



Welcome to The Dance Gallery!

We are thrilled to kick off another exciting season at Dance Gallery!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank-you to all of our families for their continued support throughout the years. Your trust, encouragement, and commitment help make our studio community so special.

To our new dancers and families, welcome! We are excited to have you join the Dance Gallery team and look forward to sharing an incredible year of learning, growth, friendships, and memorable experiences together.

Whether your dancer is stepping into the studio for the very first time or returning for another season, we are committed to providing a positive and enriching environment where every child feels valued, supported, and inspired.

Our Mission

At Dance Gallery, we honour a legacy built on integrity, family, and a genuine love of dance.

We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where students grow not only as dancers but also as confident, respectful, and resilient individuals. Through quality instruction, meaningful relationships, and a strong sense of community, we inspire dancers to develop discipline, teamwork, creativity, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

We believe the lessons learned in the studio extend far beyond the stage, helping students build confidence, character, and memories that last a lifetime.

What Makes The Dance Gallery Different?

At The Dance Gallery, we believe dance education is about so much more than learning steps. While we are committed to providing high-quality technical training and performance opportunities, our greatest goal is to help young people grow into confident, respectful, and resilient individuals.

For more than 30 years, The Dance Gallery has built a reputation for excellence by creating a positive environment where dancers feel supported, challenged, and valued. We are proud of our achievements on stage, but we are even prouder of the character, friendships, work ethic, and life skills our students develop along the way.

At DG, we believe:

- Every child deserves to feel seen, supported, and encouraged.
- Progress is more important than perfection.
- Teamwork, kindness, and respect are just as important as technical achievement.
- Strong relationships between dancers, families, and staff create the foundation for success.
- Dance lessons should inspire confidence both inside and outside the studio.

Whether a student dances once a week or pursues advanced training, each dancer is an important part of our studio family. We celebrate individual growth while fostering a team culture where dancers learn to support one another, work toward common goals, and take pride in being part of something bigger than themselves.

The Dance Gallery is more than a place to learn dance—it is a place where friendships are formed, confidence is built, challenges are embraced, and lifelong memories are created. We are honoured to be part of each dancer's journey and grateful for the trust our families place in us every season.

Faculty

At The Dance Gallery, we pride ourselves with bringing a team together to support the growth of your child. They are exceptional at their craft and excited to celebrate each milestone with you and your dancer. Please see the website for their full bios.

Lori Birk, Owner and Director

Certified PBT, Certified Acrobatic Arts, Jazz, Lyrical, Tap, Contemporary, Pre-School, Hip Hop, Jazz Tech, Ballet, Stage

Sydney Graham-Wiseman

Certified Acrobatic Arts, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Jazz Tech, Ballet

Laura Flynn

Registered RAD Ballet, Certified PBT, Licentiate CDTA Ballet, Ramburt Grades, RAD Silver Swans, Ballet / Pointe

Alexis Moffat

Registered RAD, Pre-School, Ballet

Amanda Thalman

Certified PBT, Ballet

Tammy Kustersky

Registered RAD Ballet, Accredited ADAPT Tap and Jazz, Certified PBT, Certified Acrobatic Arts

Lauren Presley

Jr Teacher, Hip Hop

Jill Marrington

Jr. Teacher, Contemporary

Studio Schedule, Holidays and Important Dates

Classes: September 14th, 2026 - June 12th, 2027
September 9-10, 2026 will be our studio spirit week with more details to arrive in your inbox.

Holidays:	September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
	October 12	Thanksgiving
	November 11	Remembrance Day
	December 14 - January 3	Winter Break
	February 15	Family Day
	March 15 - 30	Spring Break

Mandatory Important Dates:

February 7	On-stage blocking for all competition groups
February 13	In-studio dress rehearsal for comp groups
June 6	Tech Rehearsal
June 10	Dress Rehearsal
June 11 - 12	DG Recital

Attendance

Regular attendance helps dancers build confidence, develop skills, and experience the success that comes from steady progress throughout the season. Each class is an important part of the learning process, and missed classes can make it difficult for dancers to keep up with technique, choreography, and their team. If your dancer will be absent, please use the Dance Studio Pro attendance feature to notify their instructor in advance whenever possible. As tuition reserves your dancer's place in class, refunds or credits cannot be provided for missed classes.

