

Dance with us. Grow with us. Learn with us. Success in dance leads to success in life!



DANCE
CONNECTION

PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE

214, 9918 100 St. Morinville, AB T8R 1K8

780-939-5414

www.DanceConnectionInc.com

Why dance? Dance makes life better!

Dance teaches valuable skills that not only benefit students in their dance lives, but continue to serve students lifelong in every aspect of their lives. Every successful dancer requires such skills as focus, organization, discipline, versatility, logical decision making, how to be a part of a team and be a team leader.

So, we ask... Why not Dance?

Why Dance Connection?

A heartfelt thank you for choosing Dance Connection! Our commitment to our dancers and their families is to foster positive and rewarding relationships between our studio, the dancers and their families. It is our sincerest hope that your family feels welcomed into our dance family as we invite you to enjoy your child's journey as they grow into a well-adjusted, focused individual that being a part of dance provides!

There will be great times ahead such as budding and often lifelong friendships, discovering passion and joy, along with times of hard work, determination and possibly frustration (or even times that make you parents want to scream), but we ask that you put your trust in your child's teacher(s) and have faith in the Dance Connection process, as we assure you that all your child's effort and hard work will most certainly make you swell with pride as your child shines on stage by year end!!

We are committed to... providing a safe, positive dance environment

We are passionate about... empowering our students to be confident

We care about... fostering an environment where students are encouraging of one another

We love... supporting our students as they achieve their goals in dance and in life

We embrace... each and every student's individuality and creativity

We stand for... inclusion; we will strive to find the best fit for your child's needs

We listen to... all feedback and always welcome suggestions

We prioritize... providing quality dance training that challenges our students to push themselves even further than they could have ever imagined

We promise to... honour your child's passion for dance

We value... the unending support of our parents

Last but not least, we strive to... have FUN!!

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Part 1: PARENT SECTION

Our Studio

At Dance Connection, we have three dance studios (A, B & C), front reception, girls' change room, boys' change room, parent waiting area, student lounge and event room.

Did you know? We have an Event Room that we use for our own extracurricular events (Annual Halloween Party, studio sleepovers), but is also available for rent for any of your events. This excellent space is already being used for the Morinville Sparks and Paint Nights. We also host Birthday Parties with our dance teachers! Contact our Front Desk for more info.

Important things to remember:

- We ask that all outdoor footwear be left at the front door as it is imperative that we keep all floors inside our studio clean for our dancers and their dance shoes.
- Parents are welcome to wait in the designated Parent Waiting Area located at the top of the stairs or just inside the office only. We are also happy to provide a few toys and books for siblings as they wait. We kindly ask parents to ensure that everything is tidied before leaving.
- Our Student Lounge is designed with our dance students in mind so they have their own space outside of class time to study and hang out. It can be tempting for parents to use this space; however, we ask that you refrain from doing so as it can inhibit our students from using the space as it is intended.
- Lost & found is located in the Change Room. (Please ensure your child's outdoor shoes, dance shoes, water bottles, etc. are all clearly labeled with their name).

Did you know? We offer free Wi-fi - see details posted on our bulletin board.

Parent Portal

Did you know? We have a new and improved Parent Portal! Be sure to check it out!

Our Dance Connection Parent Portal is an excellent way to keep apprised of your child's schedule, billing & payment info, latest announcements & messages as well as signing up for upcoming events.

Parents are asked to ensure the Settings and Contact information (in the Billing & Payments tab) is up-to-date. In addition, the Policies tab must be reviewed and electronically signed on a yearly basis by verifying you have read and agree to Dance Connection's policies, which include but are not limited to insurance release, fees & withdrawal information, photos & videos release (so we can show off photos and videos of our amazing dancers in and around the studio!).

Contact Info

Did you know? You can access the most up-to-date information on our website at www.danceconnectioninc.com

Additional questions? Contact us any of the following ways:

By Phone: 780-939-5414 OR 780-862-7754

In Person: 214, 9918 108 Street, Morinville, AB T8R1K8

Office Hours:

September to May: Mon-Fri 4:30-7pm & Sat 10am-12pm

May to June: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 5-7pm

July to August: Tuesdays 5-7pm

By Email: info@danceconnectioninc.com

Social Media: Facebook: @DanceConnectionInc
Instagram: [danceconnection_morinville](https://www.instagram.com/danceconnection_morinville)

***It is our goal to respond to all enquiries within 24 hours and to never leave a query unanswered.**

Please note that we send important information via email, especially as we get closer to performances, so please ensure you have provided the studio with an up-to-date email address that is regularly checked and/or ensure you are regularly checking our website for updates.

Communication with the Teacher

Question for the teacher? Our dance teachers are committed to providing our students with 100% of their time and attention during class time and due to classes being scheduled back-to-back, this can be a challenge for parents who may have questions for the teacher. In an effort to respect the teacher's commitment, if you have any questions for your child's teacher, we would be happy to answer them through any of the above means of communication to ensure all students receive the maximum benefit of their teacher's time. Parents can also request to schedule a parent-teacher meeting outside of class time.

