

Dance Elements by JodyKym

2917 Early Drive, Saskatoon
306-280-9020
Email: Missjo@dancelements.com

UPDATED July 2023

As a condition of enrollment at Dance Elements by JodyKym, students, their parents, and caregiver or guardians agree to abide by all the policies set forth by Dance Elements by JodyKym, the director, faculty, and staff. Dance Elements by JodyKym reserves the right to terminate any student's enrollment at any time for misconduct or inappropriate actions by either the student or their parent(s)/caregiver, or guardian.

Welcome to Dance Elements by JodyKym!

This handbook will serve as your guide to Dance Elements by JodyKym and our philosophy of dance education.

We take our roles as mentors and educators in your child's life very seriously. It is our objective to inspire a passion for the art of dance in every child who passes through our doors. In the process, we strive to set the right example and help your child (and you) create memories that will last a lifetime.

Our Ethos

Dance Elements by JodyKym is committed to providing high-quality dance classes to enhance the overall development of the child. We provide a safe and child-centered environment to encourage our students to explore dance with qualified, nurturing teachers, fostering growth in the performance of dance arts and musicality of individual students. Our studio atmosphere is fun, supportive, and inclusive and encompasses the passion for dance in all classes offered. Our vision is to promote dance, musicality, voice, acting, teamwork, personal goals, social and emotional training, and awareness and physical literacy through certified instruction, standardized testing, and of course, a positive, safe studio space for all our pupils, at any stage in their dance education. We insist on a family-focused studio, a home away from home so that all our dancers are able to achieve their best potential as dancers, with the strongest mindset, freedom to express themselves through their art, and of course making memories and friends along the way. We take a holistic approach to teaching and are always open to dialogue to best ensure your dancers' needs are being met.

The highest educational standards are expected from all Dance Elements by JodyKym faculty members. They are lifelong learners who continue to educate themselves through certification programs, teacher-training schools, conferences, and other learning opportunities. We encourage dialogue between them, the student, and you to help everyone grow on their journey.

Our Culture

We believe in every person in the studio understanding our culture. It is apparent in every class we teach, in our media and branding, in our behaviors at the competition, and out in the community. When you think of Dance Elements by JodyKym these are words, emotions, feeling, and images that should come to mind. We practice daily:

- kindness to ourselves and others
- inclusivity- making sure our peers and our teachers all feel connected and included on their journey
- mindfulness and goal setting- challenging ourselves and our peers to make SMART goals and help each other achieve
- confidence- being able to believe in ourselves and others without comparing or judging
- responsibility- taking ownership of our journey and dance education
- openness- taking in feedback from our teachers and peers to grow ourselves
- manners- being polite to others and showing respect
- respect- being aware that everyone learns and thinks differently and embracing our uniqueness This list will grow and mature through the year as will our dancers. We look forward to being part of their journey, helping our imprint on them be positive, creative, and wholesome.

ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

We believe that our success comes because of our providing solid training and quality service, as well as our underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this handbook to offer our students and their persons a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the school.

Contact Information:

Address: 2917 Early Drive, Saskatoon, SK, S7H3K5

Phone Number for Miss Jo, Director: 306-280-9020

Email Addresses:

- Missjo@dancelements.com any inquiry can be directed here.
- Missmelanie@dancelements.com any inquiry for dancers 10 and under (the pre-junior level and under)
- payments@dancelements.com for all payment related inquiries

Website: www.dancelements.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/danceelementsbyjodykym/> or search danceelementsbyjodykym

Facebook: parents group- invite will be sent out once registered

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dance.elements/> or search dance.elements

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/danceelements> or search danceelements

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@dance.elements> or search dance.elements

Web calendar: <https://www.dancelements.com/calendar>

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyT_dRtkH1nmZfimhd64fw/featured

We use google classroom for each class we offer- please check your email after registration for the invite and code to your dancer's classroom. Or email Missjo@dancelements.com for code/invite. All information you need to know will be posted here and/or emailed to you. These are the primary forms of communication.

General Information

Our 2022-23 season will run from September 11th, 2023 to June 1st 2024.

*Recital may occur after the June 1st date (dependent on theater availability).

Please ensure you receive and read all monthly notices by the form emails from the studio. Studio notices will be posted on our website and posted on the Dance Elements Bulletin Board located in the parent lobby downstairs. Any other pertinent information for parents will be located there. A large calendar is located for parents by the tot/primary dancers' quarters/exit fire door, this is to remind you of important dates and studio closures. The dancer's bulletin board is located outside Studio B on the wall, this is where we will post documents or items for them to be reminded of. They will be made aware of board at the start of season. The calendar and all notices and pertinent info will also be available on our website members only zone and posted in google classroom.

Key event dates

Season start – Sept 11th 2023

Session Dates for tot and combo classes -

- Fall Session - beginning September 25th, 2023.
- Winter Session- begins January 15th, 2024
- Spring Session- begins April 8th, 2024 (6 week session- part of recital)

Recital week- TBD (aiming for May 20th to June 1st time frame)

Picture week- TBD April

Viewing week term 1 - December 4-9th week

Viewing week term 2 - March 4-9th week

Costume deadline- full costume deposit fees must be paid by Dec 25th

Winter/Christmas break- *tentatively set for Dec 22nd 2023 until Jan 8th 2024 inclusive

Spring break/reading week- * tentatively set for Feb 18th 2024 until Feb 25th 2024

Easter break- * tentatively set for March 29th 2024 until April 8th 2024

Holidays Closures:

No Dance October 31st 2023

No Dance November 10 & 11th 2023

No Dance May 18, 19, 20th 2024

Possible closure for dance competitions- classes may be made up- those make up classes will occur on Saturdays prior to the closure.

