



The Wynyard School of Dance Handbook

The Wynyard School of Dance

2021-2022 Handbook



The Wynyard School of Dance Handbook

This handbook has been prepared to make it easier for you, as a student or as a parent, to understand the curriculum, philosophy and objectives of our school. Please take the time to review its contents and seek clarification if required.

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Wynyard School of Dance. The Wynyard School of Dance has empowered young people through their love of dance for decades. The School was founded over 50 years ago by a group of parents who wanted their children and other Wynyard youngsters to experience training in dance. We continue to be a parent led organization and strive to foster a safe environment and inclusive community where everyone feels welcome. We have a strong commitment to community and create a sense of pride within each individual dancer.

Our School proudly offers qualified instruction in a wide range of dance disciplines including ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, musical theatre, modern, acro, pointe and hip hop. Our class offerings are available to students ages three and up. Our season operates from September to May with a full time winter program. We attend several competitions each year and advancement/placement of students may be affected by skill level.

Meet the Instructor

The instructional and performance programs are directed by **Keaira Johnson**. Keaira is a Wynyard School of Dance Alumni dancing with our club her entire life. As a student, she completed all exams in ballet, jazz and tap. She has instructed for nine years and achieved her Ballet, Jazz and Tap CDTA associates in 2016-2020 and has her Acrobatic Arts Certification. She thrives in teaching ballet, jazz and lyrical.

Meet The 2021-2022 Executive –

President: Bonnie Hague– 306-554-8258

Vice President:

Past President: Tara Lindal – 306-560-7009

Treasurer: Lynnit Cunanan- 306-560-8408

Secretary: Donna Jennings – 306-554-8606

Promotion Chair: Janelle Burns – 306-560-7490

Communication Chair: Alana Melsted – 306-554-7978

Costume Chair: Brandy Bjarnason – 306-554-0292

Competition Chair:

Recital Chair: Dana Stefanson – 306-560-8600

Member at Large: Debbie Bodnarchuk – 306-560-7575

Description of Levels according to school grade; starting September 2021

please refer to this legend as you review course descriptions below

Note: Student placement will be at the discretion of the instructor. If your child starts dance classes at an older age, it may not be possible to place them in a class with students of their own age, especially if they have not developed the skill necessary to keep up with the children at their own age level. In certain instances, a child may be able to 'catch up' with students if they attend multi-level classes or seek private lessons with an older student or instructor, for example.

Leaps and Giggles: Preschool (must be age 3 by Dec 31/21 or 4 by Dec 31/21)

Beginner: Kindergarten & Grade 1 (must be age 5 by Dec. 31/21)

Level 1: Grade 2 - 3

Level 2: Grade 4

Level 3: Grade 5 - 6

Level 5: Grade 7 - 8

Senior : Grade 9+



2 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS and REQUIRED DRESS

Note: Required dress is mandatory for each discipline in dance. Body suits are mandatory for **ALL** Ballet classes and Beginner-Level 3 Jazz and Tap classes. They are recommended for Level 5 and Senior students; however, not mandatory. The body suit must be worn so the instructor can see rib, abdominal or hip placement more clearly. Tights are also required for these classes. Tights keep the dancers muscles warm to prevent injury. Please review below and ensure your dancer has all required attire and footwear packed in their dance bag. The first infraction of the dress requirements will involve a verbal warning to dancer and parent (if available). The second infraction will involve an email or text to parent reminding them of the requirement. The third infraction will involve the student sitting out from the class.

**** It is recommended that students have a package of elastics in their dance bag to always have their hair up****

A. LEAPS AND GIGGLES – Must be 3 or 4 by Dec 31/21 – Full Year Class

This class is an introductory program for new dancers to learn basic dance steps. This class is designed to encourage movement and skills such as coordination, flexibility, musicality and rhythm. Above learning just dance steps, students will gain confidence, independence and self-awareness.