Did you know? Our dance teachers have your child's best interest at heart. You may not always understand or agree, but we encourage you have faith, give it a fair chance and see what happens. Of course, if you do have pressing concerns, bringing them up to the teacher and/or studio director sooner is always better than later.

Dance Stages and What Dancers Learn

Ages 3 - 5

Learning basics - following instructions, listening, making a straight line, following the leader, forming a circle, learning Right and Left, jumping, hopping, skipping, patterns, stretching, cooperation, gross motor skills, counting, musical appreciation, singing, rhythm and patterns, responsibility, memorization, group skills and friendships.

Ages 6 - 8

Continuing to learn basic dance movements, terminology, formations, figuring out how to work our bodies, stretching, bending, cooperation, following instructions, working as a team. Dancers may now be taking 2 to 3 classes and will be learning time management. Good dancers are generally high academic achievers as a result of the discipline.

Ages 9 - 12

Dancers are now learning the commitment required to become a good dancer and should be taking technique classes in each discipline to strengthen and define fundamentals. Technique classes are important for muscle memory and to develop the posture, alignment, balance and placement that is the backbone of a strong dancer.

Ages 13+

Dancers continue to grow and hone their skills such as: Commitment, perseverance, discipline and motivation to do your best each class, hard work and the sense of satisfaction when achieving a goal and the drive to achieve the next objective they set for themselves, being able to take constructive criticism and apply it to better themselves, taking responsibility for themselves and others. Dancers at this age are learning to become leaders and valuable team members.

What We Offer



Tiny Twos – Parented Sessional (6 weeks)

30-minute class per week

An introductory class to dance and classroom etiquette. Children along with parent participation are encouraged to explore through music and rhythms.

Rhythm Kids (formerly Intro to Dance) 3-5 years



FULL YEAR CLASSES

Full-year students will perform in the Winter Showcase at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre in December and our Year End Recital in May. As we encourage Community Spirit in our studio, students will also perform in local Senior Care facilities.

Rhythm Kids Level 1 (3 years old)

30-minute class per week

Children are taught music appreciation and basic age and physical developmentally appropriate dance skills. We focus on basic dance, class etiquette, following direction and cooperation.

*NOTE: We will start the year with ballet slippers; in January, we will switch to Tap shoes.

Rhythm Kids Level 2 (4 years old)

45-minute class per week

Students will learn the basics of ballet and tap. Fun and learning are combined with age-appropriate music. Tap is essential for musicality and rhythm while ballet is essential to discipline.

*NOTE: Dancers wear tap shoes to start the class & change into ballet shoes halfway through class (teaching independence!).

Rhythm Kids Level 3 (5 years old)

45-minute class per week

Students are introduced to the basics of jazz, tap & ballet. We combine learning and age-appropriate physical skills with fun and appreciation of music.

New to Dance Connection? See our section on [Important Info for Parents of Rhythm Kids](#).

Ballet

Ballet is the foundation of all forms of dance as it teaches poise, body strength and control, and discipline.



Did you know? Ballet is strongly encouraged for dancers who take 2 or more dance styles as ballet skills lead to exceptional dancers in other dance styles too.

The following is only a guideline; students are assessed by the instructor and assigned to appropriate levels for each individual.

Primary (6 & 7 yrs)

45-minute class per week

Combined technique and choreography class.

Ballet 1/2

1-hour class per week

Combined technique and choreography class.

Ballet 3/4

Two classes per week: Co-requisite 1-hour choreography class + 1-hour technique class.

Dancers must attend technique class along with choreography class for performance.

Placed with teacher recommendation.

Ballet 4 & up

Two classes per week: Co-requisite 1.5-hour choreography class + 1-hour technique class.

Dancers must attend technique class along with choreography class for performance.

Pointe Technique

By recommendation only.

Teen Ballet Class

We welcome dancers with limited ballet experience. In this class we will be learning the basics and working on clean, strong technique.

Did you know? This is an excellent class for dancers with experience in other dance genres who wish to become stronger in their style, such as jazz or hip hop dancers.



Jazz

Our jazz program is a combination of modern and traditional jazz dance, all of which emphasizes strong technique, high energy and strength.

Jazz Technique

Strongly recommended for ALL dancers in levels Jr D and up. We work on progressions in turns and jumps as well as learning how to make our bodies work for us. These classes are intended to work on flexibility, strengthening the dancer's body and encouraging students to progressively develop their full potential. Dancers are placed according to their style, strengths and combination of other classes they are taking.

