

## Parent Handbook

Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing Revolution Dance for your child's dance education. Here is a little bit about what you can expect from your dance experience with us!

At Revolution Dance we offer both competitive and non-competitive classes as well as exam programs and recreational programs, we believe in giving the best options for all dancers! Our primary method of communication is thru email , which is checked Monday-Friday. Please let us know by email if your dancer will be absent from class. Also please keep us informed of any planned vacations that may affect our dance season. We do expect to have all dancers at our competitions and recitals as well as rehearsal days, picture day and costume fitting. We also have group moms who send out information on our behalf and we are very fortunate to have them working so hard with us! We are also more than happy to discuss any concerns over the phone, please send us an email requesting a call back and we will make sure we contact you at a mutually convenient time.

Our recreational classes are hip hop based and run in both sessions and full year programs with a performance at the end of the year. We also offer an Acrobatic program that is skill based and is available to both our recreational dancers and our competitive dancers alike!

Our competitive program is geared towards dancers who strive to improve and love the stage! We have pre-requisites in this program to ensure that our dancers are all training at the same level and have the same skill set. Our ballet program is based on the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus and our students to take part in worldwide standardized exams. Our tap students are trained in the Canadian Dance Teachers Association Sask Branch Syllabus and are regularly tested at provincial standards. Our jazz classes are supplemented by a progressions/jazz tech class at the Grade One to Advanced level.

Our studio typically attends 3 dance competitions each year starting at the Primary level, we do offer the opportunity to our younger dancers to take part in one competition to see if they like it and want to continue down the competitive path. Competitions are selected by the end of October and group moms will forward all information regarding locations, dates, fees, hotel room blocks, etc. It is expected that all competitive dancers attend all competition rehearsals, pictures, competitions and any dance off's we may be participating in. Attendance of regular weekly lessons is extremely important and we ask that competitive students attend all classes in the months leading up to competitions. This is a team activity and we need our whole team to do our very best! During the competition season, we may have to adjust our schedules, cancel a few classes and make up lessons later, we know this isn't always convenient but we appreciate our dancers and parents' understanding on this.

It is our expectation that all dancers and parents will behave in a respectful manner at all dance events throughout the year. Whether we are in our own studio or out performing in public we represent our studio as well as our community and we wish to be represented in the most positive light. We understand that there may be times where issues may arise and we strive to resolve these issues quickly. It is our expectation that any issues be brought to a teachers attention by email in a respectful manner. Issues are not to be addressed at the studio , in front of students or in another groups class time as this is disruptive and counter-productive. We ask that parents do not address issues by text message or during class times as teachers do not have adequate time to respond. Our goal is to create the most positive learning environment for our dancers and an enjoyable atmosphere for our parents.

The general overview of a dance year:

End of August - register for classes, purchase necessary dance shoes and attire. All required items are listed on our website.

Sept - begin dance classes and start mastering new steps  
Submit requests for solos/duos to the studio by email.  
Candidates for ballet exams are selected by the teacher at this time. Candidates should order their required exam attire at this time.

October - Costume measuring is done during class time, preparation for ordering of costumes.

Extra lessons begin for ballet exam participants.

Private lessons begin for those taking part in solos and duets.

Competition meeting happens at this time, competition forms are handed out and are due back by Oct 31st 2018.

Nov 1st - Deadline for all costume deposits to be paid for all dances that perform on stage. Costumes are ordered by Revolution Dance. Parents will receive their childs' measurements from the group mom and will order all required costumes and accessories and make up. A studio order for exam tights is placed at this time, parents are responsible to sign up and pay for their childs' tights.

End of Nov - Beginning of Dec - Ballet exam session takes place for those who are selected to take their exams. Exams may be in our studio or in Saskatoon depending on the level of the exam and number of candidates entering.

Dec 1st - All competition fees are due by this date.

Last week before Christmas - We wind down the first half of our dance season with class Christmas parties , in which the group moms arrange simple class activities , students wear pj's to dance and dance to Christmas music.

Jan - Dance resumes and teachers along with students are working hard to complete

choreography by the end of this month. Competitive dancers are expected to attend all classes from January until competition season is over.

Feb - Cleaning of Choreography begins, costumes start to arrive. Costume fitting will be scheduled before the end of this month. A bulk order for tights is placed by the studio at this time. Parents are responsible to sign up and pay for their dancers tights at this time. Finale t-shirts should also be ordered at this time. Lists for hairstyles, tights, shoes, accessories go on the website at this time. Students should be prepared to show their dances to their teacher in smaller groups and one at a time to ensure that all dancers are going to be performance ready!

March - Dances are beginning to look ready! Hotel room blocks should have been booked by this time. Solo and Duet performers are preparing for our local Showcase , which kicks off our competitive season. Picture day coincides with our showcase and all of our dancers are professionally photographed at this time. Tap exam candidates are selected at this time.

Late March -April - It's go time! Our dancers hit the stage at our selected competitions and show all that they have achieved this season!

May - Recital Prep begins!

Our recital is typically the 2nd weekend in May , Friday evening at 7 pm and Saturday afternoon at 2 pm.

Our schedule shifts as we begin to teacher students a finale number which incorporates all dancers from our studio. We have allowed for our tots and tutus to opt out of this number if their parents feel it is too late in the evening on Friday for them , however we find that most participate as it is a truly amazing experience to see all of our dancers working together at something the love to do. Be prepared for some extra rehearsals the week of the show as it is necessary to have our students look their best!

Typical recital week schedule :

Monday - regular classes in studio

Tuesday - stage or studio rehearsals for all dancers

Wednesday - Stage rehearsals for all dancers

Thursday - day off! Be sure to rest in prep for our big show!

Friday - evening show

Saturday - afternoon matinee

Late May -early June - Tap exams tap place in our studio or in Saskatoon.

June - ballet extension classes for exam students as well as trial classes for new students.

3rd week of August - Ballet Intensive - 4 day camp to prepare for fall ballet exams.

Late August-Early September - Register for the new season!

We hope that this general overview helps all parents and dancers feel prepared for the busy dance season ahead! We are excited to begin another amazing adventure with you!