FOR OUR STUDENTS

The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class. All teachers at Dance Elements are here to support you on your journey, so please take responsibility for your training- ask questions, share concerns and feelings (in person privately or in class), communicate your needs and wants with us.

Respect for the teachers is essential. Listen to each correction given, whether it's directed at you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer when class is finished or when they offer you feedback. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers' knowledge and experience.

Always call your teacher by the title Miss or Mister- it can be followed by first name, but they have earned their title and you need to respect them when talking with and about them.

FOR THE PARENTS: “WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”

We believe that children’s success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child’s dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty and students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the faculty—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting. Please notice all staff at Dance Elements by JodyKym are highly licensed and educated in what they teach. Our junior teachers have taken our studio’s teaching course, along with their lessons planned by either Miss Jo the director, or Miss Melanie the Pre-Jr advisor, to ensure all requirements are met.

Your child’s presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school’s educational process. We also understand life happens—so communication is key – keep us in the loop when you can’t make it, often we have “catch up” opportunities in place. (This is where the live stream comes in, or the video version of practices are handy).

Parents and teachers may look at a child’s learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally, in the safest, more nurturing environment we can provide. Mutual respect among our faculty and our students’ parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Special Information for Parents of Preschool Students

Our purpose is to provide the highest-quality preschool education in a secure, nurturing, and stimulating environment. Dance Elements By JodyKym serves the physical, emotional, and the intellectual needs of preschool students. We meet these goals with our age-appropriate FUN curriculum and ongoing communication with parents.

The first few weeks of classes serve as an introductory phase to help students become comfortable with the overall dance experience, the classroom, their teacher, and their classmates.

Right from the beginning we focus on your child’s coordination, listening skills, musical awareness, and developing imagination. We accomplish this through age-appropriate music and song, simple stretching exercises, dance movement and tumbling basics, and games in an environment of creativity.

Preschool dance is about helping children learn to tap into their imaginations and express themselves creatively, not necessarily about learning steps (although they do get introduced to some basic steps). So don’t be disappointed if your child doesn’t pirouette around the house or look like a budding ballerina right away.

**Preschool students perform in our annual recital.

Separation From the Parent

The process of separating from the parent as the child attends dance class is an important accomplishment of preschool children.

As children mature, they begin to identify themselves as independent personalities. In separating from you, the parent, your child is learning

- to develop an interest in the activities of the dance class;
- to feel comfortable with other children in the class;
- to understand that their parent will come back and pick them up;
- to understand that all parents leave their children and come back for them.

It is important to know that at times young children will explore the limits of attending dance class and say they don't want to go. This period may occur anytime, but it is usually short-lived. Here are some suggestions that might help you handle the situation:

- Emphasize what the child is doing at the dance class rather than what you do while they are in class.
- Before you leave, see that the child is involved in an activity or is in the hands of a teacher.
- Avoid prolonged good-byes.
- Ask the teacher for help in separation. We expect the crying (usually the tears are for the parent's benefit).

Miss Eliisha BA, MAMFT is a therapist and has lots of tips and tricks to help with separation and nerves. Please never hesitate to ask her or us.

It May Not Be the Right Time

If your child cries or does not want to take class, don't panic. If we push children and create more stress than they are already experiencing, they may come to perceive dance class as a bad experience. That kind of negativity could make them apprehensive about dance for a long time, which isn't good for anyone involved. Never force your child into the classroom.

We recommend that children be encouraged to practice at home but not forced to do so. Repetition is one of the key elements for success with preschool dance students; the more they practice, the more confident they will feel. Practicing with your child allows you to join in the dance experience and share in their journey.

FOR ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Understanding Dance Education

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your student financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that they can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that's comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Not all children will develop into professional dancers. One of the primary goals of our faculty is to teach life lessons and skills that offer children the best chance for success. Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether they stay involved in dance or not.

Each class/level at the studio will have community events or special opportunities to allow the dancers to bond. I.e: Christmas card writing and decorating to hand out to local Senior's home, bowling parties etc. Team building and inclusion are a special part of the journey at Dance Elements by JodyKym. We will be doing a bi-monthly event for the whole studio, along with team builds for our competition teams.

If you have ideas or concepts to help facilitate these events please reach out to Miss Melanie (missmelanie@dancelements.com)

Class Placement

The school faculty meets regularly to discuss the student's progress and/or placement. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child.

Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where they will feel confident, to promote the development of self-esteem. Some students who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with students who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex. Please keep in mind we always try to keep them with their peers, offer the challenges needed when we see they need them, and ensure we are always doing what is best for their journey.

Classroom Observation

During the first few weeks of dance, classes will be streamed through google meets. The link to view these classes will be in your child's google classroom. After Oct 15th we will no longer stream unless it is required for some purpose.

In-class observations take place once per term for the 2023/24 season.

Viewing week term 1 - December 4-9th week

Viewing week term 2 March 4-9th week

Never disrupt the class. During the in-class observation week (or at any time if the door to the classroom is open), please refrain from shouting instructions or distracting your child in any way. Positive encouragement, smiles, and videos are always welcome.

Medical Information

Parents must notify the director/and or teachers regarding children who use an inhaler, or EpiPen or who may require medications during their time at Dance Elements by JodyKym. It is also important to inform the director and/or teachers about your child's existing medical conditions or learning disabilities at the time of registration and throughout the school year. Our teachers are trained professionals who are excited to work with all children and personalities, and the more we know about your child, the better the dance experience will be for all involved. All information about our students is confidential.

Staying Informed

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all newsletters and other school information.

Newsletters and important updates are posted in the lobby on the bulletin board, in google classroom, in the parent Facebook group, and in the member's zone on the website.

