

A GUIDE TO
COMPETITIVE DANCE IN
REVELSTOKE





COMPANY is a 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 determined by auditions each year. The names of all our competitive groups will change every season to reflect the changes in the group. Teams will constantly evolve as we make room for new competitive dancers and say farewell to graduating students.

A lot of dancer's ultimate goal is to be hired into a professional dance company. Within our COMPANY Program, our goal is to inspire dancers to believe that anything is possible and to train them in a manner that builds towards that of a professional dance company. We have pre-professional expectations of our company members and in return, will offer the best training and maximum opportunities possible.

DIFFERENT COMPANIES

For our youngest most promising dancers, we have Pre-COMPANY groups. These dancers show incredible determination when introduced to new skills, can pick up choreography easily and take leadership within their regular classes. These students have shown an interest in competitive dance and are working towards full COMPANY placement. Pre-COMPANY dancers may or may not attend all scheduled competitions.

Full COMPANY dancers, will comprise of students Junior age and older. These dancers will have more involvement within THE STUDIO, by having more required technique classes, mandatory attendance to workshops and will attend all scheduled competitions.

For our older, most experienced dancers we have introduced separate elite companies. They will change each year and will be rewarded with a guest choreographer. Our selected guest choreographer will hold their own auditions to select dancers for these companies. 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 rehearse the dancers to prepare them for competition and performances.

WHAT TO EXPECT



COMPANY AUDITIONS

Company Auditions are held annually where any dancers new or returning who wish to participate in the COMPANY program, dance in front the Artistic Directors and teaching staff. We will observe the auditions and set placements based on how dancers present themselves. Other factors that also play a role in placement is work ethic and how a dancer treats their peers and teachers. It is important to know that not all dancers who audition will receive a placement in the company. If we feel that a student is not yet ready, we will work with them and their family to create a plan to help them achieve their goals in dance.

ATTENDANCE

If your dancer is asked to participate 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 try our best. We all have bad days and get sick from time to time but being in class can often make the bad days better. If a dancer is sick, we encourage them to observe class and take notes instead of missing. 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 that dancer in new choreography if they are missing. Time in class is limited so it might not be possible to go back and re-teach what was learned.

Each competitive dancer is permitted 5 missed classes for the season. If a student has 3 classes in one evening and cannot attend, this means they've missed 1 of each of those classes. 5 absences or more of any one class will be addressed with a meeting to discuss a course of action. Consequences vary and all situations are individual and will be dealt with as such.



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 presents themselves 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 or clothing 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. As a COMPANY dancer, your child is a role model for everyone at THE STUDIO.

For Ballet class, all dancers are expected to have their hair in a tidy, secure bun. For all other styles, a tight, clean ponytail or bun is required. We encourage our students to start doing their own hair as young as possible to develop the 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 to attend class knowing what was 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. The more your dancer is encouraged to practice at home, the more success they'll have in class. Each team will have a Band App group where all their videos and edited music can be accessed.



COMPETITION

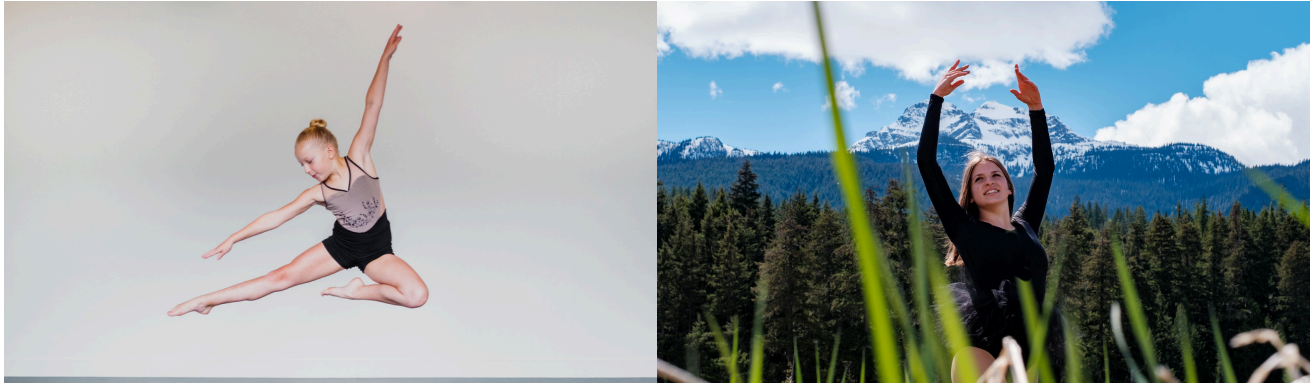
COMPETITIONS

Each year THE STUDIO will select a variety of dance competitions to attend. 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 well-rounded they become. It is important that our dancers are given as many opportunities to learn and perform as possible. It is also important that families have conversations at home about how to celebrate successes gracefully and how to turn losses into learning opportunities. Results at competition are out of our control. What our dancers can control is the work they put in through the year.

At THE STUDIO we'll attend 2 to 4 competitions each 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 but there are many opportunities to fundraise with The Revelstoke Dance Parent Collective to help alleviate these costs.

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 the dress rehearsal, they will not be permitted to dance on stage at competition. As we grow as a studio, Competitive Dress Rehearsal may be more than 1 day.