What to Wear:

- **Footwear:** pink ballet slippers
- **Attire:** body suit and may wear sheer skirt (no other attire is accepted)
- **Tights:** ballerina pink
- **Hair:** pulled back away from face
- **Boys:** black ballet slippers, black shorts, white tank top or t-shirt

B. BALLET - starting at Beginner – Full Year Class

Ballet is the basis for all dance forms offered by the Wynyard School of Dance and **ALL CHILDREN ENTERING DANCE ARE ENCOURAGED TO BEGIN THEIR TRAINING IN THIS PROGRAM.** Ballet is one of the most challenging and beautiful art forms. Ballet can help children develop co-ordination of mind and body. It can improve and correct posture as well as strengthen and tone the entire body. Learning ballet is a great confidence builder and promotes self-discipline. It also gives children a sense of movement rhythm and an appreciation of music.

NEW THIS YEARNO EXCEPTIONS** ONLY ballet students will be allowed to enter solo/duet/trio/small group work in competitions with the exception of hip hop.**

It is mandatory that all students interested in taking exams in any discipline be taking ballet.

What To Wear:

- **Footwear:**
 - *Up to Level 1* – pink ballet slipper
 - *Level 2 & up* - canvas style split sole
- **Attire:** body suit
- **Boys Attire:** black shorts or black pants and a white t-shirt
- **Tights:** ballerina pink or saumon
- **Hair:** pulled back away from face



THE IMPORTANCE OF BALLET

Many people don't understand the importance of ballet. Some people think 'It's just another activity that I don't need to put my child into' or 'I know my child isn't going to go anywhere in dance so they don't need ballet'. Below are reasons why ballet is the most important part of a dancer's life.

Ballet is the foundation of all genres of dance. Without it, we wouldn't be capable of performing steps properly in jazz, lyrical, contemporary or modern. Ballet helps dancers grow - it gives them what they need to excel in all other styles of dance. Not only that but it teaches work ethic, perseverance, motivation, dedication, stamina, flexibility, balance and strength.

Ballet training gives children the coordination and focus for all other sports or activities as well. It can improve and correct posture and give students bodies the strength that it needs to prevent injuries in classes.

Practicing ballet and participating in exams are a huge confidence builder for young girls and boys. They focus on direct technique; musicality and they make children more aware of the errors they make. In the end, they are goals for kids to work toward.

Most kids don't want to take part in ballet because it's boring and it's not fun. However, this isn't true. Ballet is a challenge and that's what makes it fun! Within each ballet class, children strive to be better than they were the day before. This also applies in their other classes. It gives them the self-discipline and the concentration to want to do better than they did yesterday.

C. ACRO – starting at Level 1 – Full Year Class

Acro is a form of dance which uses the combination of ballet technique and precise acrobatic elements. Acro uses the graceful movements of dance and the strength and flexibility of gymnastics. **Students must be taking ballet or jazz to participate in Acro.**

What to Wear

- **Footwear:** bare feet
- **Attire:** bodysuit OR fitness sports bra with tight shorts (optional – tee or tank top)
*All optional items must be worn **over** a body suit or fitness sports bra – no baggy clothing
- **Tights:** capri or convertible – tights are optional if you wear sports bra and shorts or leggings
- **Hair:** pulled back away from face

D. HIP HOP – starting at Beginner – Full Year Class

This program will introduce students to the Hip Hop culture which will include choreography in such trends as street funk, video and breakdancing.

What to Wear

- **Footwear:** clean non-grip hip hop shoes or jazz sneakers. (up to level 3 white shoes, level 5 are black hip hop boots, Senior are black and white Nike runners) No outdoor shoes allowed in the studio.
- **Attire:** tee, tank with sweats, baggy pants or shorts. NO JEANS.
- **Tights:** n/a
- **Hair:** pulled back away from face



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E. JAZZ - starting at Beginner – Full Year Class

Jazz is a high energy exciting dance form and offers a variety of movement set to the latest music. The class consists of warm up, jazz technique and dance combinations. Emphasis in the younger classes is on developing body awareness, co-ordination, flexibility, and strength (using jazz techniques suitable for this age group). Students taking Level 2 classes may be selected to work toward the Canadian Dance Teachers Association exams. Students will use upbeat music and a combination of jazz steps including leaps, jumps, runs and structured choreography.

