



**EST 2001**

## **STUDIO INFORMATION**

**2019**

## ABOUT US

Melissa's Dance Studio, established in 2001, is Griffith's leading dance studio, with all your dance needs under one roof. Starting out with just 80 students in 2001, MDS continues to grow year to year, a true testament to our family feel environment.

We pride ourselves on catering to everyone - whether you are enrolling your child in a class for fun, or they want to work towards making dance a career - we have the classes for them. Our staff are committed to the development of all dancer's training in classical ballet, hip hop, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, tap and acrobatics.

Our studio has three fully equipped dance spaces, qualified teachers and an onsite dance wear shop. Everything is at your finger tips, even a comfortable waiting area for you whilst your child enjoys their class.

MDS holds affiliations with Australian Dance Vision and the Australian Dance Institute, so you know your child will be taught correctly and safely, using current dance teaching methods.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Meghan Armstrong, RAW Dance Company, 2015

Lily Garbett, Transit Dance Origins Interstate Contemporary Training Program 2017, 2018

Courtlyn Tuckett, Transit Dance Origins Interstate Contemporary Training Program 2018

Mia Restagno, Transit Dance Origins Interstate Contemporary Training Program 2018

Jorja Nicholls, Melbourne City Youth Ballet Performance Company, Melbourne City Ballet Junior Elite Artist Program, and the Melbourne City Ballet Junior Extension Program, 2016 & 2017, Projection Dance 2018

## WHAT WE OFFER

Workshops with guest teachers and choreographers, both within our studio and in the major cities.

An informal mid year concert at the end of Term 2 so students can showcase to their family and friends what they have learned.

A Pre-School Only concert at the Regional Theatre at the end of the year.

Two exciting concert productions at the end of November for our Junior, Primary & Senior Schools, giving students the chance to perform in full costume in a professional theatre setting.

Solo lessons for promising and dedicated dancers to compete in eisteddfods and competitions.

Classes for fun as well as for the more serious dancer.

Opportunities for students to perform at community events throughout the year.

A family orientated, fun and professional environment to foster the love and enjoyment of dance.

School holiday activities to keep the kids active and break the boredom.

Onsite dance wear shop.

# WHAT'S YOUR DANCE STYLE

## STREET JAZZ

A combination of jazz and hip hop, this class is full of fun and funky moves, as well as offering the jazz and hip hop foundation techniques. It's a great class for students just starting out as well as those that are more experienced.

## TAP

Our tap classes follow the Pullar's Tap Syllabus, with students learning strong technique and percussive rhythms.

## CLASSICAL BALLET

Ballet is the basis of all dance training. Our classes focus on building strong technique and discipline using the Australian Dance Vision syllabus. Ballet assessments are available, with students gaining a nationally recognised certificate in dance performance studies.

## LYRICAL

Students learn foundation ballet, jazz and contemporary technique as well as learning how to connect emotion to music to tell a story. This style is growing in popularity.

## ACROBATICS

For the students who like to be upside down or cartwheeling around, these classes are perfect. Students work on developing their acrobatics skills, flexibility and strength, as well as safety in execution of skills.



Ready Set Dance is the class that thousands of pre-schoolers across Australia and New Zealand are enjoying every week, and Melissa's Dance Studio is proud to be your official location for Griffith and the Riverina.

Designed by leading dance educators, our classes are designed to give boys and girls from 2 years to 5 years of age confidence, coordination and creativity in a safe professional environment. With a major emphasis on FUN, our Ready Set Dance classes will be the highlight of your child's week.

**CONFIDENCE,**  
**COORDINATION**  
**AND**  
**CREATIVITY.**

Our classes teach pre-schoolers the three c's: confidence, coordination and creativity. It teaches them to follow direction, remember instructions & develop musicality. Each class is a combination of Jazz, Hip Hop and Tap, as well as musical rhythms and singing.

Each Ready Set Ballet class is a thirty minute magical ballet experience, teaching young dancers the all important basics of ballet through play and imagination.

