



COMPANY

A GUIDE TO COMPETITIVE DANCE CLASSES IN
REVELSTOKE.

WHAT TO EXPECT

WHAT IS COMPANY?

Company is our competitive program comprised of core groups that will work in class and perform on stage together. The placement into these groups is based on skill, performance quality and cohesion as a team. The names of all our competitive groups change year to year. As the dancers within each team change every year we feel it's important to reflect that in the group names.

For our youngest promising dancers, we have pre-competitive groups. These dancers show incredible determination when introduced to new skills, pick up choreography easily and take leadership within their regular classes.

For our oldest most promising dancers we have introduced an elite level company. This company will change year to year and will be rewarded with a **guest choreographer**. Our selected guest choreographer will hold their own auditions to select dancers from our Level 6 Ballet class and higher. Each year will be a different choreographer, a different genre and a different group of dancers. Once choreography is set, one of our skilled teachers will be assigned to clean the dance and run a regularly scheduled rehearsal each week to prepare for competition and performance.

A dancers' ultimate goal is to be hired into a professional company so with our Company Program we want to inspire dancers to believe that anything is possible and to train them much in the same way a professional company would train their dancers. We have pre-professional expectations of our company members and in return will offer them the best training possible.

COMPANY AUDITIONS

Each year we will hold Company Auditions where any dancer wishing to participate in our competitive program will dance their heart out in front of our program & creative directors. We will observe the auditions and set placements based on how dancers present themselves. Other factors that also play a role in placement are work ethic and how a dancer treats their peers and mentors.

ATTENDANCE

Now that your dancer is participating in one of our competitive companies their regular attendance is crucial to our studio's success as a team. We rely on each other to be in class, to be present and to give it our all. We all have bad days and get sick from time to time but being there often makes the bad days better. If a dancer is sick, it is up to the parent to decide if they are feeling well enough to come to observe class and take notes or if they should stay home.

Each competitive dancer is permitted 3 missed classes per semester (September -December & January – May). If a student has 3 classes in one evening and cannot attend this means they miss 1 of each of those classes. 3 absences or more of any one class will be addressed with a meeting to discuss a course of action. Consequences vary from private make-up classes, to suspension of attending competition, or removal from the team. All situations are individual and will be dealt with as such.

If a dancer misses a class, they **MUST** arrive to their next class knowing what they've missed. It is a teacher's choice to include dancers in new choreography if they are missing. Time in class is limited so it may not be possible to go back and re-teach while ultimately holding back the dancers that were there.

DRESS CODE

How a student prepares for learning begins with the dress code. A dress code is put in place to help the teacher determine how a student is progressing, how a group works together and where they need to improve. How a dancer does their hair for class plays an important role in developing respect for the art form and their teacher. If a dancer is constantly playing with loose, undone hair they can be distracted and miss out on important instruction. Unmade hair that falls in a student's face also makes it difficult in turns and spotting.

For Ballet class, all dancers are expected to have their hair in a tidy secure bun. For all other styles, a tight clean ponytail is required. We encourage our students to start doing their own hair as young as possible to develop independence and responsibility. By Level 2, Ballet dancers will not be able to participate in class until their hair is secured in a bun. Parents should encourage their child to pack a dance bag with appropriate dance shoes, a leotard, tights, and hair accessories so they are always prepared for class. If a competitive dancer shows up to class unprepared without proper attire they may be asked to sit out and take notes.

PRACTICING AT HOME

As a competitive dancer it is crucial that your dancer attends class knowing what they learned the week prior; ideally with a visible change in understanding of technique. As in school, when we learn new skills it is important to practice them over and over again. The more your dancer is encouraged to practice at home to more success they'll have in class.



COMPETITION

WHAT IS A DANCE COMPETITION?

Each year THE STUDIO will select a variety of dance competitions to attend. These can vary from the family friendly style of a festival where “everybody wins” and the value is in the participation; to a more competitive style where dancers are awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd based on 1 or several adjudicators scoring. No matter the event all our dancers have something to learn and will come home with valuable feedback from professionals in the industry. They then take this feedback to the classroom where we work together to make changes for the next competition. The more dance competitions a student attends, the more feedback they’ll receive and the more dancers they are exposed to and the more well-rounded they become.

At THE STUDIO we’ll attend 3 competitions a year. Events will likely take place out of town, so travel is required. Travel costs such as hotels etc. are not included in the competitive fees.

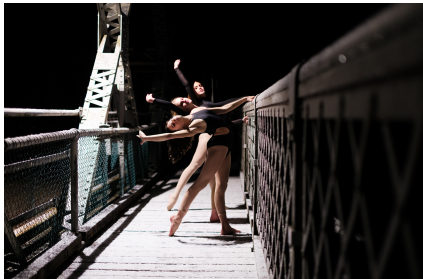
COMPETITION DRESS REHEARSAL

Competitive Dress Rehearsal is MANDATORY for all company dancers. We set dates early so families can plan for this very important day. If a dancer does not attend they will **not** be permitted to dance on stage at competition.

SOLOS | DUETS | TRIOS

Dancers that participate in a solo, duet or trio receive the opportunity for one on one work with a teacher and choreography that is designed to highlight their strengths and further develop areas of limitation. All solos, duets and trios receive 6 hours of instruction broken down into twelve 30-minute sessions. The benefits of a dancer performing a solo, duet or trio are numerous; including stronger stage presence and performance quality, more practice at remembering choreography and corrections with higher accountability levels, more time to work on technique and increased opportunities to be on stage. Extra costs include rehearsal fees, costume fees and competition fees.

