



**RHYTHMS
DANCE
STUDIO
HANDBOOK**

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COMMUNICATION

Office Hours

Emails and phone calls will be answered Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Emails will be monitored on evenings and weekends.

Slack

At Rhythms Dance we use the communication platform Slack as a means of communicating between dancers, parents, teachers, and posting choreography videos and photos throughout the season. Individual channels are set up and maintained for each age group.

Social Media

Please follow us on Facebook (Rhythms Dance Studio) and Instagram (@RhythmsDance) for announcements and to follow our dance season!



CLASS DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

WE OFFER CLASSES IN A VARIETY OF STYLES INCLUDING CHOREOGRAPHY CLASSES, COMPETITIVE, NON-COMPETITIVE AND EXAM CLASSES. CLASSES ARE DIVIDED BY AGE SKILL AND CLASS PLACEMENTS ARE AT INSTRUCTORS DISCRETION

BALLET

Mini through Advanced classes available. Exams also offered.

JAZZ

Junior through Advanced classes available.

TAP

Mini through Graduate classes available. Exams also offered. Adult classes available.

HIP HOP

Mini through Advanced classes available.

LYRICAL

Junior through Graduate classes available. Ballet class required for competitive lyrical groups.*

CONTEMPORARY

Intermediate through Advanced classes available. Ballet class required for competitive contemporary groups.*

POINTE/PREPOINTE

Ballet class and ballet exam class required.**

MUSICAL THEATRE

All ages, jazz class highly encouraged.

ACRO

Junior through Senior classes available.

MINI CLASSES

Available in tap, ballet, and jazzy hip hop. Non-competitive with a performance in our year end recital.

COMBO CLASS

A half hour class with a mix of tap and ballet technique.

Non-competitive with a performance in our year end recital.

*Classes requiring ballet can fulfil this requirement by taking a regular ballet choreography class and/or a ballet exam class.

**Dancers new to pointe must also be registered in a ballet exam class (see Exam Class for more information). Dancers currently in pointe are highly recommended to also be registered in a ballet exam class.

CLASS LEVEL

Level	Approx Age	Competitive?
Combo	3-4	No
Mini	5-6	No
Primary	7-8	Yes – will attend 1 competition only
Junior	9-10	Yes – all but lyrical will compete this season
Intermediate	11-12	Yes – all but contemporary will compete this season
Senior	13-14	Yes – all groups
Advanced	15-17	Yes – all groups
Grad	18+	Yes – all groups
Adult	25+	No

ATTENDANCE POLICY & INJURIES/PROLONGED ILLNESS

ATTENDANCE

We encourage each dancer to attend as many classes as possible throughout the year. Our dancers cannot improve and successfully learn choreography if they do not attend class. Dance is a team sport and will be treated as such. Notify your child's instructor if they are going to be absent by emailing the studio directly or messaging the instructor on Slack. Note-refunds or credits will not be given in lieu of attendance issues.

COMPETITIVE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Dancers who are part of competitive groups must maintain excellent attendance with minimal absences following November 1st. At this point in the year we are working hard on our competition performances and it is important that dancers are attending to learn choreography and show respect to their fellow dancers and instructors. More than 2 excused absences will require private lessons at the expense of the families. This includes, but is not limited to: injury illness, death of a family, or any other excusable absences that result in a dancer missing more than 2 weeks of classes. Dancers missing from lessons for more than 2 weeks in a row may be choreographed out of that section of the dance.

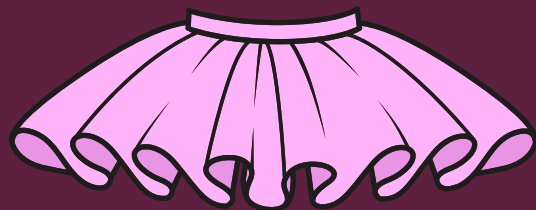
INJURIES & PROLONGED ILLNESS

If your dancer experiences a prolonged illness (2+ weeks) or injury, please reach out to the Rhythms Dance team to come up with a plan. In most cases, dancers are able to attend and observe classes even if they are not participating. No refunds, credits or free private lessons will be granted if a dancer is observing the class instead of participating.