Mini Jazz

6 - 7 years old

Beginner Jazz

8 - 10 years - limited to no experience

Teen Jazz

11 - 13 years - beginners/limited experience

Jr A Jazz

7 - 9 years with experience

Jr B Jazz

Prerequisite: Jr A Jazz or teacher recommendation

Jr C Jazz

Prerequisite: Jr B Jazz or teacher recommendation

Jr D Jazz

Prerequisite: Jr C Jazz or teacher recommendation

Int Jazz

Teacher recommendation

Sr Jazz

Teacher recommendation

Open Jazz

12 years & up, teacher recommendation



Tap

Our tap program follows the Al Gilbert syllabus which teaches the students a sense of rhythm, timing and sound accuracy as well as musical appreciation.

Did you know? Rhythm & timing learned in Tap benefit dancers in all other dance styles.

Beginner Tap (8-10 yrs)

A fast paced class to learn the basics and terminology to become proficient tappers. This class will be geared to dancers that are registered in other disciplines. Home practice is recommended in order for students to become proficient tappers.

Beginner Teen Tap (11 years & up)

After mastering the basics and terminology, dancers will progress onto more intricate rhythms and combinations.

For Beginner tappers, we offer a Tap Intensive Week-long Workshop at the end of August to introduce dancers to all the basics to practice before the season gets underway. It is recommended that registrants for the upcoming dance year attend this workshop.

Intermediate Tap

Teacher recommendation



Future Stars 1 & 2 (formerly Back2Back Tap & Jazz)

Ages 6 & 7

We are excited to offer a 1-hour Tap & Jazz class for 6 & 7 year olds. This program will continue with our Tap and Jazz basic skills training that is important to instill rhythm, body awareness and basic dance technique. Our focus on dance class etiquette, following directions, learning combinations and cooperation will continue and grow. The Winter Showcase presentation will be a tap routine and our first Dance Festival experience will also be tap. Our Year End Recital includes both tap and jazz routines.

Hip Hop



A style of dance taking inspiration from current trends in music videos, television, movies and hip hop music. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** students also take a jazz class to become a stronger more knowledgeable dancer and to be able to progress to higher levels. Beginners will be assessed by instructors and placed in appropriate classes.

Mini Hip Hop

Beginners 6 - 8 yrs

Hip Hop A

Beginners 9 - 11 yrs

Hip Hop B

Ages 10 -12 with experience

Teen Hip Hop

Ages 12 & up with limited experience

Hip Hop C

Teacher recommendation

Intermediate Hip Hop

Teacher recommendation

Sr Hip Hop

Teacher recommendation

Adult Hip Hop

FUN FOR ALL! We offer a 10-week sessional. Minimum enrolment required. \$150

Acrobatic Dance (Acro)



Ages 6 & up

1-hr *12-week sessional classes (2 sessions per year) or *full year class

**Please inquire which would be the best choice for your dancer*

Please note, for the 2018/2019 season, all our Acro classes will continue to be technique classes only as we continue to build a strong base in this complex technique. It is our goal, for those students who are ready and with teacher recommendation, to have a choreo class in the 2019/2020 season and have the opportunity to perform in festivals. As Acro performances are the fusion of acrobatics and dance technique, students must be enrolled in at least one of the following, Ballet, Jazz or Tap, to be recommended for the choreo class.

Acrobatic dance is the fusion of classic dance technique with precision and athleticism of acrobatic elements. This challenging dance style includes balancing, limbering & flexibility (stretching), strength, tumbling and partnering. The roots of Acro are in traditional Chinese dance, which has gained popularity with the widespread success of contemporary productions such as Cirque du Soleil.

Did you know? Acro has also gained popularity in dance studios across North America due to the incredible benefits students attain from increased flexibility to upper body strength and control which lend to exceptional dancers in all other dance styles!

We follow the Acrobatic Arts syllabus with step-by-step progressions for each level. Students learn proper placement and basic technique to progress safely, competently and confidently through each level.

Important to note: Students are required to wear a bodysuit (optionally jazz shorts and/or footless tights). NO shoes are required. Hair **MUST** be in a bun or french braid(s) for safety issues.



Lyrical

Ages 12 and up

With a strong base in ballet, Lyrical jazz is only for the experienced dancer. Emotions and the understanding of life are portrayed through music & choreography. This requires excellent technique to perform as the moves are often difficult and precise yet fluid.

Please note, dancers can only register for this class if they are registered in ballet and/or jazz technique & jazz classes.



Contemporary

Ages 12 & up

This class is designed to give our experienced students an outlet to learn different styles of choreography. With a stronger technical base, you are encouraged to explore and present a performance "outside the box".

Musical Theatre

Ages 8 to adult



Dance, Sing & Act ~ The Ultimate Triple Threat!!

This fun & energetic class is for students who seek to showcase all their talents in one performance! Led by our very own Miss Courtney, students will mesh their dance skills with acting while also benefiting from guest vocal coaches who will assist with the students' vocals!