It is mandatory that all students interested in taking exams be taking ballet.

What to Wear

- **Footwear:** split sole, **beige** color for ALL levels
- **Attire:** body suit (beginner – Level 3) fitness clothing ie. Leggings, tank tops, sports bra (Level 5+)
- **Boys Attire:** black shorts or black pants and a white t-shirt
- **Tights:** beige
- **Hair:** pulled back away from face

F. LYRICAL - starting at Level 3 – Half year class

Requirements – open to Level 3/4 and up; students must also be taking ballet. **Acceptance into this class is at the discretion of the instructor.** Only those students that show a positive attitude in other classes, have excellent attendance in other classes, and consistently work to their best ability in other classes will be accepted into this class.

What to Wear

- **Footwear:** turning shoes (SR) or foot undeez (JR)
- **Attire:** bodysuit and tights OR fitness clothing ie. Leggings, tank tops, sports bras.
- **Tights:** beige – capri style optional
- **Hair:** pulled back away from face

G. MODERN – Senior – Half Year Class

This class is open to those in Senior level and **must have at least 5 years of ballet or jazz experience.** **Acceptance into this class is at the discretion of the instructor.** Only those students that show a positive attitude in other classes, have excellent attendance in other classes, and consistently work to their best ability in other classes will be accepted into this class.

What to Wear

- **Footwear:** bare feet or foot undeez
- **Attire:** body suit and tights OR fitness clothing ie. Leggings, tank tops, sports bras
- **Tights:** beige
- **Hair:** pulled back away from face

H. MUSICAL THEATRE – starting at Level 2 – Half year Class

Students wishing to take this class must be enrolled in at least one core dance genre (ballet, jazz, tap). **Acceptance into this class is at the discretion of the instructor.** Only those students that show a positive attitude in other classes, have excellent attendance in other classes, and consistently work to their best ability in other classes will be accepted into this class.

What to Wear



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- **Footwear:** Jazz shoes
- **Attire:** body suit and tights OR fitness clothing ie. Leggings, tank tops, sports bras.
- **Tights:** pink or beige
- **Hair:** pulled back away from face

I. TAP – starting at Beginner – Full year classes

With upbeat music, this class gives a child an appreciation of rhythm and body co-ordination. The emphasis is on fun, group participation a Broadway style expression. The Canadian Dance Teacher's Association syllabus is used and students may be entered in examinations at the teacher's discretion.

It is mandatory that all students interested in taking exams be taking ballet.

What to Wear

- **Footwear:**
 - **Beginner to Level 2**– BLOCH Beige tap shoes with a LOW HEAL (mary jane style with elastics, shoe clasps or velcro *no ribbons*)
 - **Level 3 & up:** BLOCH beige slip-on tap shoe
- **Attire:** body suit (beginner – Level 3) fitness clothing ie. Leggings, tank tops, sports bra (Level 5+)
- **Boys attire:** black shorts or black pants and a white t-shirt
- **Tights:** beige
- **Hair:** pulled back away from face

I. POINTE – Full Year Class Lv. 5 and up

Description: Pointe is offered to dancers who have an understanding for the knowledge and technique of ballet. They also must have the required strength to dance en pointe. This class will be broken up into two parts; A) Pre -pointe - strengthening and conditioning of the feet and ankles with various exercises and drills and B.) Pointe. Most students can expect to be in pre- pointe for one year before being allowed in pointe shoes. **Note: advancing to pointe shoes is at the discretion of the teacher and depends on the students progress and development.** Pre- pointe is a pre requisite for all dancers in order to take part in pointe. This class may or may not be attending any competitions depending on the years progressions.