If you have any questions regarding the information distributed, we encourage you to contact the office at 306-280-9020 between the hours of 10am to 3pm.

You can text us anytime(within reasonable hours) and we will try to answer promptly.

We answer emails daily, except on weekends. Feel free to email questions to the office at

Missjo@dancelements.com or Missmelanie@dancelements.com

Any payment related questions please email to payments@dancelements.com and Miss Sarah will help you out during here set office hours.

Website

www.dancelements.com

We are constantly updating our website. News, important parent, and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day. You will see links to our media presence here and we suggest you follow along to stay current in our culture and community events, get memories and glimpses of class activity, and feedback on questions you might have that others may know (Facebook parent page).

Dress Code Requirements

Dance Elements by JodyKym maintains a dress code to encourage concentration and a sense of inclusiveness (variations in attire can be distracting and contribute to feelings of inequality). Uniformity in dancewear allows the teachers to assess how well the students are implementing the technique being taught, problems with alignment, and other important aspects of dance training. We do not specify color or style to encourage the dancer's personality to shine through.

Our dress codes apply to all dancers and can be purchased at Dance Street (1020 Louise Ave or 16 23rd Street E). The staff is great and will know what you need. Please be sure to check the consignment wall for gently used discounted shoes, these are a GREAT option for growing feet!!!

Gender fluid, Non- Binary, + Please dress appropriately following the Identifying Male or Female dress code options. Inclusion is important to us but so is safety, so please dress appropriately.

General Dress Code Rules:

- Students should carry their dancewear, shoes, and other belongings in a dance bag. Please print your child's name on the bag as well as on all of its contents
- Dancewear is to be kept in good repair and laundered on a regular basis.
- Dancers with a male anatomy age 10 and older should wear a dance belt.
- Watches, jewelry, and safety pins should not be worn to class
- Dance shoes should never be worn outside.
- Female Identifying students should wear their hair tightly secured and styled away from the face; a neat bun is preferred, especially in acro and ballet.
- We suggest dancers have a designated outfit for dance class so the child learns this outfit is for this activity, and starts to make the connection early on.

Class	Identifying Male	Identifying Female
Caregiver & Me	Comfortable clothes that can be moved in, and barefoot.	
Twinkle 2's, Dancing 3's, Story & Dance Time, Mini Movers, Mini Rhythms, Tiny Twirlers, Little Leapers, Petit Danseur, Hip Hop Hooray	-Comfortable plain shorts -Plain t-shirt -Black leather ballet shoes -Black socks -Black tap shoes (mini rhythms only)	-Salmon tights (convertible style so can be barefoot when needed) -Bodysuit -Ballet skirt (optional) -Pink leather ballet shoes -Beige or black tap shoes (mini rhythms only) -No jazz shoes necessary for any class

Class	Identifying Male	Identifying Female
ALL LEVELS		
Acro, Stretch & Strength	-Plain dark colored shorts -Plain t-shirt, fitted to frame	-Bare legs or light tan tights (convertible style so can be barefoot) -Bodysuit, dance shorts(optional) or sports bra and dance shorts/leggings -Please refrain from loose tanks/tees as they make skills and spotting unsafe
Musical Theater & POM	-Black shorts, jazz pants or leggings -Plain t-shirt or tank top -Black leather jazz shoes with black socks	-Light tan tights (convertible style so can be barefoot when needed) -Bodysuit & dance shorts, or sports bra/fitted tank & dance shorts/leggings -beige jazz shoes
Hip Hop	-Plain dark colored shorts, sweats, or joggers -Plain t-shirt -Clean indoor non-marking runners - outside shoes will not be permitted	
KINDER, PRIMARY & PRE-JUNIOR LEVEL		
Ballet	-Plain dark colored shorts -Plain t-shirt -Black leather ballet shoes -Black socks	-Salmon tights (convertible style so can be barefoot when needed) -Bodysuit -Ballet skirt (optional) -Pink leather ballet shoes
Jazz & Lyrical	-Plain dark colored shorts -Plain t-shirt -Black leather jazz shoes -Black socks	-Light tan tights (convertible style so can be barefoot when needed) -Bodysuit -Dance shorts (optional) -Beige jazz shoes
Tap	-Plain dark colored shorts -Plain t-shirt -Black tap shoes -Black socks	-Light tan tights (convertible style so can be barefoot when needed) -Bodysuit -Dance shorts (optional) -Beige or black tap shoes
JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE, SENIOR & ADVANCED LEVEL		
Ballet	-Black male dance tights, leggings or shorts -Light colored t-shirt -Black leather shoes -Black socks if not in tights	-Salmon tights -Bodysuit (preferable no undergarments) -If layering, please wear a wrap skirt or tight fitting dance shorts/leggings, will be permitted in one class a week -Canvas or leather, split or full sole ballet shoe -Pointe shoes for Intermediate & up

Modern, Lyrical & Contemporary	-Black shorts, jazz pants or leggings -Light colored t-shirt or tank top -Turn shoes -Dance belt (ask Miss Jo if uncertain)	-Salmon tights (convertible style) or bare legged -Bodysuit & dance shorts, or sports bra/fitted tank and dance shorts/leggings -turn shoes
Tap	-Black shorts, jazz pants or leggings -Light colored t-shirt or tank top -Black leather tap shoes with black socks -Dance belt (ask Miss Jo if uncertain)	-Light tan tights (convertible style) -Bodysuit & dance shorts, or sports bra/fitted tank and dance shorts/leggings -Black tap shoe (Intermediate-Advanced lace up oxford style)
Jazz	-Black shorts, jazz pants or leggings -Light colored t-shirt or tank top -Black leather jazz shoes with black socks -Dance belt (ask Miss Jo if uncertain)	-Light tan tights (convertible style) -Bodysuit & dance shorts, or sports bra/fitted tank and dance shorts/leggings -Beige jazz shoe