Did you know? As of 2018/19 season, Musical Theatre will be performing at regular Dance Festivals (not musical festival as had been in the past). Students will also be performing at the Christmas show.

Boys Class



We are excited to offer a boys class with Mr. Kyle. Boys have unique strengths in the dance world and students enrolled with Mr. Kyle will work on technique to strengthen their masculine role while boosting self-confidence, encouraging self-expression, and improving balance, flexibility, coordination and so much more!

Have a suggestion for a new class?

Dance Connection is not just for your kids! We believe everyone can dance and we'd love to have you involved too! We welcome learners of all ages and we will do our best to find a fit for your needs. Our staff has an abundance of teaching experience in the dance world and they are eager to share.

Solo, Duet & Small Groups

Ages 10 & up (with experience)

Includes 3 private choreography lessons followed by 1 cleaning session.

Dancers who are looking to expand their skills and display them outside of group performances can sign up to perform as a soloist, in a duet or small group at Festivals. Students are asked to express their interest to their teacher or Miss Cindy by November 1st.

Solos, Duets and Small Groups only perform at Festivals and not at the Year End Recital due to time constraints fitting in the number of group dances at Year End.

- Any student performing a solo, duet or small group must show commitment by being enrolled in that specific discipline (and technique class for ballet and jazz routines).
- \$25 Registration Fee.
- Festival and costume fees are due by November 1st.
- Students may order costumes from the costume catalogues the studio is using, purchase used costume, arrange for custom made costume. Please check with choreographer on costume choice.
- Studio space is available for practice. Please make arrangements for studio time.

Expectations:

- Be punctual and ready for each private lesson.
- Practice and retain choreography between lessons (see note below).
- Attend weekly group classes/technique classes on a regular basis.

Please note, time is very limited to teach the student(s) their routine in 3 lessons. It is absolutely imperative that the student(s) practice and retain what has been taught from the previous lesson. **Teachers reserve the right to cancel any remaining choreography and/or performance if the student(s) does not arrive having practiced and retained the choreo from the previous lesson.**

Registration & Fees

Pre-Registration

Watch for our pre-registration incentives!

New students: Please see us in person, call or email and we would be happy to assist you in getting your child signed up. We will require:

- your child's date of birth
- details of previous dance experience (if applicable)
- dance class(es) you wish to register your child in
- parent contact information
- registration fee \$25 per dancer / \$40 per family

Returning students: Parents of returning students can simply email or call our office to let us know what class(es) your child would like in the upcoming dance season and we will be happy to enroll them. The registration fee of \$25 per dancer / \$40 per family can be paid in person or as otherwise arranged.

Tuition Fees

Please inquire at the Front Desk for specific class fees.

Short-term/seasonal classes:

Fees due at time of registration and are non-refundable; no registration fee required.

Full-year classes:

Registration fee: \$25 per dancer / \$40 per family (non-refundable)

Tuition Payment options

Cheque:

- 9 monthly payments (9 post-dated cheques for 1st of the month from Sept to May)
**Please note this is not a "monthly" fee, rather it is full-year tuition broken into 9 payments*
- 3 tri-payments (post-dated cheques for September 1st, December 1st, March 1st)
- Year in full
- \$25 NSF fee

Credit Card:

- 9 equal monthly installments + \$4 service charge per payment
- 3 tri-payments (September 1st, December 1st, March 1st)
- Year in full

Cash:

- Same options as offered for Cheque above
 - Must have credit card on file
 - \$ 20 fee for late payments past the 7th of each month
-

Withdrawals & Refunds

- All fees including tuition are non-refundable for withdrawals after February 15th.
Why? By this late date, groups are well into choreography and polishing up for festivals and any withdrawal after this time is quite disruptive and incurs extra work from the teacher and effort from the other students to make adjustments needed to their routines.
 - Written notice of withdrawal must be received by front office by 15th of month previous to withdrawal. If notice of withdrawal is provided after November 1st of current year, all festival and costume fees are non refundable.
 - No refunds for missed classes due to illness, vacations, injury, etc.
 - Accounts in arrears must be cleared before enrolling in next session.
-

Costume & Festival Fees

Please inquire at the Front Desk for applicable costume/festival fees for specific class.

Costume fees due October 1st (NO refunds after November 1st)

Cash, post-dated cheque or credit card on file

Festival fees due November 1st (Non-refundable)

Cash, post-dated cheque or credit card on file

Please note, experienced classes may also have the opportunity to perform in additional festival/competition at teacher's discretion and only with 100% class participation.

Note: Additional entry fee would apply.

Solo, Duet, Small Group

Fees are payable directly to choreographer at time of agreement and DO NOT include costume & festival fees.

Please inquire at the Front Desk for specific fees.

Additional costs

- In-class dancewear as outlined in class requirements.
- Dance shoes (see info on our in-studio shoe swap below).
- Rhinestone earrings for dancers over 6 years old performing in a festival (available for purchase at our Front Desk).
- Makeup required for dancers of ALL ages during performances.
- Hairpieces may be requested by individual teachers.