What to Wear

- **Footwear:** Pre-pointe: bare feet Pointe: Bloch, Capezio, Sansha or Gaynor Minden – **please talk to instructor on which brand will suit the dancer best.**
- **Attire:** tights, bodysuit

3. DANCE EXAMS – optional

The cost of entering children in examinations varies according to age of student and exam taken. The exam fee for each discipline and level being offered is listed on the registration form. This fee includes the exam class and mock exam fee. An additional exam fee will be charged at a later date for the actual exam. **Testing is optional but HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Entry into examinations will be solely at the discretion of the teacher.** Although it is usually possible to make an educated judgment prior to the closing date for receipt of entries for a particular examination session, sometimes circumstances change which can affect the decision, after the closing date. For example: habitual non-attendance in class (for all or some of the class time) would fall in this category of re-visiting the original decision. If a situation arises where an instructor's decision has changed, a meeting will be set up between the student, parent, teacher and executive to review.

Exam Classes for 2021-2022 include:



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Primary Tap (Level 2 Tap)

Grade 1 Tap (Level 3 Tap)

Grade 2 Tap (Level 5 Tap)

Grade 3 Tap (Senior Tap)

NOTE: Due to the high numbers of students in classes, we will no longer be offering exam instruction in regular class time. Parents of students who Miss Keaira feels are ready for exams will be contacted in August.

Attire for Tap Exam classes:

Tap: black bodysuit and beige tights. NO shorts

Your instructor will provide further details regarding attire for exams.

NOTE: If your child is an exam student and chooses to participate in a solo/duet/trio/small group, it is recommended that practice for solo/duets occurs **AFTER** the completion of examinations. Successful examinations come only with focused individual practice on exam material. Solo/duet practice and polishing should occur **AFTER** exams are completed.

4. **BEHAVIOUR AND CONDUCT**

To encourage appropriate work habits and attitudes the school adheres to the code of behavior and conduct as below:

- Cell phones are to be turned off during class time
- Respect and thoughtfulness for fellow students and teachers.
- Punctuality for classes and rehearsals.
- Hair needs to be pulled back and off the neck in all classes.
- No gum chewing in the studio
- Be respectful of dance studio, change rooms and bathrooms.
- Do not leave any money or valuables in the dressing room.
- Keep noise down at all times as there are other classes and rehearsals taking place.
- Proper dance wear to be worn in classes (see [What to Wear](#)).
- No food or drinks (except water) are allowed in the studio(s).
- Please refrain from bringing nut or nut products to the dance studios and change room areas.

Absences are to be phoned/text into the instructor. [Keaira's phone number is 306-560-7610](#). If a student is absent with no prior notification for two consecutive classes, the instructor will contact the executive and a call will be made to the student/parent. Continued or frequent absences are a large detriment to the progress of the individual dancer as well as the class as a whole. If a situation arises where a student has missed a considerable number of classes, the instructor will notify the executive and appropriate follow-up will be made with the student/parent. If a child is injured or minorly ill and is unable to participate but are able to watch their class we are asking that the parent/guardian send a note so the teacher is aware of the situation. If the dancer will be absent for an extended period of time, please advise the instructor(s) so that they can plan their classes accordingly.

5. **FEES & REGISTRATION**

Our school operates on an eight (8) month term. Payment of fees will be accepted after the scheduled two week trial period. Fees can be paid in cash, cheque or via Credit Union Bill Payment system.



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There are 3 methods of payments:

- **8 post-dated cheques or bill payments** (dated/paid the first of each month from September to April)
- **2 post-dated cheques or bill payments** (dated/paid September 1st & January 1st)
- **1 cheque or bill payment or cash sum** for the full amount upon completion of two week trial period
- **Bill payment option for Credit Union members only.**

All cheques are to be made out to the Wynyard School of Dance.

Outstanding fees will necessitate the suspension of a child from attending dance class as per Wynyard School of Dance Constitution. There is a \$25.00 fee for NSF cheques in addition to bank charges. If personal financial difficulties should arise during the year, arrangements can be made to meet with the executive to work out an alternate method of payment.

Each dancer is required to submit a **\$45.00 costume fee** for each class where a costume will be provided by the club.

Each dancer is required to submit a **\$30.00 registration/cleaning fee** with registration. This is non-refundable.

NOTE: Competition Fees will be billed separately once competition entries have been completed and are due upon receipt. Competition fees are non-refundable.