Class Description

Class Sizes

These are the class sizes we prefer to have for optimal learning:

Baby classes: max 8

Toddler classes: max 8

Kinder classes: max 10

Primary classes: max 12

Pre- Junior classes max 14

Junior classes: max 16

Intermediate, Senior & Advanced classes- no max

Classes by Age Range:

A general guideline- Staff will assess where your child fits

- Babies - 0-24 months - Caregiver & Me
- Toddler - 18-36 months - Twinkle 2's, Dancing 3's, Story & Dance Time
- Preschool - 3&4 years - Combo Classes
 - Mini Movers - intro to dance
 - Mini Rhythms - Tap & Jazz
 - Tiny Twirlers - Ballet & Acro
 - Little Leapers - Jazz & Acro
 - Petit Danseur - Ballet & Jazz
 - Hip Hop Hooray - Intro to hip hop & movement principles
- Kinder - 5+ years
- Primary - 6+ years
- Pre-Junior - 8+ years
- Junior - 9+ years

- Intermediate - 11+ years
- Senior - 14+ years
- Advanced - 17+ years

*Note: all 2022/23 Junior dancers will be moved to Intermediate level. Select 2022/23 Pre-Junior dancers will be moved into Junior level.

Genre Description

All class curriculum is set by a qualified Dance Elements instructor and may follow a syllabus structure. By having lesson plans and a governing structure we ensure every dancer at Dance Elements is receiving qualified training, setting them up to achieve their best. All curriculum is overlooked and approved by our director and team leads and will be loaded into Google classroom. This will allow dancers to practice outside of the studio and in the event of an absence- can be caught up at their leisure.

Caregiver and Me, Twinkle 2's, Dancing 3's & Story & Dance Time will follow a movement-based syllabus. Ballet, jazz, musical exercises, and balance/coordination are the focus of every lesson. Fundamental skills introduced are space awareness, directions and patterns, levels, their spot, and their environment when moving, big vs small, elevations, and turns introduced. We follow the Royal Academy of Dance preschool program combined with Discover dance syllabus and Acrobatic arts pre-k Programming to round out our lessons.

Combo classes- along with technical elements such as hops, retires, tendues, port de bras we use the following to set our lessons.

Fundamental skills introduced are space awareness, directions and patterns, levels, their spot and their environment when moving, big vs small, elevations, and turns introduced. We follow the Royal Academy of Dance pre-school program combined with the Discover dance syllabus and Acrobatic arts pre-k Programming and CDTA syllabus to round out our lessons.

- Little leapers: combo class of jazz acro - recital focus will be jazz with some acro elements.
- Tiny twirlers: combo class of acro and ballet- recital will be based on ballet with some acro elements
- Mini rhythms: combo of jazz and tap, recital will be tap based with some jazz movements or may do 2 performances.
- Petit Danseur: combo class of ballet and jazz, recital will be ballet based with some jazz elements.
- Mini movers: movement based class introducing basic dance principles (jumping, turning, space exploration and balance)- recital dance will have a variety of genres shown.
- Hip Hop Hooray: introduction to hip hop principles- bounce, grounding, isolations and more, recital dance will focus primarily on hip hop.

Pom

The class will focus on the basics of dance, plus strength as well as technique of leaps, turns, splits etc. Pom is a mixture of jazz, hip hop, and traditional cheer. It is strongly advised dancers enrolled in pom are also taking acro and jazz or ballet. This class may have the opportunity to perform at sporting events and participate in competitions. Some other info to be aware of - teams are judged on several criteria including form, team unison, showmanship, the precision of movement, choreography, enthusiasm, and visual use of poms. The environment is different from a dance competition due to the cheering section located in front of the mat, and

cheering is highly encouraged. There is SCA registration fee separate from studio tuition.

Acro Dance

Dynamic and energetic classes that compliment jazz, contemporary, lyrical, theatre, and ballet dancers. We strongly advise dancers that take these classes are enrolled in a ballet or jazz class also. This genre builds strength, flexibility, tumbling (cartwheels, walkovers, etc.), and balances (handstands, needles, etc.). Acro Dance is often seen as just the floor work of gymnastics, but it is all the hand-to-foot weight transfer, and different ways of moving the body across the stage using power and flexibility.

Ballet

Dance Elements is focused primarily on using the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus. This syllabus is designed to provide your child with a high-caliber, standardized syllabus recognized worldwide. In non-exam-based classes, we also use CDTA ballet syllabus and Finis Jhung methods. All these syllabuses are dedicated to developing a strong technical ballet foundation with an understanding of artistry and breadth of movement. RAD exams are offered every year but are not mandatory. Pointe- is offered to the dancers in the intermediate and higher levels. Is part of the class component – not an add-on. If your child chooses to not do pointe, they will do the work on demi pointe in their soft shoe.

Tap

Tap dance is the genre that uses rhythms, music, and metal plates on shoes to produce another style of dance while enhancing the musicality of students. At Dance Elements we follow the Canadian Dance Teacher Association (CDTA) syllabus as it provides a standard for the dancers and ensures the history of tap is preserved. The exams are offered yearly are but not mandatory. We currently are expanding our dancer's knowledge with the introduction to Adapt syllabus- new to us. (ADAPT – Associated Dance Arts for Professional Teachers)

Jazz

Jazz dance has many influences and styles and at Dance Elements we follow the Canadian Dance Teacher Association (CDTA) to ensure the highest standard of instruction is being followed. Through jazz, the dancers will gain flexibility, stamina, and power along with the technique of turns and jumps.