Did you know? We have an in-studio [Shoe Swap](#) in our Event Room during the first week of classes.

Have dance shoes to swap? You are welcome to leave a pair and take a pair.

Don't have shoes? Buy a pair for \$5.

Have extra shoes? We would be happy to include them in our sale and you get paid if they sell.

Please note, ALL shoes must be in good reusable condition and will be listed for \$5 (not separately priced by the seller as had been done previously).

Important Dates

Click for more details: [2018-19 Calendar](#)

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Updated info will be emailed to families and posted on our website.

Did you know? Holiday Mondays (and Remembrance Day) are always a dance day.

Why? We do this to ensure Monday classes get the same amount of class time as every other day of the week... and we want Monday's students to shine as bright as the rest of the week!!

Did you also know? Dance Connection loves to host extra-curricular activities such as Halloween Party, Sleepovers and we participate in the Morinville Festival Days Parade every June. Check our website regularly for details of upcoming fun events and be sure to sign up on the Parent Portal under Events tab!

Class Observation

We are happy to provide two parent viewing weeks during the year where parents are welcome to sit and watch their child for the last 15 minutes of class.

Parents are encouraged to take video of their child's routine for home practice. This is best done during parent viewing week in February; however, arrangements can be made at another time with your child's teacher.

Did you know? Although it may be tempting, peeking in on your child's dance class is very distracting to all dancers and can disrupt the rhythm of the class for the teacher. We ask that you refrain from doing so as we want our students to give 100% of their focus and attention to their learning.

Important Info for Parents of Rhythm Kids (ages 3-5)

As your budding dancer embarks on their exciting journey into the wonderful world of Dance and as you are learning to navigate the world of being a Dance Parent, you may be unsure of what to expect and feeling a bit lost. Fear not! We're always happy to answer any question you may have. Here are a few tips to keep in mind.

Firstly, **regular and consistent attendance** is a must for our dancers. It is equally important for our dancers to practice, practice, practice at home to help remember choreography from week to week as we build their routines. In those circumstance that your child will not be in class, we kindly ask that you inform the office of your child's absence either by phone or email.

Secondly, we provide at least three **performance opportunities** for full year students:

Heritage Lodge performance: Our annual tradition in December where our Rhythm Kids get to showcase what they've learned for the residents of Heritage Lodge; this has always been a positive and enjoyable experience for both the younger and elder generations!

Please note that parents are NOT permitted to watch this performance, but you will have the opportunity to see them perform at the Winter Showcase. Also, as there is limited space for parents to wait and it can often get very congested, you are encouraged to drop off your child and pick them up at the specified times to avoid too much upheaval for the residents. Our Dance Connection staff will take great care of them!

Winter Showcase: Parents, family and friends are welcome to join us at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre in December for the Rhythm Kids' Christmas performance! This is where our first-year parents get their first look at their child on stage! It can be an exhilarating and emotional ride for parents to see their dancer on stage at any age, so for those that may need it, and you know who you are, don't forget the tissues!!

Please note, NO recording of any kind (video, still or audio) is permitted at any dance performance. This rule is for the protection and safety of all performers.

Year End Recital: Our Year End Recital is an exciting time where dancers of all ages showcase their hard work for their families and friends! This is held in May at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre at the conclusion of regular classes. The recital is broken into three approximately 1-hour performances due to the number of routines. Your child will perform in one of the three performances, the details of which are posted in April.

Again, **please note**, NO recordings are permitted, but Dance Connection will have professional video available for purchase.

Did you know? Even our tiniest dancers look washed out under the stage lights so they too require makeup for performances. See our Performance Section under Makeup for info on makeup requirements.

Lastly, our **top priority** is to provide quality dance instruction in an inclusive and positive environment where your child feels accepted while having FUN too!! We welcome any and all feedback from our parents and encourage you to reach out to our administration staff if you see an area where we may improve. We love to hear positive feedback about our staff and studio as well!!

What to expect next

If your child wishes to continue, children 6 & up can look forward to participating in one festival in the springtime, at which time they, along with their moms and dads, learn all about the festival etiquette, costumes, stage make-up & hair...oh my!! They will also be invited to participate in the Festival Days Parade in June (participants must be at least 6 years old), which is often a highlight for our dancers.

Did you know? For those families new to festival season, it is strongly encouraged that parents plan to attend one of our Festival Info Sessions that provides a wealth of info about this exciting time of year and provides a great opportunity to have your questions answered. See Important Dates and click on the Calendar for times.

FAQs

When can I register my child for the upcoming season?

Registrations begin May 1st.

When will the Fall schedule be available?

We strive to have the schedule posted on our website no later than August 15th.

Where can I buy dance shoes and dancewear?

