

WELCOME TO THE DANCE CONNECTION

We are excited to begin the year 2020/2021 dance season, as well as I am thrilled to start my 2nd year as the new studio director. Welcome back all Dance Connection dancers, as well as all newcomers. We hope everyone had a great summer holiday and are ready to get back into the swing of things. Classes commence on Tuesday, **September 8th, 2020.**

This newsletter is intended to inform parents and dancers of some of our studio policies. It also contains important dates of dress rehearsals and festival dates. Please mark these dates on your calendar as attendance is important.

Class Placement: Students are placed in classes in accordance to several factors: ability, age and exam level. We ask that all parents trust the teacher's judgment as qualified professionals. All students are constantly assessed and will be moved only if the teacher determines a move is necessary.

At the Dance Connection we try to promote learning in a positive atmosphere with mutual respect for teachers, students and parents. We try to maintain a healthy balance of fun and hard work. We are pleased that you have chosen the Dance Connection and hope all students and parents have a successful and rewarding season.

Class attendance: Weekly class attendance is mandatory. Illness is unforeseen, however missing more than 2 classes in a row (two weeks) for any other reasons **may** result in removal from dance as the student can fall behind quickly. There will be no refund for missed classes. If you know your child will be unable to attend class due to holidays please inform the teacher, where then they will decide if your child will need extra lessons to catch up what they missed for competition. This will be at your expense for the private lessons.

A **Waiver** must be signed in order for your child to begin their first lesson, if you have not signed one at one of the dance camps this summer please do so. This waiver will be good from the entire dance season. You can download and print the waiver off of the Band App. As well as I will have extra copies at the studio.

Newsletters - we will email newsletters this year and continue to post them on our webpage at danceconnectionnb.com. These newsletters will keep dancers and parents informed on studio news. The newsletters are normally scheduled for October, December, February/March and May. We will still have a supply of paper newsletters for those that do not have email addresses. They will also be posted on the bulletin board along with other information. Also please sign up to you parent App called Band App. You should receive a link to sign up to the app if you are new, if you have not, please inform us and we will make sure you get access to it. This is another great way to keep up to date with what is happening at the studio. Feel free to put your notifications on so you don't miss out. If you choose not to, please make sure you check it then periodically. Thank you!!

Parents are responsible to keep themselves informed on studio news, festivals, important dates, costumes etc. Please check your child's dance bags for notes, stop into the studio to check the bulletin board (once allowed), visit our web site or ask the teachers if you are unsure about any information. If your child is missing from class due to severe illness and miss any newsletters, please make sure you check the bulletin boards, BAND app or website. We can also be reached by email at dance.connection@sasktel.net. We try to do our best to keep parents and dancers informed so please do your part as well.

Dance Clothing - If you missed out on getting your hands on any of our dance clothing this summer please contact us if you are wanting any. Arrangements can be made if we have your size in stock. Thank you for supporting and representing The Dance Connection!!

Lost and Found: There is always an abundance of shoes and clothing left at the studio during the dance year, please check the upstairs dressing room for your lost articles. I will be going through lost and found each month and donating what has been left behind for more than 2 weeks, so please get your child to check periodically.

Contact Michelle.S at 306-481-5653 if you are in need of any used dance shoes. She is in charge of our shoe swap and is happy to help get you what style of shoes you need if available to her. Also, if you have any to sell or get rid of throughout the year you may contact her as well to arrange getting them to her. There is also a facebook page where you can sell used dance shoes and clothing.

Costume Deposits: Once we know more about competitions being allowed and recital, we will be issuing costume fees. This year will be a **flat rate** fee:
Baby Ballerina, Tiny Tots, Preliminary, Pre-Primary, Primary levels: \$80.00 + gst and pst
Grades 1 - Advanced - \$95.00 + gst & pst

Festival Entry and Festival Fees for competitive dance groups

Due to COVID-19, we have a credit to be used at The Performer Competition in Saskatoon (April 28th - May 2nd), as well as Showtime Promotions. I am not 100% sure where we will be attending Showtime as we are all still patiently waiting on what will be a go for this dance season but looking into Sherwood Park once again with the “Dream team” competition May 12th-16th. I do still plan to attend the BDFA competition over Easter break (April 6th - 9th) as well as enter some numbers in “To The Beat” if they happen to come back to North Battleford and if the dates work out. Again, once I know more about what will be happening with competitions, I will inform you all at once.

Payment Policy:

Due to the uncertainty of how this year go, we will only be accepting post-dated cheques this year. All 9 monthly cheques will be due August 28th and marked for the beginning of each month. We will no longer be accepting E-transfers. Once your registration is complete, we will invoice you your monthly fees for the year. We do ask even if you are able to pay in full up front that you still do a monthly payment instead. Like mentioned, with the uncertainty of what this season may bring and perhaps having to shut down once again, it just simplifies things this way for us. Thank you for understanding.