DRESS CODE

At Rhythms Dance we do our best to create a space that promotes growth without being too restrictive. Because of this we simply ask that for most dance classes dancers come dressed in comfortable, dance appropriate attire (leggings, shorts, tshirts, tank tops, etc.). No jeans or jumbo sweater/hoodie-blanket items are allowed in any classes. For ballet classes ages Junior and above we would like dancers to come in a bodysuit and tights but are welcome to also wear shorts, skirts, and other wraps as layering pieces. For ballet exam classes dancers are required to come in a bodysuit and tights. For dancers with long hair it must be pulled back and secured so it is not in their face during class.



FEES

Payment Options

Full Year Option

Full Year Payments will be accepted by credit card, cheque, or e-transfer with a 2% discount applied for payments taken by cheque or e-transfer.

Monthly

Monthly payments will be accepted by e-transfer. Late fees will be applied after the 10th of each month if tuition is not paid.

More Information

Any attendance during a month constitutes a full month's tuition. We require one month's notice of cancellation of classes.

In the situation of a lockdown, all classes will immediately move to Zoom and will continue as per our normal schedule and will not constitute a fee reduction or refund.

Tuition reflects a year's worth of dance instruction and does not guarantee a certain number of hours per month. Classes may be canceled due to holidays, competitions, dance photos, and other unforeseen circumstances. In the event of teacher illness, we will do our best to have substitute teachers in place or schedule make up classes for your child.

All dance tuition is subject to 5% GST.

Referral bonus: Refer a new student to Rhythms Dance and you will have a \$25 credit added to your account!

Class cancellations: If there are class cancellations (i.e. bad weather or instructor illness) parents will be notified via email by 2 PM. Cancelled classes will be rescheduled at the earliest possible date.



COSUTMES

All classes (with the exception of exam classes, technique classes, and adult classes) will prepare a dance for our year end recital and will therefore require a costume. We plan and order our competitive group costumes in October/November and our recreational group costumes closer to recital. We do our best at Rhythms Dance to reuse and recycle as many costumes as possible and try to find cost-effective costuming when we can. Costume costs will vary group to group. Costume fees will be communicated with you as the season progresses.

Note: If your dancer is in a recreational group and does not wish to take part in our recital performance a costume will not be required. It is the parents/guardian's responsibility to communicate this to Rhythms Dance staff prior to costumes being ordered to avoid the costume fee. With this said, we highly encourage all dancers to take part in our recital – performing on stage is a lot of fun and a great opportunity for all dancers!



COMPETITION INFORMATION

We attend 2-3 competitions per year in and around Saskatoon. We aim to choose competitions where the money spent stays in the community, fosters a friendly competitive atmosphere, and is inspiring to our dancers. Competitions take place between March and May and will be confirmed once our dance season commences. Competitions are chosen based on scheduling so we may not attend the same competitions year after year. Competition fees will vary each year and these will be communicated with you as the season progresses.

For our 24/25 dance season we can confirm we will be attending Spring Stars at the Lakeview Church in Saskatoon from March 18-22nd. This is the only competition we have confirmed so far.



SOLOS, DUETS AND TRIOS

If a dancer is committed to their competitive group dances and feels ready to take on a new challenge they can consider doing a solo, duet, or trio to compete with at competition. If a dancer wants to do a solo, duet, or trio they must ask the instructor of their choice to teach the dance. Once an instructor has agreed, the scheduling of choreography, cleaning, and payment for the dance will all be done directly with the instructor. Solo, duet, and trio fees paid to the instructor covers choreography of the dance, cleaning, and teacher attendance at competitions with the dancer. Rhythms Dance will enter the dance in competition and the additional competition fees will be reflected in your total competition fees. Costumes for solos, duets, and trios are the responsibility of the dancer but if you would like help finding the right costume or something ordered please let us know and we would be happy to help.

