

## Ballet Letter of Intent

## Spring 2019 (Entry Deadline Wed March 20)

The Ballet Team at VanDance wanted to touch base with students and their parents as to the intent of the spring ballet exam program. We hope the following will clarify any questions or concerns you may have.

We would like to take the time to remind everyone:

Ballet is a strict discipline and in this vein, the teachers would like to instill a good sense of discipline and ballet technique along with a joy of dance and movement. There are some “rules” of ballet and we would like all students and their parents to understand and adhere to these requirements. Many of these rules are to insure the safety of the students while working to perfect and hone the difficult skills of the technique as well as to put them in the best possible mode to perform the skills.

Our base rules are: Proper Dance attire, Proper footwear, **Hair in a good, tight bun**, No jewellery, No gum, **Home practice regime**, Punctuality and consistent attendance. These rules still stand at this time of the year.

The proper dress code and conduct is part of the proper equipment of the ballet class. These rules are geared to the safety and performance of all students involved. They are part of the discipline of ballet. Teachers must be able to see all aspects of the muscles and bones to ensure proper alignment when performing their exercises. This will result in the proper strengthening of the proper muscles as opposed to a weakening in the improper alignments resulting in injury.

Ballet students should always bring all their shoes required with them into class, and have extra band aids, hair pins, nets, etc. in their bags as well. Students Gr. 1 and up will be sent out to secure their hair if they arrive with it down. Students should help each other secure hair before class. Hair can stay in a bun for all other disciplines of dance.

The VanDance Ballet Program does follow the **Royal Academy of Dance** Syllabus and works towards preparing the students for exams in this world wide exam method. The classes also prepare dances for competition as well, but the students must be of the proper standard of technique in order to compete and examine. This sometimes takes time and hard work before they are considered for the exam. Trust our instructors. They have years of experience and want the students to be successful and at their best when entering an exam. Some students may not be able to attend competition, but will be in the group dance for year-end show.

The following is the class requirements of any of the grades, in order to participate in exams.

**Pre-Primary(yr2), Primary, Grade 1 and Grade 2** must participate in 2 ballet classes a week in order to complete the required elements of both the exam work and show piece and to qualify for festival.

**Grade 3 and 4** must participate in 2 classes a week and at this level, should also add on a technique class (or **3<sup>rd</sup> class**) to continue to build technique and strength in ballet. This is also the time that legs and feet are strengthened so that the students are ready for pointe work. This is the year that the professional exams are introduced. Intermediate Foundation and Pointe class for technique and strength and also to introduce the pointe work (some students may do most of the year on demi-pointe for ankle strength).

**Grade 5** Ballet must participate in 2 classes a week plus the tech class and should also be in the Intermediate Foundation and Pointe and or Intermediate and Pointe class for technique and strength. Some students will be doing 4<sup>th</sup> classes if they are examining in Intermediate Foundation and Intermediate. Private ballet or group private lessons are available.

**Grade 6, 7, 8:** These classes are excellent for ballet dance quality will be the focus of the exam program this year. These students must be doing a third major ballet grade this year. A third ballet class has always been a requirement for “Senior” students to maintain the standard of this level at VanDance. Pointe is an option but is a required element for the major ballet exams.

The RAD program is very much designed in the shape of a Y.

Advance Found/1/2

Intermediate

Inter Foundation

Grade 8

6-7

Grade 5

1-4

Primary

Pre Primary

The majority of the **Children's Graded Exams** Grade 1A to Grade 6 will be working toward doing a **spring** exam this season (May). If your child, just did a fall exam, chances are, they are not doing another exam in spring. As a reminder, the RAD has changed the majority of the ballet syllabus. We want to encourage all the students to do their best, every student's best being different from the next. We do not want to rush this process. It is important to us that each and every child attains their best standard, not just a passing grade for knowing the work. If at any time the teachers fear the student may not pass the exam, or they are not ready, we will recommend that they do not attempt it at this time. Further practice and study to improve the skills required is **not** a bad thing! Every student will progress at their own pace, if doing **quality work** in class time. Our ballet teachers have a wealth of knowledge to pass on. Major Exam Students will shoot for a Fall 2019 Exam. Summer classes will be scheduled.