See the Dancewear Purchasing Options in our Dancer Section under Dress Code. Of note, we also hold a Shoe Swap at the studio every year during the first week of classes in our Event Room.

My child is interested in doing a solo/duet/small group. When is registration for this?

Please have your child express their interest before November 1st.

When are the Festival Times posted?

We strive to have the Festival Times posted on our website no later than March 1st.

Can my child make up a class he/she missed?

In the case of a class being cancelled due to inclement weather or unsafe driving conditions, your child is welcome to attend a "make-up" class of a similar level in the same season. However, for classes participating in festivals this will not be allowed after January 1st as the classes will be focused on choreography for their routines, thus, not benefiting your child.

Can I take video of my child's dance routine for practice at home?

Absolutely, as long as you are not posting on public sites. Videotaping is best done at the Parent Viewing Week in February. If this doesn't work for you, arrangements can be made with your child's teacher.

Why do we have to arrive so early for festivals?

It is not uncommon for festivals to run a little early so we must ensure everyone is ready in full costume and makeup just in case. This extra time also allows our dancers to practice their routine a few times in the rehearsal room before they go on stage.

Why can't I take pictures or video at festivals and the Year End Recital?

As with any live performance of the arts, proper etiquette dictates NO recording of any kind, video, still, or audio. Festival rules state that if you are observed taking video or still shots, your dancer, group or entire studio may be disqualified immediately. This rule is also for the protection and safety of all performers.

However, some festivals have a service on site to purchase pictures and/or video, and Dance Connection hires a professional to produce a DVD of our year end recital. Order forms are available at the recital and at the front desk.

Part 2: DANCER SECTION

Class Requirements

Dress Code

Proper attire and shoes for each discipline are required. Click to view class-specific attire: [Dress Code 2017-18](#)

Important: Make sure all dance shoes and dancewear are labelled (*all size 1 ballet shoes look the same*).

All dancers are expected to come to class neatly groomed. Students are also expected to respect others by using personal hygiene products such as deodorant.

Hair should be up and off the face and neck (i.e ponytail, braid, bun) for all classes unless otherwise specified below.

Ballet: Hair must be in a proper ballet bun secured with hairpins and hair net (*see links below*).

Acro: Hair must be in a bun or French braid for safety reasons.

*Did you know? For dancers with multiple classes during the evening that include a ballet class: **BALLET ATTIRE AND PROPER BUN IS TOP PRIORITY**. Hair in a proper bun and ballet bodysuit and tights is acceptable for all other classes.*

Need help learning how to make a proper ballet bun? Click on links below for tips and tricks. We are also happy to offer a demonstration of ballet bun techniques. If interested, please inquire with our office and we will be happy to help!

For your convenience, we will have hairnets and pins available for purchase during the year.

[Ballet Bun - Youtube video 1](#)

[Ballet Bun - youtube video 2](#)

[Ballet Bun - youtube video 3](#)

[Ballet Bun - youtube video 4](#)

Did you know? With proper tools and supplies, dancers 8 years old and up should be able to put their hair up for class on their own.

Dancewear purchasing options:

KARRIES KOSTUMES (St. Albert) 2001 Gervais Road, Tudor Glen Place, St. Albert

ADAJIO DANCE & SKATE APPAREL (North Edmonton) 104-15379 Castle Downs Rd NW

ALL 4 DANCE (West Edmonton - around the corner from Princess Auto so Dads can also shop for themselves)
16332 111 Ave NW, Edmonton

ON STAGE (South Edmonton just off Whyte Ave) 10004 79 Ave NW, Edmonton

Dance Connection Attire & Goodies

Show your Dance Connection pride!! We are excited to offer an assortment of jackets, pants, and tops with our logo. Detailed order forms are available on our website or may be picked up from the office.

We also carry Dance Connection garment bags for transport of costumes.

For your convenience we have the following for purchase in the office:

- rhinestone earrings for performances (clip-on and pierced)
- hair pins, hair nets
- tights

Student Discipline and Commitment

→ Attendance and Practicing:

REGULAR and CONSISTENT attendance in all classes is V E R Y important. It is crucial to a positive and successful performance experience. As part of a TEAM, every member has an equal responsibility to be an integral part of the whole.

In order for our dancers to perform at the top of their game, we ask for commitment to practice (at home) and remembering choreography from week to week as we build their routines.

Dancers are encouraged to bring a notebook to class to write down their routines and any extra notes teachers may have. Parents can make arrangements with teachers or students can bring devices to video routines for practice purposes.

Important: In those circumstance that your child will not be in class, we kindly ask that you inform the office of your child's absence either by phone or email.

Did you know? When your child misses a class, most especially January to year end, your child misses very important choreography and corrections. Unfortunately, due to our restricted timeline, it can also affect the confidence and synchronicity of the group. Please ensure your child is not missing class(es) during this crucial time unless absolutely unavoidable, such as illness.