At the start of the season competitive students will have the opportunity to let us know that they are interested in doing a solo, duet or trio and in what style. From there we sit down and assign dancers to teachers to work with for the year. We believe it is important to work with as many different teachers as possible to develop into a well-rounded dancer. We also have teachers with different strengths and abilities and will work hard to pair dancers to the appropriate instructor. Students are welcome to do as many solos, duets or trios as they like.



PERFORMANCES

BALLET PRODUCTION

Each year THE STUDIO will present a Ballet Production that tells the popular stories written throughout history. This performance includes all students enrolled in Ballet from our youngest Tiny Dancers to the senior level Ballet class. This performance provides an extra opportunity for dancers to be on stage and learn how a theatrical performance goes from rehearsal to stage.

Dancers aged 7 and up are invited to audition to be a part of the main cast. Every student who auditions will be given a role and we believe there are no small roles. Following the auditions, the cast will rehearse for 3 hours every Sunday afternoon from September through November to learn choreography and practice. Teachers and students work together to collaborate and create a performance to remember. Attendance is imperative for the main cast as we only have 9-10 rehearsals to put the entire show together.

Included in this event is our Prop Making Party and Cast Sleepover where ALL students and parents are invited to help build props and backdrops for the performance. Immediately following the party, our main cast dancers are invited to stay for a team bonding sleepover to reminisce about past performances and put some final touches on choreography.

We will have 1 dress rehearsal for the main CAST and 1 dress rehearsal for ALL DANCERS. Please check the "Important Dates" on our website to familiarize yourself with audition dates, dress rehearsals and performances for this show. If you have any questions, we are happy to answer them.

RECITAL

Students will spend time throughout the year preparing and learning choreography to present in our year-end recitals. Each teacher selects a song and creates a routine for the group. Teachers will continue to hone and develop technique of the steps used in the routine.

The recital consists of a dress rehearsal which ALL dancers MUST attend and several separate performances. As THE STUDIO grows the structure of the recitals will shift but we promise to give your dancer at least 2 opportunities to perform on stage in these shows. Tickets are limited so it's important to stay up to date on communication from our office regarding ticket sale dates.

At all performances we will have a videographer to record our shows. This video will be available for purchase shortly after the performances wrap up directly from our website under "THE STORE".

COSTUMES

Costumes are an integral part of a dance performance. The costume deposit is paid in September to help offset the cost of the final costume billing. It is impossible to know how much costumes will cost until they have been ordered along with the costs of shipping, duties etc. We do a mass order of costumes for our Ballet Production, competition and for our year-end recitals. Once costumes have been paid for in full they are yours to take home. How a dancer cares for their costumes is important. If a dancer shows up to a performance with a damaged costume, missing pieces or no costume at all they will not be permitted to dance on stage.

SPECIAL EVENTS & INFORMATION

WELLNESS EVENTS

At THE STUDIO our staff and directors are committed to the mental and physical wellness of our dancers. We strive to provide a monthly wellness workshop specifically selected to benefit the holistic wellness of dancers. These events are paid for through donations to our Wellness Fund and provided to our students at no cost. We will do our best to schedule our monthly wellness events during regular class time to eliminate the stress of added commitments. Due to this, a fully competitive dancers' attendance to these events are mandatory and part of your commitment to your team and our studio.



PARENT TOWNHALL & VOLUNTEERING

At THE STUDIO, we want to emphasize how important our families are to us. Through our Parent Townhall meetings we aim to keep the lines of communication open and will ask you for feedback to know what we are doing well and what can be improved on. It is our goal to listen to your needs and do everything we can to take them into consideration when making decisions. We will encourage dancers to dream big and want to do the same for our parents. Think about what you want for your children and how we can help make that happen.

We understand that dance can put a lot of financial stress on families. We also understand the value of volunteering and teaching our children to work for the things they want. Through our "Parent Group" we will help facilitate as many volunteer opportunities as possible. If you are interested in stepping up to help plan and organize events please let us know.

PICTURE DAYS

A picture lasts a lifetime, and we want you to be able to look back on these memories for years to come. Dancers participating in classes with a year-end routine will also have the opportunity to have their picture taken in their costume, both with their group and as an individual.

Dancers will arrive with full hair and make-up as determined by the "What To Wear" document. Once the pictures are edited, they'll be available for download online. The cost of these photo days and the downloads are included in the Photography Fee, as well as live-action photos from the recital. This fee is charged in September as a part of the additional fees upon registration.

BALLET EXAMS

Ballet exams are available to dancers in Primary Ballet and up. A dancer's eligibility to participate in an exam is based on many factors such as discipline in class, level of technique, determination and how they treat others. Ballet exams give even young dancers the opportunity to be responsible for their own success and to practice goal setting. They also set a standard for achievement that is recognized and respected worldwide. At THE STUDIO we follow the Cecchetti Canada Ballet Syllabus.

Students are not required to take exams and it does not affect their placement for classes but is strongly encouraged if your dancer is ready to participate, that they do. There are extra costs associated with exams, but we do everything we can to keep these costs low. A short information session about Ballet Exams will be included in our first Parent Townhall meeting and we encourage all parents to attend.

NUMBER OF CLASSES

There is no set number of classes that we offer each season. We operate from the second Monday in September to the last weekend in May. THE STUDIO is closed for ALL statutory holidays and we do not offer make up classes. We make up for these missed days by offering Picture Days, performances and other studio events.

BULLYING

THE STUDIO has a zero -tolerance policy when it comes to mistreatment of staff, parents, teachers or dancers. We will invite parents into the office for a meeting immediately if there are any problems in class or at THE STUDIO; if behavior does not improve from there dancers will not be able to participate in Ballet exams, production and/or a solo/duo/trio. We believe these are activities that are earned through teamwork, respect and dedication and until a dancer or family can show us that they align with our values they will not be invited to participate.