*Note that teachers need to agree to doing said solo/duet/trio for dancers. Our teachers know our dancers the best and may think that adding an extra solo/duet/trio might be a bigger commitment than a dancer is ready for. If this is the case it will be discussed with dancer and family and a plan will be made to help the dancer be successful.



EXAM INFORMATION



A question we often get asked is ‘why should I take a dance exam?’, ‘what is the point of dance exams?’, and ‘are dance exams required?’

While we do not require dance exams at Rhythms Dance (note the exception of dancers wishing to pursue pointe) we are very proud to offer them as an option for dancers who want to work hard on perfecting their technique. We highly recommend dance exams because they give dancers the best foundation for their movements, help prevent injury, build strength and confidence, and help prepare dancers for longevity in their dancing. Exams are designed to motivate and encourage students all ages and levels of ability through systematic measurement of progress and attainment.

Benefits of dance exams: Exams provide students with important and achievable goals to work towards. By achieving those goals we often see a remarkable boost in self-confidence – something we all need from time to time!

Preparing for a dance exam also promotes discipline and commitment within the studio environment – another skill benefiting your dancer in more than just their dance pursuits!

EXAM INFORMATION CONT.

All dancers who complete a dance exam are presented with a certificate of achievement. Depending on what type of exam is taken dancer often also receive an exam report and sometimes will also receive a medal or pin. These exams can also be used one day to pursue teaching certificates if a dancer chooses.

At Rhythms Dance we currently offer Canadian Dance Teachers Association (CDTA) tap exams and Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) ballet exams. Exams are not entered until a dancer is ready to challenge their exam so sometimes dancers may take an exam earlier or later in the dance season or may even extend into a future dance season if necessary. Our certified instructors will not enter dancers until they are confident that a dancer will pass their exam.

*Note this year we are requiring any dancers who wish to pursue pointe must take a ballet exam class to help build the strength and technique needed to perform on pointe safely and confidently.

If you are curious about if dance exams are a good fit for your dancer please ask us or an instructor! We would be happy to trial some lessons and see if there is a good fit for your dancer.

PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

We have two scheduled performances throughout the year: Our Solo, Duet, and Trio Showcase and our Year End Recitals

Showcase

Our Showcase is where all solos, duets, and trios will perform their routines for the first time. This is so we can celebrate everyone's hard work but also as a stage practice before we attend competition. Our Showcase will be scheduled in early March with dates, times, and locations TBD. All competitive solos, duets, and trios are expected to perform unless otherwise communicated.

Year-End Recitals

We have two year end recitals, an afternoon and evening performance. All competitive and noncompetitive groups will perform in our recitals. This is where we celebrate all of our hard work from the entire season and watch everyone shine on stage! Our recitals will be scheduled in May with dates, times, and locations TBD.

Competition Stage Rehearsal

In early March we will have a competition stage rehearsal so our competitive groups have the chance to practice on stage before attending competition. This will happen on the same day as our Showcase during the morning/afternoon. All competitive dancers are expected to attend.

Dance Pictures

The first Monday through Wednesday of May we will have our dance photos at D&M Images. Schedules for dance photos and order forms will be emailed out closer to this date. All dancers are expected to attend.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, September 3rd – First day of classes

Monday, September 30th – Truth and Reconciliation Day –
No classes

Saturday, October 12th to Monday, October 14th – Thanksgiving –
No classes

Monday, November 11th – Remembrance Day – No classes

Monday, December 23rd to Friday, January 3rd – Holiday Break – No classes

Saturday, February 15th to Friday, February 21st – February Break – No classes

Tuesday, March 18th to Saturday, March 22nd – Spring Stars competition – No classes

Saturday, April 19th to Friday, April 25th – Easter Break – No classes

Saturday, May 17th to Monday, May 19th – May Long Weekend – No classes (if recital
is later)

Potential Showcase and Competition Stage Rehearsal dates: March 1st, 8th

Potential Recital dates: May 10th, 17th, 24th





RHYTHMS DANCE STUDIO HANDBOOK

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Facebook: Rhythms Dance Studio