SOLOS | DUETS | TRIOS | SMALL GROUPS

Dancers that participate in a solo, duet or trio receive the opportunity for one-on-one work with a teacher and are given choreography that is designed to highlight their strengths and further develop areas of limitation. All solos receive 12, 30-minute rehearsals beginning in January and duets/trios will receive 12, 45-minute rehearsals. The benefits of a dancer performing a solo, duet or trio are numerous; including stronger stage presence and performance quality, individualized feedback with higher accountability levels, more time to work on technique and increased opportunities to be on stage.

Small groups are an EXTRA opportunity offered to students already partaking in a lot of dance. The purpose is to offer more training and performance opportunity to dancers, while allowing teachers to hand-select students of different ages, perhaps part of a different company, to come together for total creative freedom. All students are welcome to participate however, there are eligibility requirements in place to qualify. Eligibility is put in place so dancers do not opt out of full season training for small group classes which only consist of 12 rehearsals. Small groups are challenging as they offer fast paced choreography and total commitment and dedication to the group.

At the start of the season, competitive students will have to let us know that they are interested in participating a solo, duet, trio and/or small group by October 1st, as well as the chosen genre. We will assign dancers to teachers to work with for the year for solos/duos/trios. We believe it is important to work with as many different teachers as possible to develop into a well-rounded dancer. We've hired teachers with different strengths and influences and will work to pair dancers to the appropriate instructor. A meeting date will be set with the student and their teacher to finalize song choice and costuming. Students are welcome to do as many solos, duets and/or trios as they like but are required to find their own partner(s) when wanting to register for a duet or trio. Students/parents are not to request specific teachers or discuss future solos/duos/trios with teachers until assigned in October.



PERFORMANCES

WINTER PRODUCTION

Each year THE STUDIO will present a Winter Production that tells the popular stories written throughout history. This performance includes all students enrolled in a recreational choreography class from our youngest Tiny Dancers to our most advanced students. 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 8 and up who are enrolled in a Ballet class 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. For the auditions, dancers will be asked to present a short solo of their own creation and a demonstration of a special skill of their choice. Following the auditions, the cast will meet for 3 hours every Sunday from September through December to rehearse and build the show. 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 before the shows! To celebrate the time and energy put in to such a special part of our season is our Prop Making & Pizza Party! ALL students and parents are invited to help build props and backdrops for the performance.

We will have 1 dress rehearsal for the main cast and 1 dress rehearsal for all the recreational choreography classes along with the main cast again. 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

Competitive students will perform all their routines one last time in our annual recitals. The recital consists of a dress rehearsal which ALL recreational dancers must attend and several separate performances. As THE STUDIO grows the structure of the recitals will shift but your dancer will have 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 the office regarding ticket sale dates.

A videographer will be present to record our shows, along with a professional photographer. Videos will be available for purchase shortly after the performances directly through our website under "THE STORE". Photos will be distributed to families for free download as they are included in the Photography Fee charged at the beginning of the year.

COSTUMES

Costumes are an integral part of a performance. A costume deposit is paid for in September to help offset the final costume cost. It is impossible for us to predict the total cost of a costume until they have been ordered and all additional expenses have been paid for (exchange rate, duty and shipping etc.). A costume balance will be posted in March for all classes and due on March 20th. How a dancer cares for their costumes is very important. If a dancer shows up to a performance with a damaged costume, missing pieces or no costume, they will not be permitted to dance on stage.





SPECIAL EVENTS

WELLNESS EVENTS

At THE STUDIO our staff and directors are committed to the mental and physical wellness of our dancers. We strive to provide several wellness workshops specifically selected to benefit the holistic wellness of dancers. These events are paid for through donations to the Wellness Fund and provided to our students at **no cost**. We will do our best to schedule these events during regular class time to eliminate the stress of added commitments. A fully competitive dancer's attendance to these events are mandatory and part of the commitment to the team and our studio. If an event is missed, that dancer will be required to research and give a presentation to their class on the topic covered in the missed workshop.

VOLUNTEERING & FUNDRAISING

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 The Revelstoke Dance Parent Collective, 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. All competitive dancers will have the opportunity to have their picture taken in each of their costumes, both with their group and as an individual. Dancers doing a solo, duet, trio or small group will also have their photo taken. The cost of these picture days and the downloads are included in the Photography Fee, along with live-actions photos taken from the shows throughout the year. 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. There are extra costs associated with exams, but we do everything we can to keep these costs as low as possible. An information letter about Ballet Exams will be sent out in November along with an invitation letter. There are 3 different levels of exams. "Presentation Classes" are an opportunity to participate in an exam without receiving a mark, "Standard Level Exams" are the next stepping stone and provide dancers the experience of Ballet exams with requirements of quality and performance, "Grade Level Exams" are the most challenging and have professional expectations of dancers with regard to technique and ability.



NUMBER OF CLASSES

There is no set number of classes that we offer each season. We operate from the middle of September to the end of May. THE STUDIO is closed for ALL statutory holidays and we do not offer make up classes for full season classes. We balance this out by offering Picture Days, Dress Rehearsals and other STUDIO events at no cost to families.

BULLYING

THE STUDIO has a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to the mistreatment of staff, parents and/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 the behaviour does not improve, consequences will be implemented on a case-by-case basis. Special opportunities such as COMPANIES are earned through teamwork, respect and dedication. We are trying to facilitate the growth of outstanding young people and appreciate the support from parents on this issue.