Hip Hop

Hip Hop is an energetic style of dance that again has many roots. It has a very relaxed attire, and dancers are taught isolated body movement along with fluid rippling movements. We are very aware of the music and influences it may have and are very selective in our choices and with our choreography.

Musical Theatre

This class incorporates live voice singing, dancing, staging, and acting. This class builds singing skills under the guided tutelage of Mike Harris- a highly qualified voice and music instructor, and Miss Kate while also nurturing the portrayal of characters and understanding the layouts of the stage and how to portray this to the audience.

Contemporary/Lyrical

These styles are different and are being offered in one class as we will rotate through the 2 styles and identify the differences as we go. This will allow the dancer to see if they prefer a more natural, grounded way of moving or through more traditional training. Contemporary really connects the mind and body through movement and isolation and uses lines and angles that differ from ballet. This style stresses versatility and improvisation. Lyrical combines the love of jazz and ballet to express the range of emotions and thoughts through the story of the music. We advise dancers to be enrolled in a Dance Elements jazz or ballet class to be proficient in this class.

Turns and Progressions

This class is STRONGLY advised for all our Inter and higher-level dancers to build up stronger techniques on skills that require hard work. This class will cover all the high-level turns and the foundations that build into them. The jumps require power built through plyometrics and core strength taught in this class. This class works on power, body awareness, and understanding of skills.

Strength/conditioning & Flexibility

This class focuses solely on increasing the range of motion through muscle lengthening. We will use the Alixa Flexibility syllabus and Sugarfoot Method to increase the dancer's knowledge and awareness as well. As dancers grow in height their muscles shorten- to keep them supple this class is a great way for them to increase their range of motion and teach them the skills to build body awareness and increase their flexibility safely.

Modern

This class is offered for dancers in ballet. It is influenced by ballet but was adapted to lose the rigid posturing and to encourage the concept of feeling the movement. Dancers are encouraged to initiate movements from different regions of the body and feel movements through a way of contact with others and objects. To create their own story and portray it to the audience through technical steps founded on modern foundations. Dance Elements follows the Canadian Dance Teacher Association (CDTA) syllabus but also uses the Graham technique, ISTD Jason Waters syllabus, and will offer exams yearly to those interested.

FEES

Membership Fee

An annual membership fee of \$25 per dancer or \$40 per family is due at time of registration. Your membership fee covers extra rehearsals or studio time, admin fees, access to camps, events before the public at discounted costs. Membership fees are not refundable.

*previously called registration fee- however now has perks involved.

Tuition and Expense Policy

A valid Credit card is required to confirm registration. Your card will not be charged if you have chosen to pay by post- dated cheque or have made other arrangements with the office admin. We will no longer be offering e-transfer as a form of payment. Your payment options are as follow:

- **OPTION 1:** Credit Card - your card on file will be charged on the 25th of the month, for the upcoming months fees

- **OPTION 2:** Post-Dated Cheques (made payable to Dance Elements by JodyKym) - you will be required to supply us with 9 post dated cheques as follows:
 1. Dated September 1, 2023 for Sept. fees, Membership Fee & costume deposit
 2. Dated September 1, 2023 for May fees- will be cashed in Sept
 3. Dated October 1, 2023 for October fees & costume deposit
 4. Dated November 1, 2023 for November fees & costume deposit
 5. Dated December 1, 2023 for December fees & costume deposit
 6. Dated January 1, 2024 for January fees
 7. Dated February 1, 2024 for February fees
 8. Dated March 1, 2024 for March fees
 9. Dated April 1, 2024 for April fees

Declined Credit Cards/NSF cheques: If your card is declined or invalid or your cheque goes NSF, you will be emailed to promptly provide us with a new form of payment. If the card is still declined or invalid or you do not provide us with payment, class participation will be suspended and a \$40.00 NSF will be added to your account. Participation will be suspended until your account is in good standing.

September 2023 and May 2024 fees are required prior to the start of the season - if paying by credit card, your card will be charged for September fees, membership fees, September costume deposit AND May fees on August 30th. If paying by cheque, your cheques #1 and #2 (explained above) will be cashed on September 1st, 2023.

No refunds on tuition will be provided if you withdraw after March 1st. In the event of a withdrawal after March 1st, your card will continue to be charged for April fees or your post-dated cheque for April will be cashed on April 1st. Withdrawal from a class must be done before the 25th of the month to avoid charges for the following month. **PLEASE NOTE - tuition is a yearly fee that we break down and allow you to pay over 9 months for your convenience. (previously broken down over 10 months- this has been adjusted for 2023-2024 season)**

Additional Fees

Tuition does not include the membership fee, dancewear, shoes, costumes, recital tickets, private lessons, competition fees, exam fees or studio charges for choreography or special events.

Costume Deposits

- Combo and Kinder - \$60 per class - \$15 will be added to your September, October, November and December fees
- Primary and Pre Junior - \$80 per class - \$20 will be added to your September, October, November and December fees
- Junior to Advanced - \$100 per class - \$25 will be added to your September, October, November and December fees

NOTE: all costume fees are non-refundable after December 25th, 2023

Class Pricing

6 & 10-Week Session Classes

Membership fee is non-refundable once classes begin, but only paid once for the season!

Fall Session - beginning September 25th, 2023.

