

## Information for New Students and Parents of VanDance Studio

### WHAT IS A GOOD CLASS FOR MY CHILD TO START IN?

Any activity is great! But we always recommend that ballet is taken first as it is the base of all dance forms. A recreational jazz/hop class is great fun and exercise for those students who want a more energized form of dance.

### Why is VanDance Different from other studios?

WE ARE DIVERSE! We at VanDance offer the most well rounded dance program in Alberta. Our teachers are trained and qualified in many different dance styles. We concentrate on developing both the dancer and the person within a close knit dance family. Your children will get professional instruction in ALL dance forms we offer! We offer structured programs from age 3.

### What is Expected from VanDance Teachers?

As the director I expect all teachers to act with energy and enthusiasm each class; to encourage EVERY student and give both positive feedback and critiques weekly in order for the students to grow. Our teachers are entertaining and show and demonstrate exercises to the best of their ability while also knowing about structure and anatomy of the students so that they can properly correct each student. Our teachers have all danced themselves and have grown up in this industry. Most importantly, our teachers communicate to both students and parents with RESPECT and proper studio etiquette.

### Why Participate in Exams?

Exams give the students goals to work towards. It is human nature to want to better ones self and strive to be the best. The exam programs provide structured stepping stone learning for students which are attainable! Not only do exams make most students improve at a quicker rate, it teaches children practice skills, time management skills, work ethic and much more! It gives the parent piece of mind that not only is your child enjoying dance class but with your money spent, they are learning and progressing with work that is done as a worldwide standard.

### What is Dance Festival?

Festival is dance competition. We start participating in dance festivals at the Pre Primary 2 level. We try to promote a healthy competitive spirit here at VanDance, and believe that the only person students compete against at festival is themselves. Try to be better than you were the last time you were onstage!

**VanDance is a stepping stone program** and we try to direct you in the direction best for your child.

Ages are approximate. Placement in all dance forms is largely based on ballet levels.

- 3 years-Tiny Tot (based on ballet)
- 4 years-Kindertot (Ballet and Tap Combo)
- 5 years-Pre Primary Levels (Ballet, Tap Jazz/Hop and Acro are available)
- 6 years-Pre Primary 2 Levels (same as above but exams and festival start)
- 7-13 years Grade 1-5 (major/professional exams also start)
- 14-18 years Grade 6, 7, 8 and Major exams

### Other Frequently Asked Questions Answered:

- Our classes start at age 3.
- We have classes for boys and girls.
- We have classes in Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Modern, Lyrical and Character and Acro (See "Types of Dance" form on our website)
- Our classes run from September to May.
- Year End Show takes place May 25 and 26 times TBA
- Lists of clothing requirements are listed on our General Information Letter
- You may register for 1 or more classes a week during our season. You may try as many as you wish the first 2 weeks of the dance season. Lessons must be firmed up by week 3.
- We do reserve the right to update our schedule after registration and during the season if needed. An updated schedule will be posted by the end of week 1!

- All classes will be held at our facility at 1920 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S Lethbridge.
- Our cost for dance classes is \$42 a month or less depending on the class and time of year you register. (see registration form for details)
- We have a once a year registration fee which covers our studio insurance and registration costs.
- Each class runs 30, 45 or 60 minutes depending on age, class size and level of dance. We reserve the right to shorten the length of small classes in order to keep them running.
- Costumes are provided for our year end show as you have paid a costume fee for this during your registration.
- We offer a recreational dance program as well as a competitive/exam program.
- We try to include all festival class students in the festivals we attend. This starts at Pre Primary 2 level. (Please see our general information for more details)
- We also encourage these students to participate in the exams offers as it sets goals for them. (Please see our general information for more details)
- **We use email for all newsletters and updates. Be sure your email is correct on your form.**
- **vandance.ca is our website and please add our facebook page. Both are updated regularly!**

**TINY TOT:** This category is for **3 year olds**. It is a structured ballet based class however some fun dance games, introduction to different rhythms of music and general structure to prepare students to group work is also introduced. Tiny Tots will need a body suit and tights of any color but pink is a great option. Boys should wear tighter fitting shorts and a t-shirt. Pink ballet slippers for girls and black ballet slippers for boys will work very well. Some of the little girls like to wear ballet skirts or tutus and these are optional.

**KINDERTOT:** This is a category for **4 year olds or who have taken a year of Tiny Tot**. This is a Tap/Ballet combo class. We build on the ballet skills which were introduced in Tiny Tot and the rhythm skills by the addition of Tap. This class is an excellent base for years to come. Attire is the same as Tiny Tot however tap shoes are also required.

#### **Recreational JAZZ/HOP**

Students participating in jazz/hop consists of jazz technique as well as hip-hop, house, and street dance technique. Hip Hop is a culture. This class is full of energy and is a good work out for students. Use of the entire body is needed for hip hop. It is a "let it go", "get into the floor" energized form of dance. Jazz Hop Can be added at age 5 but goes right up to teen level! You can stay in your regular dance attire (bodysuit and tights) or you could add leggings and a tighter fitting t-shirt so your instructor can see you move!

**There is lots of room in these classes! Boys and Girls welcome! Call for class time! Our registration continues until the end of September and you are welcome to bring a friend to class Sept 18-22.**

Welcome to VanDance Studio! I look forward to meeting everyone this upcoming week **and** at our opening Meet and Greet Pot luck/BBQ on Friday Sept. 22 (watch your email for details)

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