Illness and Injury policy

If your child has a fever or is vomiting, please keep them home to rest and recover. If they are injured or mildly unwell, we encourage them to still attend class whenever possible to observe, take notes, and stay connected to corrections and choreography updates. In the event of an injury, we ask that families provide a doctor's note outlining any restrictions or recommendations so that our staff can help support the dancer's safe and healthy recovery. Studio staff may also request a meeting with the dancer and parent/guardian to ensure everyone is aligned on the recovery process and has a clear, supportive plan for returning safely to dance.

Weather and Emergency Closure Policy

Studio closures due to weather, power outages, or unforeseen circumstances will be communicated through Facebook, Dance Studio Pro, and email.

Class Make-Up Policy

Dancers are welcome to attend another similar class during the week if the studio is closed for a holiday or inclement weather.

Registration and Tuition

Registration Fee: A non-refundable registration fee of \$25 / dancer + GST and will be charged to the credit card on file upon acceptance of registration.

Class Fees: All class fees are itemized in Dance Studio Pro. We are happy to offer a sibling discount to the child with the lowest fees, provided the combined amount of classes for the family is 6 or more.

Payments: We will be using autopay for tuition collection at the first of each month. Please ensure that your credit card is kept up to date.

Costume Fees: There will be a \$75 / class costume fee due October 1st with the balance due February 1st for competitive dancers and May 1st for non-competitive dancers

Competition Fees: Please refer to your Competitions Packet for additional due dates and fees.

Classes

At The Dance Gallery, we offer a diverse range of classes designed to inspire, challenge, and nurture every dancer's unique interests, abilities, and love of movement. Please find below a short description along with any pre-requisites.

PRE-SCHOOL:

Designed for our youngest dancers, Preschool Dance introduces movement through music, imagination, and creative play. Classes focus on developing coordination, balance, listening skills, confidence, and social interaction in a nurturing environment. Each class is filled with exploration, fun, and age-appropriate learning experiences that foster a love of dance.

COMBO:

A perfect class for your young dancer to enjoy an introduction to dance. Combo includes both jazz and tap within one - one hour class.

BALLET:

Ballet is the foundation of dance training, building technique, posture, musicality, and artistry. Students follow the internationally recognized Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus.

Students in Grade 2 and above attend two classes per week.

ACRO:

Acro combines dance technique with acrobatic skills, developing strength, flexibility, balance, and coordination. Classes follow the Acrobatic Arts curriculum with a focus on safe, progressive skill development.

Pre-Requisite: Ballet

JAZZ:

Jazz is an energetic dance style that combines strong technique, athletic movement, and dynamic performance. Dancers develop flexibility, strength, turns, jumps, and stage presence.

Pre-Requisite: Competitive classes require registration in Ballet and Jazz Tech Class.

LYRICAL:

Lyrical blends the technique of ballet and jazz with emotional expression and storytelling through movement. Dancers learn to connect music, movement, and artistry.

Pre-Requisite: Enrollment in Competitive Jazz and Ballet and instructor recommendation.

CONTEMPORARY:

Contemporary combines elements of ballet, jazz, and modern dance while encouraging creativity, versatility, and self-expression. Dancers explore movement, artistry, and emotional connection.

Pre-Requisite: Enrollment in Competitive Ballet.

TAP:

Tap is a rhythmic dance style that uses the feet as a percussion instrument. Dancers develop musicality, timing, coordination, and precision through both classical and rhythm tap techniques.

HIP HOP:

Hip Hop is a high-energy style that focuses on rhythm, musicality, and personal expression. Dancers develop coordination, confidence, and performance skills through age-appropriate street-style movement.

STAGE:

Stage combines acting and dance to bring stories and characters to life through musical theatre. Dancers build performance skills, stage presence, confidence, and character development while exploring various themes throughout the year.

Class Dress Code

We have set a studio dress code to ensure that dancers can perform to their fullest potential and that the instructor can monitor alignment and safety. Please ensure your child has all requirements by their first class. We understand that there is not a dancewear store in our city, however, new supplies can be purchased from The Movement Boutique in Kelowna or other larger centers. Please also check our studio selection. While many online retailers offer dancewear, we recommend purchasing from established dancewear suppliers to ensure proper fit, durability, and quality.

Pre-School:

Girls: Any color bodysuit with ballet tights and pink full sole ballet shoes with elastics. Other dancewear such as tutus or one piece dancewear is acceptable as long as it doesn't distract from learning or hinder bathroom access.