Winter Session- begins January 15th, 2024

Spring Session- begins April 8th, 2024 (6 week session- part of recital)

6 Week Session Classes: Caregiver & Me, Twinkle 2's, Dancing 3's, Story & Dance Time
30 minute class - \$80.00 (tax included)

10 Week Session Classes: Mini Movers, Mini Rhythms, Tiny Twirlers, Little Leapers, Petit Danseur, Hip Hop Hooray

30 minute class - \$132.00 (tax included)

45 minute class - \$198.00 (tax included)

*Session classes can be paid in full by cheque or charged to your credit card on file prior to session start

*No costume deposits required for session classes. If participating in recital a costume will be provided at a \$50.00 fee (maximum amount, could be less)

Full- Season Classes

Class Length (total)	Price per year (GST incl.)
30 min	\$350.00
45 min	\$525.00
1 hr	\$700.00
2 hr	\$1350.00

3hr	\$2000.00
4hr	\$2600.00
5 hr	\$3200.00
6hr	\$3750.00
7hr	\$4300.00
8hr	\$4850.00
9hr	\$5400.00
10hr	\$5950.00
11 hr	\$6350.00
12 hr	\$6750.00

Any time falling between the hr-to-hr rate will be prorated.

Junior, Intermediate, and Senior POM - seasonal class

NOT included in the above hrs

Seasonal classes run from Sept to the end of February

Dancers already enrolled in 2+ hours/week: \$349.65 (tax included)

Dancers not enrolled in other classes: \$437.00 (tax included)

SAVINGS

Dancers in Multiple Classes - "Class Caps"

*includes all classes except POM

*includes RAD Exam Classes

*discounted **CDTA fees for cap** students (new this year)

- Kinder Level - \$2000/year - \$225/month September - May
 - 4.25 hours per week for the price of 3!
- Primary - \$2200/year - \$245/month September - May
 - 5 hours per week for the price of 3.25!
- Pre-Junior - \$3000/year - \$335/month September - May
 - 6 hours per week for the price of 4.75!
- Junior - \$3000/year - \$335/month September - May
 - 6.25 hours per week for the price of 4.75!

- Intermediate - \$5000/year - \$556/month September - May
 - 12+ hours per week for the price of 8.75!
- Senior/Advanced - \$6000/year - \$668/month September - May
 - 14.75 hours per week for the price of 10!

**cap students will receive a discounted fee for exams. Family discounts do not apply to exams or competitions.

Deals and Discounts

- Family discounts are provided- please inquire to find out what your family is eligible for.
- Fundraising options may be available throughout the year

Discipline Policy

To maintain a happy, healthy, professional environment, students are taught the importance of being a part of the group. We encourage students to have respect for other students, the teachers and staff, and studio property, and we foster the development of good habits and compliance with rules of conduct. Kindness is key for us along with respect.

Our staff and faculty are trained to use constructive techniques of discipline to maintain class control and handle individual misbehavior.

- Children who exhibit unacceptable behavior or attitudes are told what is wrong and directed to a positive alternative approach or behavior.
- If a child's misbehavior continues to disrupt the class, the parent or guardian will be consulted.

Termination of Enrollment

In certain circumstances, when it is in the best interest of one or more students, it may be necessary for the school owner or director to terminate a student's enrollment. Every effort will be made to correct a problematic situation before terminating enrollment. Reasons for termination of enrollment include the following:

- Disruptive or dangerous behavior by students or their parents
- Abuse of other children, staff, or property
- Inability of Dance elements by JodyKym to meet the child's needs

Rules & Studio Policies

Temporary Closure

If for any reason we are required to suspend class and close our doors, we will transition into online programming. This curriculum will be the same as the classes at the studio with minor alterations required to accommodate space, equipment, and safety measures. Courtesy of G-Suite, great technology, and amazing staff, we have an excellent online curriculum available.

Arrival and Departure

We encourage students to arrive 10 minutes before class starts.

For their safety, children under age 10 should be picked up immediately after class. Students ages 10 and older must be picked up no more than 15 minutes after their class is completed. Please message Miss Jo or Miss Melanie if there is an issue and she will notify the teacher. This includes handling situations with care. Handle with care means – exactly as it sounds. Please email or text Miss Jo or Miss Melanie if your dancer needs special care that day. No reasons are needed just the simple handle with care- so we know that dancer is fragile that day. This is implemented for the dancers well being- it is not discussed or shared- the teachers are given the instruction and that is all. This is a private option available for the dancers and their families.

Attendance

All students are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes. Each class offers a step forward in the educational process. A missed class could leave a child one step behind the other students. During the months of December through April, choreography for the recital will be taught and rehearsed. It is important for children to feel completely confident with the choreography and the year-end performance. Missing class during this period could result in frustration for the students and their teachers and classmates.

Tardiness

Dance is a physical activity that requires the body to be warmed up to execute movement safely. Late students miss the proper warm-up and/or barre and therefore may sustain injury. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will then have to miss out on current exercises until they are properly warmed up. It is also unfair to other dancers as it is disruptive to the class. Constant tardiness will result in being asked to wait to enter the room until an exercise is finished- then they will have to get themselves warmed up and organized and will be permitted to take part in the current exercise when the teachers feel they are sufficiently warmed up.

We also acknowledge that it happens sometimes, so please communicate if you know you're running behind.

Makeup Classes

Students who miss a class will have the opportunity to make it up with another similar class. Please check with the office to determine the best makeup class for your child.

Weather Cancellations

School closures due to severe weather conditions will be announced by 3pm on that day. Notifications of weather cancellations will be emailed, posted on the website and the Facebook page, announced on the school's outgoing voicemail message, and posted in google classroom.

Illness

Colds, flu, and other contagious diseases occur frequently and spread easily among children. To help protect your own child's health and to minimize the possibility of contagion at school, please keep your child at home if you observe any of the following symptoms:

- Nasal discharge that is green or yellow
- Complaints of ear pain
- Consistent cough
- Severe sore throat
- Eyes that are pink, burning, itching, or producing discharge
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Fever -Dancers with a temperature of 99F or 38C or higher must stay home.