Cheques returned NSF will be charged a \$25.00 service fee. If two NSF cheques are returned, we will ask that your child not return to dance until payment in full has been received.

Dance fees are based on a minimum of 30 dance lessons per year. The Dance Connection Inc. reserves the right to cancel classes due to extenuating circumstances. No refunds will be issued for students missing classes.

COVID-19 - I am looking into our protocols for what would happen if a child, teacher or parent passes through with the virus. If we have to shut down the whole studio or just that particular class for 2 weeks, I would like parents to be prepared for online zoom classes, or

possibly pre-recorded content from your teacher where your child can take a class from home. Please be patient as I'm doing my best to find out what it is we MUST do. Once I have more details, I will send out more information to everyone.

Other studio policies -

We have to instill some new rules moving forward as to allowance of parents in the studio at a time. I do ask that if your child is in the Pre-Primary level and up that you just drop them off, as they are a little older and capable of getting ready on their own. If your child needs assistance with shoes, a teacher will be there to help him or her out. If you are from out of town and find it hard to use up your time getting groceries, running errands, etc. please let me know and things may be able to be arranged within the studio.

For my baby ballerina, tiny tots, pre-liminary classes, I will be posting a schedule as to when your week will be, and I ask that you stick to your days as I am unable to have every parent in the lobby area due to multiple classes running at a time. If you need to switch with another parent, I will let you arrange that with them. I do ask we all take part in helping the little ones out if it is your week to stay. I will have assistants and teachers doing most of the helping with anything the child may need, but it is nice to have a parent on hand help get in touch with another if and emergency arises. This will be greatly appreciated.

Students are no longer allowed to wait around at the studio after school unless they have a scheduled class right at 3:45 or 4:00. Again, I wish we could be more accommodating and allow it like previous years, but we have to make sure we limit the people within our studio and strictly keep to just the students dancing at their scheduled time. So please drop off only 5 - 10 minutes before class begins and pick up right when their class is finished. Thank you

There is no longer a telephone in the lobby due to the misuse of it. If a child is needing to use the phone for anything important, they may ask a teacher to do so. Also, to the parents of our younger students please remind your child/children not to leave the studio until a guardian has picked them. The kids are more than welcome to wait at the studio until someone has arrived, but I do ask you to be quite punctual with being on time.

I have purchased and will be installing security cameras for the outside of the building as well as a few in the main lobby area. With parents having to do drop offs, your child's safety is extremely important to us. This way if we need to locate where a child has gone, we will have record of it on the cameras. I want you all to know we are all doing our best to make sure you feel 100% comfortable leaving your child in our hands during this time.

Studio Rules - No Gum Chewing allowed in class

- Proper dance attire MUST be worn at all times. IF a child has forgotten, a studio set will be lent out for them to wear in order to attend the class.
- Hair MUST be tied back before entering the studio.
- Students problems or concerns will be addressed outside of class time, a phone call or meeting can take place outside of dance hours.
- ABSOLUTELY NO BULLYING. We wish our students to encourage one another within our studio as well as outside of the studio. We are all here to do something we have grown to love so let's all praise each other for their accomplishments, hard work and even small improvements throughout the year.
- NO Running, Yelling, or Play Fighting in the waiting areas. This distracts our dancers and teachers, there is a playground outside and across the street if

- you wish to do so.
- ALL BAGS must be put in the cubbies provided for the dancers. PLEASE NO bags left on the bench provided for the people to sit on. Bags will be removed if they are left lying around.
 - PLEASE THROW out all of your garbage in the garbage bins provided in each room.

Breaks within your Schedule - I have scheduled the odd quick supper break for my more competitive students who have 3 classes running in an evening. If your break is a 45min- an hour long and you are able to be picked up that would be appreciated. If not, or if it's a quick 30 min break, students are able to stay at the studio but PLEASE remind them to practice social distancing within the changerooms, lobby area, and kitchen. Remember, the less amount of bodies lingering within the studio at a time the better.

NOTE: a lot of love and sweat went into updating and renovating the studio this spring and summer. I will truly appreciate it if everyone took the time to clean up after themselves to keep things clean. Please no horsing around on the furniture and running around in the lobby area. It tends to be extremely distracting for the dancers in their classes. Parents with little ones, we are happy to provide you with the new play area downstairs to entertain them while their brother or sister is dancing (when we are allowed to have you back in the studio), we just ask that you help clean up after them once you are done. Thank you for your help in keeping the studio neat and tidy.