Boys: White t-shirt, black or navy blue shorts, white socks and black ballet slippers

Hairstyle: Neat bun or ponytail

Please note: please leave all other personal items at home to avoid distraction. Placing all items including a properly sized water bottle in a labeled dance bag helps your pre-schooler begin their journey of independence at the dance studio.

Combo:

Girls: Any colour of bodysuit or or dance top with shorts, beige Capezio or Bloch jazz shoes, black Capezio or Bloch oxford style tap shoes

Boys: Any colour fitted tank top, black shorts, beige jazz shoes, black oxford style tap shoes

Hairstyle: Bun or Ponytail

Ballet:

Pre-Primary - Primary - True Pink RAD approved tank bodysuit (no pinch) with matching circle skirt. Ballet tights and pink ballet shoes (Light Pink Capezio Hanami leather)

Grade 1-2 - True Pink RAD approved bodysuit (no pinch), Mondor/Capezio Ballerina Pink Tights, Ballet Shoes (Light Pink Capezio Hanami leather). Character shoes with low heel. Black Character Skirt hemmed 6 cm below the bottom of the knee (approximately mid-shin) may be rented from the studio.

Grade 3-5 - Navy RAD approved bodysuit (with pinch), Mondor/Capezio Ballerina Pink Tights, Ballet Shoes (Light Pink Capezio Hanami leather for Grade 3-4, Canvas for Grade 5). Black character shoes with higher heel, Black Character Skirt hemmed 6 cm below the bottom of the knee (mid-shin) may be rented from the studio. PLEASE NOTE, Grade 4 Ballet students do not require character shoes.

Intermediate Foundation and up - Black bodysuit, Capezio/Mondor Ballerina Pink tights, canvas Ballet shoes with elastics.

Boys Dresscode - White t-shirt, black or navy blue shorts, white socks, black ballet slippers. Black hard soled shoes will be required for Grade 1-3, 5.

Hairstyle: Bun is required for all ballet classes. This includes using a hairnet, pins and hairspray to make a tight, secure, bun going up diagonally from the ears.

Acro:

Plain black tank or spaghetti strap bodysuit with plain black dance shorts with bare feet.

Hairstyle: French braids or a low braid. This is extremely important to ensure the safety of both the dancers and spotters.

Jazz / Jazz Tech / Stage:

Girls: Any colour of bodysuit or or dance top with shorts, beige jazz shoes (Bloch or Capezio). Please note: shoes are not required for students at the Inter/Senior level or for Stage classes.

Boys: Any colour fitted tank top, black shorts, beige jazz shoes, black oxford style tap shoes

Hairstyle: Bun or Ponytail

Tap:

Girls: Any colour of bodysuit or or dance top with shorts or leggings, Black Capezio or Bloch brand black oxford style tap shoes. Inter/Senior students are asked to purchase Black Jason Samuels Tap Shoes

Boys: Any colour fitted tank top, black shorts, beige jazz shoes, black oxford style tap shoes

Hairstyle: Bun or Ponytail

Lyrical / Contemporary:

Please follow the same attire guidelines as jazz with the exception of beige canvas turners for lyrical or black beige dance socks for lyrical or contemporary. Students in Contemporary are asked to always pack a long sleeved shirt and pants for possible floor work each class.

Hip Hop:

Loose fitting clothing (sweatpants, leggings, t-shirts and tank tops) along with clean non-marking runners. No outdoor footwear will be allowed on the studio dance floors.

Communication

Our goal is for all families to feel informed, prepared, and up to date regarding their child's dance program. The Dance Gallery private family Facebook page will be one of our main communication tools throughout the season. Important documents and updates will be pinned to the top of the page, allowing families to quickly access the most current information in one convenient place.

We will also be creating a "Year At A Glance" calendar. This live document will be housed in the private studio facebook and regularly updated with studio events, activities, and studio closures. Families are encouraged to check both the Facebook page and calendar regularly, as schedules and details may occasionally change throughout the season. In addition, regular studio monthly newsletters will be distributed throughout the season to provide important updates, celebrate achievements, and keep our Dance Gallery community connected.

Your family portal through Dance Studio Pro provides many opportunities for communication. If you need to contact any of your child's instructors, please select the class then select email teacher. You can also let us know that your child will be absent through your portal. For general studio inquiries, please use our studio email info@thedancegallery.org.

