



STUDIO INFORMATION 2023

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 Teachers of Dancing 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.
Certificate IV Dance Teaching & Management 2023.

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

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 ATOD 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 Teachers of Dancing (ATOD) syllabus. Ballet exams are available, please send a separate enquiry if interested.

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 2021. 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.**

READY SET DANCE

The dance classes that pre-schoolers around Australia and New Zealand can't stop talking about! Classes available for 2-3 year olds and 4-5 year olds that haven't yet started school.

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 \$20 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 via email only. Newsletters are distributed once every week or fortnight, depending on the time of year.

We have a closed and private Facebook group for students and parents of our studio. For 2023, you will need to search for: MDS Family 2023. 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. This group will be up and running in January 2023.

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 & Ready Set Move students are required to wear their specific uniform, whilst all students from Kindy upwards are requested to wear our MDS uniform.

Dance shoes are also available to purchase - it is essential for safety and technique that children wear the 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 classes, and a bun or ponytail for jazz, tap and lyrical classes.

MDS has, for your convenience a full online store available on the website, where you can order all of your uniform needs for both Ready Set Dance & Mainstream, along with a great range of accessories.

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 will 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.

WAITING ROOM

We have a waiting room available should you wish to wait for your child during class time. We highly encourage you to leave your child in our care however, as we find that the students, especially the preschoolers, are more engaged without the distractions of people in the waiting room.

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.

STUDIO ROOMS & CLASSES

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

Each dance space has dance specific flooring. Please do not allow your child to wear shoes on this floor that have been worn outside. Dirt, dust and stones have the potential to tear our flooring.

Our dance rooms are for students only. To encourage our students to be independent, we ask that you don't offer to walk your child into their class, instead encourage your child to follow the teachers lead.

All classes are closed to observation. We hold open days at the end of each term where you are invited to attend each class of your child to see how much fun we have and what we are learning each term.

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

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 or Apple Watches 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 at 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.

Please 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.

Video footage of class/performances is not to be placed on social media without the consent of Melissa.

FEE SCHEDULE & OTHER COSTS

Fees can be paid weekly or by term.

Payment is welcome in the form of online deposit to our account only.

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	\$13.00
45 minutes	\$15.00
60 minutes	\$18.00
90 minutes	\$28.00
2 hours	\$33.00
3 hours	\$40.00
Solos/Private Lessons minutes/two solos lessons per week	\$35 for 30 minutes, \$45 for 45 minutes, \$60 for 60

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 in Term 2. (Approximate time) Refundable only before costumes are ordered at the end of Term. 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.

Concert Pack: \$50 (Approx)

CODE OF CONDUCT

We have developed extensive Code of Conduct Policies for Students, Staff & Parents. If you would like copy, please email enquire@mds4dance.com and we will be more than happy you send them through.

CONSENT

By filling out our online 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, 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