Class withdrawals - We must be advised of withdrawals from dance or a dance class by email at dance.connection@sasktel.net or by calling the studio at 306-446-6226 or 306-481-6224 and leaving a detailed message with your name, date of your message, phone number, name of dancer and class withdrawing from to ensure your next monthly payment is not processed. Please speak clearly as messages from cell phones are not always clear. You will be contacted back by telephone or by email address on file if further information is required. Fees paid in full will be refunded effective the date of withdrawal notification. Costume deposits paid will be refunded if class withdrawal is by October 31, 2020. Withdrawal after October 31, 2020 will result in being responsible for costume costs if they have been ordered. If costumes have been ordered any refund balance of the costume will then be refunded accordingly in the spring.

Please notify us of any changes to your address, phone number, email address or contact numbers by emailing us.

The Dance Connection accounting office has no specific set hours, if you need to get ahold of myself or our bookkeeper Jodi, please make prior arrangements by texting or calling 306-481-6224 or email us at dance.connection@sasktel.net

The following is the regulation dance wear required:

Ballet Full sole leather ballet slippers, any colour bodysuit, salmon tights.
Hair neat in a bun.
Ballet exam students will be required to have a simple black bodysuit. No extra straps, Lace, low backs, or patterns for exam.
Grade 1, 2, 3 and 4 ballet exam students will require Character Shoes any heel height. Can purchase a pair from older students.
Boys ballet dress requirements are - white body fitting T-shirt, black tights,

White Ballet Shoe and white socks.

Tap, Jazz, Lyrical and Contemporary

Clothing - Body suit, tights, tank top, sports bra, shorts, Capri pants, leggings.
Hair neat in ponytail.
please no baggy pants

Tap - Beige Tap Shoe for Beginner Tap to Gr. 2.
Black lace up for Gr 4, Gr 5 Inter & Advanced

Jazz - Beige split-sole jazz shoe.

Lyrical - foot undies - any colour for class. Beige for competition.

Contemporary - bare feet, foot undies, or turners.

Boys require any coloured fitted T-shirt, shorts or fitted pants and black lace-up tap shoe and black jazz shoe.

Hip Hop Relaxed clothing and clean, non-scuff running shoes. NO JEANS.

Just for Fun Class - Jazz shoes, runners, bare feet, and clothing they can move in. Please nothing too baggy or distracting. No Jeans

NO BAGGY T-SHIRTS OR SWEATSHIRTS ALLOWED IN CLASS

BALLET EXAM ATTIRE

Girls

Grade 1&2 Mondor #1645 / 11645 - True Pink Leather Full Sole slippers in pink/flesh tone to match tights, salmon tights

Grade 3&4 Mondor #1645 / 11645 - Navy Leather Full Sole slippers in pink/flesh tone to match tights, salmon tights

Vocationals Mondor #13520 - Black Leather or Canvas, Full Sole or Split Sole slippers in pink/flesh toned to match tights, salmon tights

Boys

Grades 1-4 white short sleeved bodysuit White Socks, Leather Full Sole Slippers in white or white fitted T-shirt, black tights or black fitted shorts

Vocational white short sleeved bodysuit White Socks, Leather or Canvas Full Sole or Split Sole Slippers in white or white fitted T-shirt, black tights or Black Socks, Leather or Canvas Full Sole or Split Sole Slippers in black

Students are welcome to wear their choice of bodysuit for weekly classes; however, ALL exam students will be required to follow the Exam Dress Code both on the day of Mock Exams and on the official Exam Day.

Important dates to remember: There will be no classes during the Christmas Break. Last day of class in December will be Friday, December 18th, 2020. Classes will commence on

Monday January 4th, 2021.

No classes will be held during the February Break (Feb 15-19, 2021) and Easter Break (April 5th-9th, 2020).

There will be **NO** classes on Thanksgiving, October 12th, 2020, Good Friday April 2nd, 2021 and Victoria Day May 24, 2021.

DRESS REHEARSAL (COMPETITIVE STUDENTS) - March 15th, 16th, & 17th at The Dekker Centre

SHOWCASE for solos and duets at the Dekker Centre is Friday March 19th, 2021 from 4pm - 10pm Costs and details to follow at a later date. A credit will have been moved forward from last years payments on Showcase.

Dress rehearsal dates for the non-competitive groups for **Recital** will be held Thursday, May 27, 2020 from 3:30 to 9:30.

Year-end recital dates are booked for Friday May 28 and Saturday May 29, 2021 at 7pm. There will also be two matinees on Saturday May 29 at noon and 3pm. Details will follow of groups dancing in what show.

If at any time you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to email us. We wish all our parents and students to be properly informed on all of our information.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
Lots of pictures and info can be found here

Please watch for all important newsletters throughout the year or visit our website at danceconnectionnb.com

Thank you for choosing the Dance Connection. We are pleased that you have entrusted us with your child's Dance Education. We consider it an honour and look forward to a fabulous and rewarding year of dance with our new and returning students!