Make-up Classes

Generally, we do not make-up classes if cancelled due to inclement weather or poor road conditions; however, we do sometimes squeeze in an extra class leading up to festivals to polish and clean up our dancers' routines. Full participation is expected in extra classes.

Part 3: PERFORMANCE SECTION

General Information

The opportunity to perform in a festival/recital is an exciting, empowering and confidence-building part of the training process. This is where we love to watch our students learn about the theatre, rehearsals and teamwork while they enjoy the opportunity to showcase their skills in a professionally run production. Festivals/recitals are a wonderful way for students to showcase the results of their hard work and for family and friends to join in the pride of their achievement. We love giving all students the chance to perform for their family and friends in this supportive and fun environment and encourage even our youngest and newest performers to be involved.

Please note, if there is any reason why your child will not be able to perform at the festival/recital, please let us know so we can make adjustments to the class routines involving them.

Dance Festivals

Who? Dancers, ages 6 years and up. First year participation in one festival. At teacher's discretion, we enter classes in 2 festivals and may increase to 3 or 4 depending on level and class willingness as dancers become more committed.

What? Dance festivals are offered to dance studios by various private and non-profit organizations that procure location, date and adjudicators. They provide the experience to encourage performance and camaraderie in the arts community.

Why? Exposure to the experience. Receive constructive feedback from an industry professional and apply in class or next performance. Meet dancers from other studios. Perform at a different venue.

Where? Festivals are held at various theatre locations in Sherwood Park, Edmonton, St. Albert. Parents and guests will pay an admission fee at the door. Parking may be limited at some locations, be sure to give yourself plenty of time to arrive and get ready.

When? Typically we should be performance ready by end of March. Please be supportive by helping or providing your dancer time and space to practice their dance routines. Teachers are not allowed to coach dancers backstage.

Costumes

Costumes are distributed in "Stage Performance" condition, steamed and ready to wear and will not be released unless students have a protective garment bag. You may bring your own or purchase a Dance Connection garment bag at our front desk for \$8 + GST while quantities last.

Small alterations will be the responsibility of the parents, i.e. taking down straps, etc.

New for 2019!! Brand new dance tights are now included with all costumes so our dancers will have perfectly clean and damage-free tights for performance season. You will note that these are at a reduced cost than if you were to purchase tights at Karries Kostumes, for example, and can be used the following year in class!

The following are steps to ensure your costume remains in "Stage Performance" condition for all performances.

- Label costume with dancer's name and studio (DC).
- **MUST** be hung securely on a hanger and in a protective garment bag to be transported to/from studio/home/performances.
- Accessories to be hung in a ziploc bag on the same hanger (label the bag or insert a list of the bag's contents); this may include tights, hair pieces, gloves, armbands, earrings, hats, etc.
- **DO NOT** wear costumes to/from performances. Changes rooms are provided at each venue.
- Refrain from eating/drinking while in costumes...accidents happen and most costumes will stain and be unsightly on stage.

Other considerations:

- NO nail polish, NO jewelry except if designated part of costume, i.e. rhinestone earrings.
- NO stick-on rhinestone earrings as they are prone to falling off.

Please note, if you are missing accessories or costume is wrinkled, you will not be allowed to perform. For example, if you are missing your headpiece or earrings, you will not be allowed to perform as it will be very noticeable on stage and distracting for the group.

Makeup

Unless otherwise specified by your child's dance teacher, the standard performance makeup for Dance Connection dancers of ALL ages is as follows:

- brown-toned eyeshadow & blush
- black eyeliner (no wings)
- black mascara or false lashes
- red lipstick (Revlon - Cherry Blossom)

As festival time nears, notes will be sent home with details about schedule, hairstyles, makeup and costumes. Please make note of **arrival times** and **location**. Late arrivals may not be allowed to dance if teacher feels it is unfavorable for the team. Just a reminder, as in the past, we do not have control of the schedule and dancers may have to miss school and parents may have to take time off work to perform with their group.

Rehearsals

As we get close to performances, we strongly encourage all students to make sure they are comfortable with and memorize their choreography. Home practice is expected and will build confidence and assurance on stage. Every team member has equal responsibility for a good performance. Every performance opportunity should be a fun and positive experience for all!

Extra class rehearsals may be called leading up to festivals and full participation is expected. Also, we do have a rehearsal day usually a week prior to the final dance recital of the year at MCCC.

Etiquette for audience members:

It is expected that dance parents take responsibility for and relay all expectations to invited guests.