6. **CLASS WITHDRAWAL DEADLINES AND FEE REFUNDS**

September 6, 2021: All classes that start in September, including exam classes, have a 2-week trial period. Any class withdrawals (including exam classes) prior to September 17th will result in a full refund.

NOTE: Exam class fees become non-refundable after the two-week trial period. *Exam registration fees are billed in October and are non-refundable once they have been submitted to the registrar.*

September 30, 2021. If a dancer withdraws from a class, except exam classes, on or before this date, 75% of the class fees and the costume fee are refundable. The \$30.00 registration/cleaning fee is non-refundable. If a core class is withdrawn from, and the dancer received a \$100.00 rebate for enrolling in all three core classes, \$100.00 will be deducted from your entire refund.

Any withdrawals AFTER September 30 will not be eligible for ANY refunds! This includes classes that do not begin until January.

If a medical issue necessitates class withdrawal, withdrawal requests for medical reasons must be accompanied by documentation from the health-care professional giving care for the medical issue. Notification in writing may be sent directly to the Wynyard School of Dance or emailed to wynyardschoolofdance@gmail.com.

7. **COSTUMING**

Wynyard School of Dance will be providing most of the costuming that your children will be requiring this season. You will be required to pay a \$45.00 fee per class for costuming. This fee is to assist in the price of



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costuming and props but does not necessarily mean complete costuming, for example: tights, shoes, etc. The costume fee can only be refunded if class withdrawal occurs on or before October 15th.

8. FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION

Competitions are mandatory with exception of Leaps and Giggles. Competition offers an opportunity for dancers to recognize and acknowledge other dancers, teachers and choreography. Students involved in competition are learning from others while challenging themselves, this provides a valuable experience. To discuss possible festival or competition entries and choreography fees, please contact your instructor.

Competitions: Our club usually attends 3 competitions each year. Competitions take place between March and May. You must make your own travel arrangements, and you are responsible for your own travel and accommodation costs. Competition entry fees are approximately \$20-\$50 per dance per competition.

NOTE: dancer tights must be clean and in good condition for competition. It is recommended that each dancer have an extra pair of tights in the event of tears or dirt. Mondor Tights cost approximately \$14-\$18 per pair.

9. SOLOS/DUETS/TRIOS/SMALL GROUPS

It is mandatory that dancers wanting to do solo(s)/duet(s)/trio(s) or small groups in any discipline, with the exception of Hip Hop, are enrolled in BALLET.

It is recommended that dancers wanting to do solo(s)/duet(s)/trio(s)/small groups are enrolled in exam classes, however, if the instructor feels that a student is ready to do a solo/duet/trio it is up to their discretion to approve it.

Solos, duets, trios and other small groups that are choreographed outside of regular class time are not entered into competition by the Wynyard School of Dance, but under the discretion of the choreographer/instructor.

For a successful solo/duet/trio/small group, independent practice is imperative. It is completely under the authority of the instructor/choreographer to determine if a solo/duet/trio/small group is ready to enter competition. The studio may be used for practice during non-instructional hours. Sign-up sheets for practice times will be placed in each studio once choreography begins for solos/duets/trios/small groups. Children under the age of 15 must be supervised by an adult at all times during solo/duet/trio/small group practices. Keys for the studios will be available through executive members.

Fees for choreography of solos/duets/trios and small groups are determined by and paid directly to the instructor. Competition fees for solos, duets, trios and small groups will be billed based on information provided by instructors. The Wynyard School of Dance will not contact each individual family to confirm information, so ensure you are in good communication with your child(children) and the instructor about solo and duet work.

****ALL SOLO/DUET/TRIO FEES MUST BE PAID BY THE FINAL CLEAN-UP CLASS. IF THEY ARE NOT PAID BY COMPETITION DAY, THEY WILL NOT GO ON THE STAGE. NO EXCEPTIONS****

Permission must be obtained from the Instructor to hire a choreographer for a solo/duet/trio or small group.