Your child will be able to follow along with some of their favourite routines at home with a dedicated ready Set Dance YouTube channel, not to mention a brand new exciting Ready Set Dance TV Show airing in January on Nick Jnr! We also have take-home packs of class props that you can purchase to aid in at home learning.

All of our Ready Set Dance classes come together for a special pre-schooler only concert once a year, so our tiniest studio members get to experience the fun of performing in full costume in a professional theatre setting, without feeling overwhelmed by our larger school.

Head over to [www.readyset.dance](http://www.readyset.dance) to see all the fun our students have in their weekly lessons.

# CLASS SCHEDULE

## Classes for 2-3 year olds:

### Baby Ballet

Monday	9:30am
Thursday	9:30am
Saturday	10:00am

### Ready Set Dance

Monday	10:00am
Wednesday	10:00am
Thursday	10:00am
Saturday	10:30am

## Classes for 4-5 year olds

### Pre-School Ballet

Tuesday	4:00pm
Saturday	12:15pm

### Ready Set Dance

Monday	3:45pm
Tuesday	4:30pm
Wednesday	4:00pm
Thursday	3:30pm
Saturday	11:15am

## Junior School (for students in Year 1 & 2 at school)

Ballet	Monday 3:45pm-4:30pm Saturday 11:30am-12:15pm
Jazz	Monday 4:30pm-5:15pm Saturday 10:00am-10:45am
Acro	Tuesday 3:45pm-4:15pm Saturday 10:45am-11:30am
Tap	Tuesday 4:30pm-5:15pm

# CLASS SCHEDULE

## Pre-Primary School (for students in Year 3 & 4 at school)

Ballet	Tuesday 4:30pm-5:30pm
Jazz	Monday 4:45pm-5:30pm
Acro	Friday 5:00pm-6:00pm
Tap	Tuesday 3:45pm-4:30pm for Beginners/Intermediate Monday 4:15-4:45pm for Advanced
Lyrical	Monday 5:30-6:15pm

## Primary School (for students in Year 5 & 6 at school)

Ballet	please discuss your options with Melissa
Jazz	Monday 6:15pm-7:15pm
Acro	Friday 5:00pm-6:00pm
Tap	Monday 4:15pm-4:45pm
Lyrical	Monday 5:30pm-6:30pm

## Senior School (for students in Years 7-12)

Ballet	Please discuss your options with Melissa
Jazz	Monday 6:45pm-7:45pm
Acro	Friday 5:00pm-6:00pm
Tap	Monday 5:30pm-6:15pm
Lyrical	Monday 7:45pm-8:45pm

## Returning in 2019:

**Boys Only Hip Hop** for ages 7 years and over    Friday 4:00-4:45pm

**Stretch Strengthen & Condition** for all ages    Friday 6:00-6:45pm

Our SSC class is perfect for anyone who wants to build strength and increase flexibility, no matter their age and fitness level. It is also a great additional class for students to take, especially those enrolled in ballet, acro and troupes.

## **STUDIO ENROLMENT INFORMATION**

Our studio is a nurturing space for children and adults of all ages to have fun, make friends and enjoy the many benefits of dance. Please take a moment to read through all the information in this booklet to understand the procedures we have adopted and put into place to make you and your child's dance experience a positive one.

### **Communications & Keeping in Touch**

MDS will communicate all studio news and information to you in the form of a newsletter, and by email only. Therefore, to keep up to date with important studio information, please ensure you provide us with your email address. Newsletters are distributed once a month.

We have a closed and private Facebook group for students and parents of our studio. For 2019, you will need to search for: MDS 2019 Enrolled Students & Parents. You will need to request to join the group. Once joined, it is a fantastic way to keep up to date with what is going on in the studio, as well as a place to ask any questions you may have.

Going on to Facebook and 'liking' our Melissa's Dance Studio page is also another great way to keep up to date with studio happenings, as well as Instagram -melissadancestudio and SnapChat - mds4dance

MDS will send out a text message to your mobile to advise you of any sudden class cancellations or time changes. Although cancellations are few and far between, it is a good idea to check your phone before class starts.