While we always strive to respond to emails as efficiently as possible, many questions can often be answered more quickly by referring to the Facebook page, calendar, or previously shared studio communications. Staying connected to these resources will help ensure a smooth and successful season for all families.

All instructors at The Dance Gallery are educated and experienced in teaching dance to children. However, we also know that nobody knows a child better than their grown up. If at any time any questions arise, please do not hesitate to discuss them with your child's instructor or the Director. We ask that you do this during non-teaching hours so that we may give you our full attention without taking away from another child's class

Drop-Off, Pick-Up & Extended Stay Policies

At The Dance Gallery, student safety is always our priority. By working together and following the guidelines below, we can ensure a safe, welcoming, and positive environment for all dancers, families, staff, and neighbouring businesses.

Drop-Off

To help ensure safe traffic flow, dancers should enter through the back studio entrance.

- Older students may be dropped off near the front studio sign and walk to the back entrance independently.
- Parents of younger dancers are welcome to park in a designated parking stall and walk their child into the building.
- Please drive slowly and use caution at all times in the parking area.
- If you are walking your child into the building, please park in a designated stall to avoid blocking traffic flow.

Studio doors open daily at **3:10 PM**. We ask that dancers not arrive more than **30 minutes before their scheduled class time** unless otherwise arranged.

Pick-Up

As classes end, our parking lot becomes very busy. Please discuss a pick-up plan with your child that works best for your family.

- Students may wait in the lobby and watch for their parent's vehicle through the window.
- Older students may walk to the front of the building for pick-up if previously arranged with their family.
- For safety reasons, students should not wait unattended in the parking lot.

We ask that dancers be picked up promptly following their final class. While we understand that unexpected situations occasionally arise, respecting pick-up times helps support our staff and ensures a safe environment for all students.

Parking Courtesy

Please do not park in reserved parking stalls. We value our relationship with our neighbouring businesses and appreciate your support in helping us maintain a respectful and positive community. At no time is a parent/driver permitted to park anywhere other than in a marked parking spot.

Extended Stay Policy

At The Dance Gallery, we are proud to provide a space where friendships are formed, community is built, and dancers feel welcomed and supported. We understand that many families have busy schedules, and we strive to offer a comfortable environment for students between classes.

Please note that students who are not participating in a scheduled class are not under direct supervision by Dance Gallery staff. To ensure safety and maintain a positive atmosphere for everyone, the following expectations apply.

Food & Meal Guidelines

Proper nutrition and hydration play an important role in a dancer's success. We encourage families to ensure dancers arrive nourished and prepared for class, especially after a full school day.

- Students with breaks of up to one hour between classes are welcome to eat at the studio.
- A refrigerator and microwave are available for student use.
- Our Snack Shack offers convenient snack options for a small fee, with punch cards available through the office.
- Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves and disposing of all garbage properly.

Water bottles are encouraged in every class. We recommend younger dancers bring bottles that are easy for them to manage independently.

Lost & Found

To help return misplaced items quickly, please label all dancewear, shoes, bags, and water bottles with your dancer's name. Students are encouraged to store their belongings in the cubbies provided in the dressing rooms.

Unclaimed items will be placed in the Lost & Found and cleared weekly on Fridays to prevent excessive accumulation. If a dancer needs to retrieve an item from the Lost & Found, we ask that they bring a \$1 donation. This small contribution helps encourage responsibility and accountability for personal belongings, while all proceeds support our DG Travelling Troupe.

Expected Behaviour

At The Dance Gallery, we believe exceptional dancers are also exceptional teammates. We expect all students to treat fellow dancers, instructors, parents, volunteers, and guests with kindness, respect, and professionalism. Bullying, exclusionary behaviour, or disrespectful

conduct will not be tolerated. We are proud of the respectful and supportive culture at The Dance Gallery and expect all students to contribute positively to our community.

Students staying at the studio between classes are expected to:

- Use respectful behaviour.
- Keep noise levels appropriate.
- Respect fellow dancers, staff, and studio property.
- Follow all studio guidelines and directions.

The Dance Gallery is proud to offer extended stay privileges as a service to our families. This privilege is intended to support dancers who are attending multiple classes in one day and may be adjusted or revoked if studio expectations are not met

Social Media Policy

At The Dance Gallery, we are committed to creating a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment where all dancers can thrive. To support this goal, we ask that students, parents and family members use personal devices responsibly and follow the expectations outlined below.

