.00 and are non-refundable. This is a costume rental fee for yearend show. You must supply shoes, tights and accessories that may be needed. This season, many of you are entitled to costume credits as I will honour the costume fee from last season if you did not get to perform in your costumes. Some of you have festival costumes at home which we will try and utilize this season. If you need additional costume fees for additional groups or changes in costumes, these are to be paid by Nov 15/20. We will be sending out notices for costume fees in early November.

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: In an effort to follow social distancing practices, parent viewing will be done on zoom this season and we will try to have a parent viewing sessions in November and February! 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. Our recreational program promotes a love of dance while developing proper technique.

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.

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 \$35 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. This is a non-refundable fee.
- 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 \$35 costume/dance fee paid Nov 15 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 all ballet grades, tap grades and jazz. We will shoot for another set of exams in late 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! This long standing rule will be enforced and is essential to maintain the high level of commitment and technique that is required at this level. 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! If you have done all of your graded exams, there are major classes both on Wed and Sat you can attend or pick up a graded class for extra technique.

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, a placement lesson can be done to help instructors determine your child's class level. We try to place by age and ability. Please call Vanessa to set up assessment times.

Acro: Acrobatic Arts is a specialized program for "artistic gymnastics for dancers". It specializes in training dancers to do tricks and builds strength and flexibility for dancers specifically for dance. Miss Kelsey is an accredited instructor and now also adjudicator for Acrobatic Arts. Acrobatic Arts has taken the Covid-19 epidemic very seriously and has created specialized teaching/learning programs to keep dancers and teachers safe. Right now, with social distancing being very important, there won't be any hands on spotting happening. Students will work on the technique in the tricks that they do not require spotting for, and watch and learn technique for new tricks. For example: handstands, limbers, certain tumbling tricks. As well, students will focus on drills and continuing strength training so they can accomplish the tricks on their own without hands on spotting. Acro Exams are also a possibility this season.

Hip Hop: Miss Madi will be taking on the Hip Hop program but we will also continue to have guest instructors throughout the season.

Musical Theatre: We will continue to offer the triple threat musical theatre program however we will not be doing vocals in the first part of the year. We are exploring other ways to incorporate the vocal/music element into our program. Guest teachers, specialized in drama, music and dance are already booked!

Modern/Lyrical: Miss Emma Lund will be coming in to work with our students throughout the year both in Modern and Lyrical classes. She will be with us for several weeks in Sept and Oct and Miss Heather and Miss Kelsey will continue to instruct on weekly basis. Emma will be doing some pieces for us this season.

Ballroom: Monday evenings, Kelsey will be offering a Festival Ballroom number for both the Intermediate and Senior dancers. I hope the students challenge themselves this season and try something new. I am very excited to have ballroom numbers for festival!

Ballet, Tap and Jazz Exams will take place in early fall. It is looking like both tap and ballet exams will be recorded and sent and jazz exams will be taken in person. Details to come.

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

Payment Information:

- Required Dancewear is available at Classique Dancewear 322 7<sup>th</sup> 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 are 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 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 the placement for all disciplines. Senior level is for the students who have achieved a certain technical standard needed for the discipline. 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 before Sept. 8 . Check our website for updates right up until Sept. 8 as we are always trying to improve our schedule. We reserve the right to make any needed changes to the schedule usually due to registration numbers.

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, matched ability and safe class sizes.
  - We will adhere to the Alberta Covid-19 guidelines.
  - Please trust your child’s placement to the instructors.

**We all have missed dance so much!**

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

**VanDance...A Great Place to Grow Up!**

## **Covid-19 Information for the Studio:**

It is a different time and even though we are back, there are changes. We have a few NEW rules and procedures that we will be following for the health and safety of everyone.

**Covid Clause:** If classes need to be postponed or cancelled for a short time, we now have the ability at the studio to continue holding classes online for the students. We realize that it is difficult to encourage the students to get online for class, however, we are living in a different time and will now push forward by keeping everyone safe but we will continue to run classes for that period of time.

If we were faced with another long closure, we will assess the situation and act accordingly as we did last season.

This decision will be at the complete discretion of Vanessa.

**Class Sizes:** We will be keeping our class sizes under the Alberta Covid guidelines for the safety of our students and teachers. Some classes that were previously large, will be divided for the start of this season. Others that we know we can socially distance, will be kept together. We reserve the right to combine or split classes at a later date once we know that we can provide combined groups safely and or need to split to keep distance.

Cleaning procedures have increased in frequency.

Due to smaller class sizes and increased cleaning, our dance fees have been increased slightly.

Studio will be upgraded with large tv's and cameras for fall in order to carry out classes no matter what the dilemma.

- Do not attend if showing any signs or symptoms of covid-19.(fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose etc)
- Do not attend if there is any chance that you have come in contact with someone who has Covid-19
- If any type of symptoms are shown during class, the child will be asked to leave immediately and will need to be picked up. You will then be asked to have a Covid-19 test as per our Dance Studio mandate for reopening requires.
- Dancers and Teachers inside the studio only. Sorry parents, but for now, we will not be opening waiting area. There will be no "extra" bodies allowed in the waiting room, office, dressing rooms, bathrooms or studios.
- There will be an exception on Monday and Saturday for our young Tiny Tot, Kindertot and Pre Primary level students. Parents must wear a mask while in the studio waiting area and once the students have been taken into class we ask that you wait in your vehicles or outside the premises.
- All dancers, parents and teachers must hand sanitize when entering and exiting the studio and continually sanitize while in the class room.
- In common areas (dressing area, waiting area, and office), students, parents and teachers must wear a mask.
- In all areas of the building, everyone is required to physically social distance.
- Dancers have specific marks on the barres and floors that they are required to adhere to.
- Inside of the dance studio, once everyone has taken their social distance marks, masks can be removed while dancing if you feel it is better for your breathing, health and comfort. This should be discussed at home. The studios have all been well marked for social distancing.
- You are asked to come ready to dance in your dance attire and provide your own plastic bin with lid to house any outdoor clothing and shoes. This bucket must be large enough to fit ALL of your belongings but not too big for studio spaces. It will be taken into class with you and set at the front of the room 2 m apart from anyone else's.
- As we all know, dancing with our friends is awesome! It has in the past, lead to many hugs, hand holding, close patterning etc. For now, I ask that you discuss with your children that they must refrain from close contact. The teachers will also, for now, refrain from close contact when making corrections. We are just happy to be back and able to DANCE!
- For now, please try not to eat or snack at the studio. You may bring a water bottle and keep it inside your plastic bucket for between classes. We have tried to eliminate most breaks in our scheduling however, if you do have a "supper" break, try to leave the facility to have your snack or dinner in a vehicle or with a parent. A piece of fruit, kept in your bucket might be something clean and quick to boost the energy between classes if it is essential.
- Classes will be let out a couple minutes early in order that the instructors have time to clean the Barres between each and every lesson.
- I ask parents to drop off 5 minutes before class and immediately after your child's scheduled time. You will also need to watch your email and schedule for what door your child is to use when entering the building. We will have specific doors and waiting areas for each class.
- There is to be no loitering and gathering in the studio or even directly outside the building by parents or students to comply with Alberta health rules. The studio drop off area can become very congested and we would like to ask that you wear a mask at all times when social distancing is difficult.
- There will not always be supervision in the entry/waiting room/dressing room so it is important that the students know the importance of the above procedures.

**We at VanDance want to be part of the solution, not a part of the problem! Let's all stay safe, have fun and DANCE!**