For your dancer's Safety

- Staff will be frequently sanitizing high-touch areas and any equipment used. Cleaning of the studio and space will take place after each class.
- Staff will follow the same screening as the dancers and will remain home if feeling unwell. If a staff member enters the dancer's space, they will sanitize hands before and after interacting with the dancer.
- Extra hand sanitizer, tissues, soap, and hand towels made available.
- All staff follow current COVID-19 procedures and policies.

If symptoms or other conditions deemed contagious are observed in your child during a class, you will be called to pick up your child immediately.

In case of prolonged illness or feeling not ready to return – An ongoing online program for virtual learning at home, is always available.

Emergency Evacuation

Although we have never experienced an emergency evacuation at the school, we are prepared for such a circumstance. Emergency evacuation routes are posted in all classrooms and in the lobby. Students are to evacuate quietly and walk in single file as quickly as possible to the designated area, where teachers will check the roll. Students and teachers are to return to classrooms and buildings when the all-clear signal is given.

Personal Belongings

Dancers will be allowed to bring their dance bag along with a reusable water bottle and snack (please keep them nut free) to leave with their coat and shoes in their designated dancers' quarters. Please remind your dancer to wash their hands before eating, and to keep snacks to

themselves. Scents - try to avoid wearing strong scents to the studio, no perfumes in class, please.

Changing clothes - we ask dancers to use the washrooms to change clothes or do so before coming, as our dancers' quarters are a neutral space. All dancers are welcome in the space, encouraging bonding and peer support.

Dance Elements IS NOT RESPONSIBLE for lost or stolen items and belongings. Please leave important items at home.

Lost and Found

Please mark all dancewear, shoes, and personal items with your child's name. We will make every effort to locate and return lost items; however, we cannot be responsible for any items that your child brings to class.

Parking Lot Safety

The school is home to children of all ages. Please enter and exit our parking lot with extreme caution. Never Park your vehicle in any area that is not a designated parking space. If you park in a space that is very close to the building or its windows, please do not leave your car idling. Please do not allow siblings to play in the parking lot.

Parking is available at the front (south) and rear (north) sides of the building along with the streets around the studio.

Student and parent use of social media

Use of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Align, tik tok, Instagram, snapchat, blogging, and other online social media vehicles are commonplace. This policy is intended to provide Dance Elements by JodyKym and parents with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- You DO NOT have permission to reveal any information that compromises Dance Elements by JodyKym. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the director, other students or their families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or Dance Elements by JodyKym.
- Students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of Dance Elements by JodyKym.
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend Dance Elements by JodyKym.
- If you post videos of class or rehearsals, don't post any choreography in its entirety; Dance Elements by JodyKym owns the copyright to all choreography taught at the school.
- Respect the law, including those laws governing defamation, discrimination, harassment, and copyright and fair use. As stated in this handbook, parents, and students should never post negative comments about other schools or teachers. Also, please do not post negative comments about school activities such as competitions, conventions, and performances or about the directors of those events.
- Ensure that your social networking conduct is consistent with all the policies contained in this handbook.

General Policies

- Parents and students should not enter the office space of the school without a staff member present.
- Parents and students should never interrupt a class in session.
- Only water is allowed in the studios. No food, drinks, or gum.
- We love babies and young children and appreciate the chance to meet our students' siblings. However, our priority is the safety of every child on the school premises. Children must be always supervised and are not free to run around the lobby or classroom areas.
- Please do not dispose of dirty diapers inside the school. Large trash cans outside the studio are better suited for such disposal.
- No cell phones or computers may be used during class time. (This means no emailing, Internet use, or text messaging.)
- Students and parents are restricted from contacting teachers by phone, email, text messages, etc. All communication with teachers or the director must go through the Dance Elements by JodyKym email address. Google classroom is in place and you can message the teacher directly or post a question in the stream. You can also always email Miss Jo or Miss Melanie directly.
- Never speak negatively about teachers, students, or parents from other schools.
- Never recruit students from other schools. We love that you support us, but poaching is never good business.
- All students must always show respect for their teachers and peers. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the studio

Annual Recital

Dress rehearsal: 1 run through will be done in the studio and a 2nd at the recital venue location on stage

Recital: TBD dates to be confirmed when location is booked

Additional rehearsals may be scheduled for students. Parents and students will be notified of additional rehearsals at least **two weeks in advance**. (we will try, sometimes short notice happens)

All students participate in our annual recital to be held at TBD location on a TBD date in Late May/early June.

Dress rehearsal dates are TBD and dependent on the recital dates. This will all be communicated as soon as we are able to book, hoping to confirm by early March. Please note that all students must participate in the dress rehearsal to perform in the recital.

The recital offers our students a professionally directed performance that allows them to present to their families and friends the results of a year's hard work, dedication, and progress.

A big part of dance training includes learning through performance. Although performance opportunities can help prepare some students for a possible career in dance, they also contribute to children's success in non dance activities. The experience helps build self-esteem and

confidence, which can result in better in-school presentations, improved social skills, and strong college and job interview skills. The rehearsal process is a tremendous learning experience as well. It helps the children develop retention skills, and by working with their classmates on a group performance, they learn the positive aspects of working as a team to create the best result.

Recital Handbook

In March of each year, we distribute a recital handbook with all the information parents and students need to know to make the recital experience enjoyable for all.

Costumes

We spend many hours determining the correct costumes for each class. They are always age-appropriate and of the highest quality possible. All students will need one costume for each dance form they train in. Costumes include all accessories (hats, gloves, tights, etc.), but do not include shoes or tights or undergarments if needed.