Teachers are not available between classes to chat. If you would like to speak with your child's teacher, please leave a request with the reception staff with a phone number and the best time for the teacher to call. Reception staff are unable to give you the private telephone numbers of your child's teacher.

### **Uniforms**

We ask that each student is dressed in our studio uniform as it makes them feel like part of a team. Uniform is also required for participation in our mid year concerts.

MDS hosts a dance wear shop on site, stocking shoes and our uniform. Included in this pack is a catalogue & prices of all items that are stocked/available to order. For your convenience, we have included in this pack an order form for our custom MDS t-shirts, hoodies, leggings and jackets, so you can order and pre-pay with your credit card.

## **CLASS ETIQUETTE**

Students are asked to be respectful of their teacher, other students and all MDS staff.

We must disconnect from technology whilst in class. We feel that since dance is a physical activity, there is no need for phones in class. Assure your child that should you need to contact them, you can do so via Melissa's mobile or the studio phone.

Arriving to class on time is important to minimise the risk of injury, as each class commences with a 15 minute warm up and stretch. Arriving on time also helps to curb distractions to the teacher and students.

Students are asked to attend classes dressed neatly in their uniform and with correct footwear. Children will not be allowed to dance with just socks on their feet. Hair must be neatly secured in a bun for all ballet, acrobatics and lyrical classes, and a bun or ponytail for street jazz, hip hop, tap and contemporary classes.

There is to be no food sent into the dance spaces with students. Bottled water only.

Please be punctual on arrival and ensure your child is collected on time. We do understand that being late is sometimes unavoidable, so please be sure to call the studio and let someone know, that way we can arrange appropriate supervision for your child.

For MDS teachers to maintain a controlled and positive learning environment, classes are closed to parents/caregivers/siblings. You will be invited in on the last day of each term.



## **FEE SCHEDULE**

Fees can be paid weekly or by term.

Fees are calculated in four increments over 37 weeks off the dance year. This means you will be paying the same amount each term, regardless of how many lessons there are. We feel this will help you with your family budget as well as streamline the accounts process for administration.

Payment is welcome in the form of cash, cheque, eftpos and online deposits to our account.

**All classes must be paid for whether they are attended or not and regardless of if you pay weekly or by the term. Credits will be issued only if the teacher cancels a class.**

We welcome Active Kids Vouchers to go towards your child's fees. Please print or email your voucher to us together with your child's date of birth and we will process the voucher and apply to your account.

The above payment systems are non negotiable.

Our fee structure is as follows:

<b><u>Lesson Description:</u></b>	<b><u>Fee:</u></b>
30 minutes	\$11.00
45 minutes	\$13.00
60 minutes	\$15.00
90 minutes	\$20.00
2 x 1 hour classes	\$28.00
3 x 1 hour classes	\$39.00
4 x 1 hour classes	\$48.00
5 x 1 hour classes	\$60.00
6+ x 1 hour classes	\$72.00
Solos/Private Lessons	\$15 for 15 minutes, \$30 for 30 minutes, \$50 for 60 minutes/two solos lessons per week

***NB: Solos will be charged on top of any capped rate. Capped rate allocations will be determined on an individual basis, and may be allocated to lessons that are longer than the hour, with the remainder of time to be charged at the normal rate.***

## **COSTS OTHER THAN FEES**

### **Concert Costs:**

All students are invited to take part in our end of year concert. To give you an idea, extra costs involved are, but are not limited to:

### **Costumes:**

1 x \$50 deposit per costume, payable upon invoice at the end of Term 1. Refundable only before costumes are ordered in Term 2. If there are any remaining costs after the deposits are applied, you will be charged for this in Term 2 or 3. If the costume deposits are more than the purchase price of costumes, you will be given a credit onto your Term 4 account.

**Concert Tickets:** purchased from the Regional Theatre, approximate price of \$25 each.

**Optional Concert USB:** \$50

**Stockings/Tights:** Approximately \$14 per pair

## **STUDIO PROCEDURE**

A position in one of our classes is not available until an enrolment form has been received with a non refundable \$16 registration fee.