Solo/duet/trio/small group competition fees are NON-REFUNDABLE after October 15th, even if your child does not perform his/her solo or duet at competition.



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Transportation and management of props used for solos/duets/trios/small groups are the complete responsibility of the dancer/dancer's family.

A solo/duet/trio/small group showcase may take place during Recital Weekend. Due to time constraints of programming, it may be necessary for the club to set a maximum number of solos per dancer. Solos, duets, trios and small groups may not be performed at recital; but rather at the showcase performance.

NOTE: If your child is also an exam student, it is recommended that practice for solo/duets occurs AFTER the completion of examinations. Successful examinations come only with focused individual practice on exam material. Solo/duet practice and polishing should occur AFTER exams are completed.

10. COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

Communication is essential and it is important for information to be communicated to parent/guardians. It is your responsibility to ensure the Communication Chair has your most current and available email address and cell phone number. We will be utilizing email as our main mode of communication. A Wynyard School of Dance Facebook page is also created as a method of communication. **PLEASE MAKE A HABIT OF CHECKING YOUR EMAIL MESSAGES WEEKLY. Notify an executive member if you are not receiving email messages or if you change your email address.** We welcome your questions, so please contact the president when information is not clear, or just not there.

You may wish to keep a binder with hard copies of information pertinent to your dancer(s).

11. ANNUAL AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

Wynyard School of Dance sponsors the presentation of awards at the conclusion of the year. The recipients are dancers who demonstrate potential and ability in the field of dance, or demonstrate tremendous progress throughout the year in attitude, technique, or work habits. Awards are presented at the discretion of the instructor.

12. SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

During the year, our students are frequently invited to perform at community events. These requests provide our dancers with additional performance opportunities which are of great benefit. Not all children are involved in these performances as our instructor may select the groups which are most appropriate in age and style for each request. Extra rehearsals may be required.

13. WATCH WEEK

Parents are not allowed to watch classes regularly, but will be invited to attend classes during special watch week. This time for observing, is scheduled for the week of **October 18-22.**

14. GENERAL EXPENSES

Shoes for Class: New shoes may cost anywhere from \$25 to \$140 for each pair. You may reach out to the dance community for interest in used footwear. If you choose this option, please ensure the shoes are in good condition and will properly support your dancers feet.

Reminder: Solo/Duet/Trio/Small group Choreography fees are paid directly to the instructor. Contact the



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instructor for costs. You are responsible for your own costume (costumes may be rented from the Wynyard School of Dance). Transportation of props are the responsibility of the dancer, not the Wynyard School of Dance. Similarly, loading props onto the stage for competition or recital is the responsibility of a representative of the dancer(s).

15. FINAL NOTES & REMINDERS

Please see that your child arrives before class time and is picked up promptly at the end of each class.

Children should not be left unattended. For younger students we highly recommend you supervise your child right until the point at which they enter the actual studio space for their class. We ask that you supervise younger children in the bathrooms as well, and ensure toilets are properly flushed.

All dancers and family members of dancers must be **respectful of shared facility space at the Arts and Culture Center and Civic Centre.** Please ensure that all garbage is properly disposed of, and that personal items are stored neatly in designated spaces.

All dance apparel and shoes **should be labeled with your child's name;** if articles are lost, please check our lost and found box. Wynyard School of Dance is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

All shoes or boots are to be removed prior to entering the dressing room or studio areas. There is NO FOOD allowed in the studio spaces.

Please refrain from bringing nuts and nut products into the dance studio to respect students and instructors who may have nut allergies.

We recommend that your child have a thorough medical check-up prior to beginning classes. Please discuss any health problems with the instructor which might affect your child's dancing.

Please check the family email/text messages frequently for information about school activities and articles dealing with dance.

There are generally no classes during weeklong school breaks. However, if a competition falls at the end of a school break there may be classes during that school break.

As a member of the Wynyard School of Dance, you will be required to commit to volunteer hours in a variety of manners over the dance year. It is expected that each family participate in volunteer duties as assigned.

Please note that this Booklet is Appendix B of the Wynyard School of Dance Constitution.