To ensure that costumes are delivered in time for school photographs and an organized distribution to our students, costume orders are placed during the December holiday break. Costume manufacturers do not accept cancellations or offer refunds; therefore, the school does not refund costume deposits.

Costume payments are the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian.

Recital Tickets

Tickets for the annual recital will go on sale at Dance Elements by JodyKym (website) on May 1st at 9 am.

Tickets are general admission, and the performance is reserved seating.

*Tickets were \$24 for adults and \$10 for children over 5 years of age inc taxes in 2023 and are projected to be the same for 2024 UNLESS we take on a more expensive venue.

Recital Photos

Class photos will be taken on a TBD date. Dates and times are subject to change. Please confirm your child's time on the updated schedule to be distributed the week of April 1st. All students are required to be present for their class picture.

After the group photo shoot, students may choose to have solo portraits made in any or all of their costumes.

There is no obligation to purchase photos. Please arrive at least 15 min before your child's scheduled time.

- We hire D&M Images

Important Recital Dates

When registering your child at Dance Elements by JodyKym, you commit yourself and/or your child to the following dates and events.

Date	Activity	Location
September 1	Costume deposit #1	At the studio
October 1	Costume deposit #2	At the studio

November 1	Costume deposit #3	At the studio
December 1	Costume deposit #4	At the studio
May 1	Recital tickets go on sale	At the studio
TBD April	Recital photo shoot (see recital handbook for more details)	At the studio
May TBD	Run-through Pre- junior and younger levels	At the studio
May TBD	Run-through junior and higher levels	At the studio
May June TBD	Dress rehearsal	At the venue of the recital
May June TBD	Recital	At the venue of the recital

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

Summer Program and Camps

Each summer Dance Elements by JodyKym offers summer programs and camps for both current and new students. Summer activities are for children ages 2 to 18. A complete brochure of all summer programs will be distributed in February. We suggest early registration as these programs do sell out, especially the camps. A non-refundable deposit will be taken at the time of registration.

Seasonal Camps

This year we will be running seasonal camps. We will offer day camps during those off school days during the holidays, and the occasional weekend camp during busy times of years- like winter shopping time:) Again this option is discounted for those that are members of Dance Elements.

Birthday parties

New this year we will be offering a few birthday party packages for those who want to bring the dance class joy to a few of their dancers' friends. Again this option is discounted for those that are members of Dance Elements.

Studio Rental

The studios are available for rental for meetings, rehearsals, and other activities. Tables, chairs, sound systems, and other amenities are available. Whether you're planning a one-time, weekly, or monthly event, give us a call to determine whether we can accommodate your group or activity.

Security

A keyless entry system has been installed on the north entrance door. Only registered students knowing the combination will have access. **WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT DISCLOSE THIS COMBINATION TO ANYONE!** This will be sent out to you prior to the Sept start date.

Google Classroom

We will be using google classroom again this year. Instructors will load their lesson plans, music, and any videos from class in here. If your dancer will be absent-but is still able to dance, please email us and we will create a meets link for them to join us, virtually. We will stream all classes for all of September and up to October 15th, so you can peek in on them in class. After that, no classes will be streamed live unless a dancer is absent and requires it.

This will also be a primary form of communication- all dancers and parents must be logged into the classroom to receive information and important details.

Competition

We do not mandate competitions as part of our studio culture. We do believe they serve a purpose and encourage dancers to take part, but it does not affect the dancer's place in class or level if they opt-out. Kinder levels and higher are eligible to compete. Please note a competition handbook will go out on October 1st. Junior level and up dancers returning from the previous season are given the option to begin choreography in August. Please check your email for meeting (google meets) info on this July 25th.

This year we will be offering small groups which will be by audition only. These are above and beyond the classroom groups, and will have extra fees included. All this info will be in the email coming July 25th 2023.

Exams

We do not mandate exams as part of our studio culture. We do believe they serve a purpose and encourage dancers to take part, but it does not affect the dancer's place in class or level if they opt-out. Examination information goes home a few times throughout the year to those dancers we feel are capable of being successful in this opportunity. We offer Canadian Dance Teachers Association (CDTA) Tap, Jazz, and Modern exams, along with Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) ballet exams and Acrobatic Arts (AAC) acro exams (new fall 2023).

**cap students will receive a discounted fee for exams. Family discounts do not apply to exams or competitions.

Social and Emotional Training

**NEW 2023

We have hired Lauren Ritchie (MEd, BA, ESFCC) is an established mental skills educator, dance teacher, and choreographer. Her areas of interest and expertise include sports and performance mental training, as well as the intersection of well-being and mindfulness. Her work in performance enhancement, mental resilience, and managing stress has led to supporting youth and professionals in dance, theatre, hockey, music, gymnastics, volleyball, and soccer. Lauren has delivered workshops to prestigious schools and programs like the Dancer Transition Resource Centre, Capilano University, and The Bridge Program with The Protege Movement, Harbour Dance Centre, and the Alberta Ballet School. She is the co-founder of the Dance Teacher reTREAT and has been a keynote speaker for the Women in Sport Speaker Series, Dance Studio Owners Association, House of Jazz (London), and the Toronto Dance Teacher Expo. We will not be doing monthly sessions with Lauren but instead work books with Miss Eliisha, and then applying what we have learnt in class. Check ins with Lauren for pre comp season & pre exam season with Lauren.

**Miss Eliisha MAMFT has also made the dancers workbooks based on their age and development. Please help your dancer work through these.

Anxieties seem to be higher than ever- so training your dancer goes beyond their physical skill set and we are grateful for your trust in us with them**

A FINAL NOTE

WELCOME TO Dance Elements by JodyKym, We look forward to an exciting, FUN rewarding season!