Please report to the reception desk on arrival to pay your fees. The reception staff will also be able to help you with any questions or concerns you may have.

To reach full potential in class and perform well in concerts, students need to attend class on a consistent basis. If a student has more than two weeks absence consecutively without notification, we will assume the student is no longer attending and enrolment will be cancelled. Please notify MDS prior to class time if your child not be attending their lesson.

Dance is a physical activity. In order to correct your child or assist your child in the understanding of an activity, MDS teachers may need to have physical contact with your child.

Should your child fall ill or suffer an injury, they will be attended to by a first aid officer, and if serious, an Ambulance will be called and CPR commenced. Please note: **all anaphylaxis students must bring their own EpiPen to every class along with your anaphylaxis action plan.**

MDS must be notified before class should your child be suffering from an injury, illness or allergy of any sort. All injuries obtained in class must be reported to teacher immediately.

All injuries obtained MUST be cleared by a physician in writing before the student will be permitted to dance.

All choreography of dance routines remains the intellectual property of MDS and the teacher and cannot be reproduced in any way without the written consent of MDS staff. Video footage of class/performances is not to be placed on social media without the consent of Melissa.

If it at anytime throughout the dance year that class numbers fall below 5, MDS reserves the right to cancel the class and transfer enrolment over to another suitable class.

## **STUDIO ETIQUETTE**

All areas of MDS are nut free zones

Due to the close proximity of the waiting room to our dance spaces, please keep noise to a minimum, and refrain from congregating around any entry and exit doors.

Please respect our waiting room. Put all rubbish in the bin upon leaving, and encourage children to put things away.

All dancers belongings are to be stored off the floor on shelving provided in the waiting room.

All dance spaces are off limits until a teacher calls class. Please don't encourage your child to enter a dance space to run around or play.

MDS reserves the right to cancel the enrolment of any student or their parents whose behaviour is disruptive or abusive, or who's behaviour and/or comments in any form - verbal, written or online - that brings MDS and any of the staff or students into disrepute.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

We have developed extensive Code of Conduct Policies for Students, Staff & Parents. Please ask at the reception desk for a copy if interested.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO FOOTAGE**

Time to time we like to post photos or video on our Facebook, Instagram and SnapChat pages about what our students are getting up to in class. You have the option of allowing this to happen though, by marking your preference on the enrolment form. If you do not wish for your child to appear on any social media websites, please inform them of your decision so they are aware of why they are not included in any class photos.

Please note however, that Melissa keeps close watch on all of the social media platforms and closely monitors who is following the studio's Facebook and Instagram pages. If they are not recognisable, they are blocked. MDS will never use any hashtags either, so the children's online safety is ensured.

## **ANTI BULLYING POLICY**

MDS is built on trust, respect & family, by providing a physical and emotionally safe & secure environment for all students, parents & staff.

To respect the rights of students, parents & staff, acts of bullying, harassment & intimidation will not be tolerated. We expect behaviour that promotes being respectful, civil & happy. Any form of bullying or harassment in the form of physical, verbal or written (including on any social media platforms) that is seen as hostile, humiliating, threatening or likely to bring fear or emotional distress, will not be tolerated. Immediate suspension of enrolment will be taken against any parties involved.

This bullying policy is not limited to just inside the dance studio. We do not take kindly to our students bullying members of other studios, nor do we like other studio's students bullying our students. Please report any form of bullying & harassment to Melissa as soon as it happens, being confident that the appropriate measures of discipline will be taken in strictest of confidentiality.

## **CONSENT**

By signing the enrolment form you consent to the following:

- \* Paying all fees and associated costs on time and in full regardless of attendance
- \* MDS Staff treating your child in the event of an illness, injury or accident, calling an ambulance if required and commencing CPR if required
- \* Noting on your enrolment form any injuries, illnesses (including mental illnesses) or allergies, and any treatment the child is having for said illnesses/injuries/allergies
- \* Physical contact where needed between the student and the teacher for correctional and/or first aid purposes
- \* Keeping all your contact details up to date with reception staff