



STUDIO INFORMATION 2020

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.

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, 2019

Courtlyn Tuckett, Transit Dance Origins Interstate Contemporary Training Program 2018.
Certificate IV Dance Teaching & Management 2019-2020.

Mia Restagno, Transit Dance Origins Interstate Contemporary Training Program 2018, 2019

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 & 2019

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.

KINDY COMBO

Special combination classes for students who are starting Kindy at school in 2020. Our Kindy Combo classes are an hour long, with time spent evenly working on jazz & tap basics. This class is strictly for Kindy students. For pre-school classes, please see our [READY SET DANCE](#) & [READY SET BALLET](#) details.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Sing, Dance & Act! Our musical theatre classes are perfect for the students who just can't get enough of performing.





READY SET DANCE & READY SET BALLET are the classes 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 & READY SET BALLET 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 READY SET DANCE 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 foundations of ballet, through play and imagination.

Your child will be able to follow along with some of their favourite routines at home with READY SET DANCE appearing daily on Nickelodeon. We also have take-home packs of class props that you can purchase to aid at home learning.

With a special READY SET DANCE & READY SET BALLET uniform, your child will feel part of a team each lesson. We also have gorgeous TWIRL & FREEZE backpacks available to order to keep ourselves organised for class each week, as well as drink bottles to keep us hydrated in class.

All of our READY SET DANCE & READY SET BALLET 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 to see all the fun our students have in their weekly lessons. And don't forget you can catch READY SET DANCE on Nickelodeon daily, or download their app today.

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.

REGISTRATION & FEE PAYMENT

A position in one of our classes is not available until an enrolment form has been received with a non refundable \$16 registration fee. Fees can be paid weekly or by term. (see: Fee Schedule)

COMMUNICATIONS

MDS will communicate all studio news and information to you in the form of a newsletter, and by email only. Newsletters are distributed once a month.

We have a closed and private Facebook group for students and parents of our studio. For 2020, you will need to search for: MDS 2020 Families. 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.

In the event of a class cancellation, a text message will be sent to those students/families affected.

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. Our READY SET DANCE & READY SET BALLET students are required to wear their specific uniform.

MDS hosts a dance wear shop on site, stocking shoes and all uniforms. (See: Lil Bit of Grace catalogue) You will find 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.

PARKING

Please refrain from parking along the side of our studio, and we ask that you do not park out the front of other businesses in the complex. There is a carpark for your convenience & for students safety.

ATTENDANCE & ILLNESSES

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.

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. Please note: **all anaphylaxis students must bring their own EpiPen to every class along with your anaphylaxis action plan upon enrolment.**

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 the class teacher immediately.

Please note: All areas of MDS are nut free zones.

WAITING ROOM

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 also encourage students & their siblings to sit quietly whilst they are waiting.

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

Please respect our furniture and discourage your children from jumping on it.

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 allow your child to enter a dance space to run around or play.

CHOREOGRAPHY & CLASS CONTENT

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.

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

MDS is built on trust, respect & family. We provide a physically & 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Toddlers: 2yrs-3yrs

READY SET BALLET

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

READY SET DANCE

Monday 10:00-11:00am
Thursday 10:00-11:00am
Saturday 9:00-10:00am

Pre-Schoolers

READY SET BALLET

Monday 9:30-10:00am
Wednesday 3:45-4:15pm
Thursday 3:30-4:00pm
Saturday 10:00-10:30am

READY SET DANCE

Monday 10:00-11:00am
Monday 3:30-4:30pm
Tuesday 4:00-5:00pm
Wednesday 4:15-5:15pm
Thursday 4:00-5:00pm
Saturday 10:30-11:30am

Kindy

KINDY BALLET

Monday 3:45-4:15pm
Wednesday 4:00-4:30pm

KINDY COMBO

Tuesday 3:45-4:45pm
Wednesday 4:45-5:45pm

Junior School Years 1-2

JUNIOR BALLET

Monday 4:15-5:00pm
Thursday 4:45-5:30pm

JUNIOR JAZZ

Monday 5:00-5:45pm
Thursday 4:00-4:45pm

JUNIOR TAP

Tuesday 4:45-5:30pm

CLASS SCHEDULE

Primary Years 3-4

Jazz - Monday 4:30-5:15pm

Lyrical - Monday 5:15-6:00pm

Tap - Monday 6:00-6:45pm

Musical Theatre - Friday 4:45-5:30pm

Years 7-12

Senior Tap - Monday 5:30-6:15pm

Senior Jazz - Monday 6:45-7:45pm

Senior Lyrical - Monday 7:45-8:45pm

Musical Theatre - Friday 4:45-5:30pm

Primary Years 5-6

Lyrical - Monday 5:15-6:00pm

Tap - Monday 6:00-6:45pm

Jazz - Monday 6:45-7:45pm

Musical Theatre - Friday 4:45-5:30pm

Classical Ballet

After the age of 8 years, our classical ballet classes go on ability before age.

Please speak to Melissa about enrolling into one of our many classical ballet classes to ensure your child gets the most out of their class. Please note, all ages and abilities are catered for from beginners through to Pointe & Majors.

Boys Hip Hop 7-12 years

A half hour class just for boys who want to learn all the latest hip hop moves.
Thursday 5:00-5:30pm

FEE SCHEDULE & OTHER COSTS

Fees can be paid weekly or by term.

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 & Creative Kids Vouchers to go towards your child's fees. Please email your voucher to us together with your child's date of birth and we will process the voucher and apply to your account. If claiming a voucher, please make payment minus the \$100. We are unable to apply the voucher to your account until it has been processed by Service NSW, which can take weeks.

The above payment systems are non negotiable.

Our fee structure is as follows:

Lesson Description:	Fee:
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 lessons per week	\$15 for 15 minutes, \$30 for 30 minutes, \$50 for 60 minutes/two solos

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.

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 \$28-\$30 each.

Optional Concert USB: \$50

Stockings/Tights: Approximately \$14 per pair

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.

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, in which case, please phone the studio so appropriate care of your child can be arranged.

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.

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, lyrical classes, and a bun or ponytail for street jazz, tap and contemporary classes.

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA & PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO

We like to post photos or video on our Facebook, Instagram and SnapChat social media pages about what our students are getting up to in class. Please make sure you mark your preference on the enrolment form. If you do not wish for your child to appear on any social media platforms, please inform them of your decision so they are aware of why they are not included in any class photos. We do closely monitor all of our social media platforms daily and we are selective about who can view and share our content.

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.

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 illness, injury or accident and calling an ambulance 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