Any students participating in exams will be required to attend at least two extra as well as a "mock exam" practice. The Mock exam is run just like an exam in the individual exam groups (1 – 4 students) with all aspects of exam day followed...like a dress rehearsal (hair, attire, shoes, attitude, etc.) This gives the student a good run through and may catch some problems that can then be eliminated.

Additional costs for exams and exam practices will be outlined and detailed on the following pages. We hope this clarifies the ballet program and answers any questions you may have. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to ask. An additional letter of Intent for ballet will go out for our spring session exams.

Sincerely, Miss Vanessa and The VanDance Ballet Team

**The Fee Schedule** - The fees include 2 extra exam classes, an exam cd, a mock exam and character skirt rental. This **does not** include charges for pianist or for any classes scheduled beyond the 2 extras set classes we have billed for. Exam dates are forecast to take place May/June this spring season. Extra exam classes will be set immediately for everyone's scheduling purposes.

Extra Classes with Miss Renee that are mandatory rehearsals and a Mandatory Mock Exam will be scheduled once we have exam dates from the RAD

Eligible Grades	Fee	Uniform required for Exam
<b>Gr. 1 (Grade 1 A)</b>	<b>\$195.00</b>	RAD Navy Tank Bodysuit (Character skirt rented) Mondor Ballet Pink Microfiber tights, Black Character shoes, Clean, Pink, Full-sole, leather ballet slippers
<b>Gr. 2</b>	<b>\$210.00</b>	RAD Navy Tank Bodysuit (Character skirt rented) Mondor Ballet Pink Microfiber tights, Black Character shoes, Clean, Pink, Full-sole, leather ballet slippers
<b>Gr. 3</b>	<b>\$220.00</b>	RAD Navy Tank Bodysuit (Character skirt rented) Mondor Ballet Pink Microfiber tights, Black Character shoes, Clean, Pink, Full-sole, leather ballet slippers
<b>Gr. 4</b>	<b>\$230.00</b>	RAD Navy Tank Bodysuit (Character skirt rented) Mondor Ballet Pink Microfiber tights, Black Character shoes, Clean, Pink, Full-sole, leather ballet slippers
<b>Gr. 5</b>	<b>\$240.00</b>	RAD Navy Tank Bodysuit (Character skirt rented) Mondor Ballet Pink Microfiber tights, Clean, Pink, Full or split-sole, leather ballet slippers
<b>Gr. 6</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<i>Body suit and Skirts (inc character) rented from studio.</i> Or nice fitting Black bodysuit Mondor Ballet Pink Microfiber convertible tights, Character shoes, Clean, Pink, Full or split-sole, leather ballet slippers

**Major Students (Intermediate and Advance Foundation):** If you wish to discuss doing your exam in this spring session, we will book a meet time on an individual basis to discuss.

**FEES MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE BY Wed March 20 OR YOUR CHILDS NAME**

**WILL NOT BE INCLUDED ON THE EXAM ENTRY**

**No Late Entries are accepted by RAD**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Grade of Exam Student is Applying for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My child & I understand all the requirements to participate in the Ballet exam program. 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 CD to keep up with the class. \$10 for the CD is attached.

Payment \_\_\_\_\_ by cheque # \_\_\_\_\_ cash \_\_\_\_\_

No credit card payments for exams please.

Parent must sign \_\_\_\_\_

Student must sign \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this page to office with payment on or before Wed March 20, 2019**

**If the staff feels your child is NOT ready for the exam, or that there are issues regarding passing the exam, you will be notified before the payment is sent to the RAD as there are no refunds. We will not post a "ready" list.**