Because we work exclusively with children and youth, privacy and safety are of the utmost importance. Every dancer deserves to learn and grow in an environment free from distractions and concerns regarding photographs, videos, or online sharing.

Device Use During Classes & Rehearsals

Personal phones and electronic devices are not permitted during classes, rehearsals, or instructional time. Devices should remain stored in dance bags, lockers, or designated areas unless permission has been granted by an instructor.

The following are not permitted:

- Using phones or personal devices during class or rehearsal.
- Photographing, filming, or recording dancers, instructors, or classes without permission.
- Creating or posting content from within the studio for social media platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, Reels, or Stories.
- Livestreaming, video chatting, or messaging during instructional time.

Recording Choreography

At times, instructors may permit dancers to record choreography for personal practice purposes. Any recording must be approved and supervised by an instructor and is intended solely as a private learning tool. Videos recorded for this purpose may not be shared, posted online, or distributed in any format.

Device Use During Breaks

Dancers may use personal phones or devices during designated meal or rest breaks while seated in the lounge area. Use during these times should be respectful of others and limited to personal communication or entertainment.

Photography, videography, and social media content creation remain prohibited inside the studio at all times, including during breaks.

Why This Policy Matters

Dance Gallery is built on trust, respect, and community. This policy helps protect the privacy of our dancers, supports focused learning, and ensures that all students can train in a positive and distraction-free environment. **We ask that all families sign their social media policy waiver that can be found in your dance portal.** If you have any questions or concerns, we invite you to email the studio directly at info@thedancegallery.org.

Policy Violations

If a device is used inappropriately or in violation of this policy, staff may hold the device until the end of the day. Repeated concerns may result in additional restrictions or a meeting with parents/guardians to ensure expectations are understood and supported. Dance Gallery reserves the right to request the removal of any online content that violates the privacy or safety of our students, families, staff, or studio community.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and professional studio environment for all dancers.

Extra Opportunities

Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Examinations

The Dance Gallery considers RAD Ballet examinations an important part of a dancer's educational journey. Examination participation is determined at the instructor's discretion, and students may not necessarily complete an exam every year.

Additional examination classes may be scheduled when required. Eligible students and families will receive detailed information in the fall.

Classes Outside of The Dance Gallery

At The Dance Gallery, we are proud to provide high-quality dance education across a variety of disciplines. To maintain consistency in training, terminology, technique, and artistic development, dancers are asked not to enroll in ongoing recreational or competitive programs at other dance studios while training at DG.

We also recognize the value of learning from a variety of experienced educators. Guest teachers, workshops, conventions, master classes, and specialized training opportunities can provide valuable experiences that complement a dancer's weekly training and support their continued growth.

Throughout the season, The Dance Gallery will offer guest teaching opportunities and may recommend additional workshops or training experiences that align with our values and educational philosophy. We encourage dancers to take advantage of these opportunities as part of their ongoing development.

Competition Program

Students become eligible for competition opportunities beginning at age 8 or by audition.

While we are honoured to have received many competitive achievements over the years, we believe the greatest value of competition lies in the life skills it develops. Through competitive experiences, students learn commitment, accountability, perseverance, teamwork, resilience, and respect for others—skills that extend far beyond the stage. Additional information is available in our DG Competition Handbook for eligible students.

Important Dates for our Competitive Program:

February 7, 2027 On-stage blocking for all competition groups

February 13, 2027 In-studio dress rehearsal for all competition groups

Year-End Recital

All students participate in The Dance Gallery's annual Year-End Recital at the Sagebrush Theatre, held **June 10-12, 2027**.

The recital provides dancers with the opportunity to celebrate their growth, share their accomplishments, and perform for family, friends, and the community. Please be sure to star this very important weekend on your calendar.

Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals is essential to the success of the production. If your child is unable to attend any portion of the recital weekend or required rehearsals, please notify the studio as soon as possible, as this may affect their ability to participate.

Ready for 2026 - 2027

Thank you for being part of The Dance Gallery family and for helping us continue the proud legacy of integrity, teamwork, and a love of dance that has shaped our studio for so many years. Please keep this studio handbook package handy for future reference. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to our policies to keep DG running smoothly. We are so excited to watch our dancers continue to learn, grow, support one another, and create unforgettable memories throughout the 2027 season. Thank you for being part of Team DG — we cannot wait for another great year.