



Handbook
2018-2019

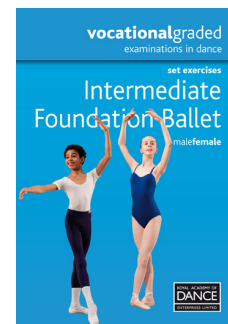
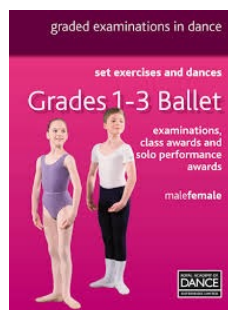
Our purpose: *To teach excellence in dance and character*

Our goal: *to create a safe nurturing environment where children and youth can develop friendships and bonds as well as develop the skills and technique of dance.*

Who we are: *Established in 2008, we offer classes in ballet, modern, contemporary, jazz, tap, and hip hop. Our classes and performances are created first of all to glorify God, then to build confidence and skills needed for students to be able to continue to develop in the arts - both in our studio and beyond.*

Tuition is due by the 15th of each month. All accounts must be paid off before student can participate in any school performances.

\$5 late fee will be charged for fees paid after the 15th.



Classes

First Steps - Ages 3/4 - A combined class of ballet, tumbling and tap basics are learned through creative movement. Skills will be learned to build a solid dance foundation.

Pre-Ballet - Ages 5/6 - A creative introduction to more advanced dance concepts. Skills will be learned in the most basic form to build a solid foundation for future dance study.

Ballet 1, 2 & 3- Ages 7+ - Students learn skills such as barre work, classical arm positions, and proper French terms with an emphasis on class etiquette and discipline.

*RAD testing becomes available at these levels.

Ballet 4/5 (Intermediate) - More complicated exercises are introduced, focusing on strengthening that will improve jumps and turns. Students continue to build on their skills of barre work, centre work and French terms.

PRE-POINT exercises are introduced that will strengthen foot and ankle muscles as well as proper body alignment needed to begin pointe work.

Petite Company - Ages 7 + Entrance by audition, students who are enrolled in a ballet class learn addition styles and choreography. i.e. contemporary, musical theater, jazz, hip hop etc

Tap/Jazz/Hip Hop - Students will learn the skills of tapping, including rhythm, sounds and combinations. Jazz steps and routines, and various hip hop combinations.

We use a variety of sources for our ballet technique training, however, our main source is the Royal Academy of Dance program (RAD)

Dress/Hair all ages

Leotards- Students must wear color and style to their class level

Ballet tights and/or shorts (for the older levels) are required

No additional bulky clothing should be worn during class. It is important the teachers can see the students legs/feet and body alignment.

No jewelry (hanging necklaces, bracelets or earrings)

Hair must be pulled back into a bun, neat and off the face. Short hair still needs to be pulled back off neck and face and secured with pins, barrettes or a head band

Petite Company - students may wear leggings/exercise shorts with a leotard. Although you may not always need your ballet shoes, please have them with you

DRESS CODE

First Steps, Pre-Ballet - pink or purple leotard, ballet skirt, pink tights, pink ballet shoes

Ballet 1 - Mulberry or black leotard, pink tights or black exercise shorts, pink ballet shoes

Ballet 2 - Eggplant or black leotard, pink tights or black exercise shorts, pink ballet shoes

Ballet 3/4 (Intermediate) - Black leotard, pink tights or black exercise shorts, pink ballet shoes

Hip Hop/Jazz, Contemporary, Tap, Musical Theatre and Petite Company - Comfortable dance wear. Any color is ok. No jeans or too loose fitting clothing.

Withdrawal

If a student wishes to withdraw from class, please have the courtesy to notify our office so we can keep our attendance records up to date and make space for those on our waiting list. **You are responsible for tuition in full until the school has been notified of the student's withdrawal.**

Cancellations

When conditions beyond our control occur, we reserve the right to cancel classes while making our best effort to notify those students involved.

We observe all Belizean holidays

Making up missed classes

We will do our best to make up classes that have been cancelled due to teacher sickness or personal issues. Ballet 1- Intermediate levels may make up classes by attending another class either one level below or above within 30 days of absence. Please have this approved by the front desk.

Arrivals and Departures

Students must be picked up promptly after class. We cannot be responsible for children after class time. Please communicate with your child the importance of remaining inside the building if they are waiting for class to start or to be picked up. Older level students may be on the porch.

Please come up to the building to pick up your child if they are in First Steps, Pre-Ballet or Ballet 1.

Ballet 2a, Ballet 2b and Intermediate classes should arrive 15 min before class in order to begin stretching quietly to the side in the studio. This gives more class time to other areas of technique.

Studio & Class Etiquette

No hanging on the barres

Do not enter classroom without instructor's permission

No talking or horseplay during class. We have large breakable mirrors - this is very important!

No arguing or complaining about class work. Negative attitudes affect the entire class

Follow dress and hair codes

No chewing gum

No food or liquid other than water inside the classroom area.

Students will receive one warning, if a second warning is required, the student may be asked to sit out of class. Excessive misconduct may result in a meeting with the teacher, studio director and parents.

Parent Observation Week

Parents will have the opportunity to sit in on their child's classes and observe the students as they train.

We strongly encourage at least one parent to attend. These dates will be announced in advance.

Student Evaluations / Year End Awards

Student Evaluations are given at least 2x year - December and year end. Teachers summarize the students progress and comment on their dress code, musicality, technique and work ethic. These evaluations are meant to encourage students as well as give them points they can work on.

We also give out special awards at the end of the year recognizing students in each class for their achievements. These awards are meant to inspire and promote hard work and dedication,

Parent / Teacher / Director Meetings:

If you have concerns or questions about our school, teachers or your child's progress we can arrange an appointment for you to share your concerns and ask your questions. We ask that you do not do this during class times or in the presence of others.

End-of-year Recital

A fee is charged based on cost of costumes, venue rental, decorations, chair rental etc. (Approx \$90 including costume rental and \$150 with owning your costume- these prices are subject to change)

Costumes and fees are announced in January and the first instalment of this fee is due by January 31st of the school year. If you decide to not continue with classes to participate in our year end performance, this portion is NON-REFUNDABLE.

The remaining balance of the total performance fee will need to be paid by the given deadline before a student may participate in the performance.

MEET OUR STAFF



Patti George is the director of En Croix School of dance. She studied tap and jazz in Canada where she grew up. She moved to Belize in 2001 to be on staff with YWAM. Patti began teaching tap and taking ballet and modern classes with Dramatic Force School of Dance in Belmopan and has had the opportunity to attend Ad Deum in Houston, Project Dance in New York and Dance Revolution in Orlando and Dallas. Patti also does photography, teaches piano lessons and is a homeschooling mom of three.

Andrea Rodriguez is our office assistant. She also runs her own social media business. Andrea is a Board member and Child birth Educator at Hope for Life in addition to being a co-host for the TV show "Life Uncommon". Andrea is a committed dance mom and helps in all areas around our studio. She is a valuable part of our team!