- NO PICTURES OR VIDEOS
Why? As with any live performance of the arts, proper etiquette dictates NO recording of any kind, video, still, or audio. Festival rules state that if you are observed taking video or still shots, your dancer, group or entire studio may be disqualified immediately. This rule is also for the protection and safety of all performers. ***Please do not jeopardize the opportunity that these organizations provide for your children to perform. Your cooperation is much appreciated.*** Note: that some festivals have a service on site to purchase pictures and/or video.
 - Absolutely no entering or exiting the auditorium during a performance, no exceptions. Some venues have doors monitored by staff who permit the entering/exiting. However, this is not always the case, so it is common etiquette to respect this rule at all venues.
 - Please DO NOT sit in the front rows and wave to performers as it is very distracting and unprofessional. Dancers need to focus 100% on what is happening on stage with their group. We request that you sit at least 5 rows back from the front.
 - Prompting of the dancers by anyone in the audience (or backstage) is not permitted and can result in disqualification.
 - We encourage dancers to sit and watch other performances; however, if they are in costume, they must be totally covered.
 - Good sportsmanship is a must!!! Any dancer or audience member displaying poor sportsmanlike conduct (i.e. swearing, rudeness) will be removed from the venue and risk disqualification for the dancer, group or studio.
 - Polite clapping and cheering for your dancer/group is perfectly acceptable. However, loud, "over-the-top" cheering can be viewed as unsportsmanlike and is strongly frowned upon. Please be respectful of ALL groups and dancers in each category.
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Dance Festival Rules & Etiquette

Prior to the festivals, parents will receive a note/email with requirements for costume, accessories, makeup and hair, specific to each dance performance they may be in. This will also include the time your dancer is required to be at the venue, in full costume and makeup, ready to perform.

Did you know? Festivals reserve the right to run up to 30 minutes ahead of schedule so the times given to parents account for this and also allow the dancers time to run through their routine and receive any last minute coaching from their teacher. If you are late, it can cause disruption and anxiety amongst the group and your child may be asked not to perform.

Festival Day:

- ★ Ensure you have labelled all parts of costumes (name and studio "DC") including shoes and always transport costume(s) in a garment bag. DO NOT wear costume to the festival.
- ★ DO NOT BRING VALUABLES. The venue/studio takes no responsibility if an item is damaged, misplaced or stolen. Mobile phones are not permitted backstage.
- ★ Ensure you allow plenty of time to drive and find parking; some venues can be more difficult to find parking depending on the time and day.
- ★ Upon arrival, find the dressing room labeled Dance Connection to get into costume, apply makeup, do hair, etc. (You may want to apply makeup and do hair before leaving home, except for lipstick).
- ★ Find teacher in rehearsal room at the specified time and be ready to rehearse/perform. (Note, only Dance Connection staff and dancers are permitted backstage and in the rehearsal area so please ensure your dancer has everything he/she needs prior to arrival in the rehearsal area).
- ★ Please note, there is a fee for parents and guests to watch. Programs are also available for purchase.
- ★ After your child's performance and adjudication, they will meet parents and guests in the lobby after which dancers can change out of their costumes and collect their items from the dressing room. DOUBLE CHECK BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE VENUE THAT YOU HAVE EVERYTHING.

Did you know? Tap shoes are only permitted on the stage. They must be carried at all other times.

Reminder that teachers reserve the right to ask a dancer to "sit out" from a performance if they feel that dancer is detrimental to the group. As a group we want everyone to look the same. If one dancer is missing a headpiece, earrings, or has different colored tights, it is distracting. To be fair, the visual is as important as the dance choreography and execution; therefore our rule is that we would announce that dancer as missing and not let them perform.

Year End Recital

Our Year End Recital is an exciting time where dancers of all ages showcase their hard work for their families and friends! This is held in May at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre at the conclusion of regular classes. The recital is broken into three approximately 1-hour performances due to the number of routines. Details of which show(s) that your dancer will be performing in are posted/emailed in April.

Tickets: Tickets generally go on sale a few weeks prior to the recital at our Front Desk. Please keep an eye out on our website for details. There is no limit to purchase tickets and are sold on first-come, first-served basis. If tickets remain on the day of the recital, they will be available for purchase at the door at a slightly increased cost.

Please note, if your child wants to watch a show that he/she isn't performing in, a ticket must be purchased.

Rehearsal: Parents can expect an email/post on the website sometime in April with the details of the group rehearsal and is typically held the weekend prior to the Year End recital. Please ensure your dancer attends this rehearsal as everyone will be taught the Grand Finale dance which will not be covered during regular class time.

Day of Recital:

- ★ Arrive at Morinville Cultural Centre 1/2 hour prior to showtime and proceed backstage to dressing rooms. As always, the safety of our dance family is our #1 priority.
 - Dancers are not permitted to leave the backstage or venue while the recital is running.
 - Dancers may leave in between each show only if accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- ★ Flowers are available for purchase in the lobby.
- ★ Order forms for DVD of Year End shows are available in the lobby.
- ★ Audience etiquette listed under Festival Rules & Etiquette apply (with the exception of seating in the front rows).

Thank you for being an important part of the Dance Connection Family, and as always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation!



Dance with us. Grow with us. Learn with us. Success in dance leads to success in life.