

CAMROSE VESELKA UKRAINIAN DANCE SOCIETY

(Also referred to as “CVUDS” in this handbook)

2022-2023 HANDBOOK

BITAEMO - WELCOME

Welcome to “VESELKA”. To become better acquainted with the association’s operation and procedures, we encourage both parents and dancers to take the time to read through this handbook. The purpose of this handbook is to outline the operations of the club. We hope this will help make this season of dance fulfilling for you.

When translated from Ukrainian, the word “Veselka” means rainbow. It accurately describes the array of color in Ukrainian costume and dance.

CVUDS was founded in 1983 by a group of parents interested in preserving Ukrainian culture for their children through dance. The CVUDS was formed a year later as a non-profit society.

PHILOSOPHY

The CVUDS endeavours to preserve the “art” of Ukrainian folk dance and the Ukrainian culture. The society also strives to provide students with the opportunity to develop an appreciation for Ukrainian dance and attain the highest personal level of achievement possible.

REGISTRATION & FEES

Registration for dance classes takes place in early September. The registration fee is due at this time. Dance fees will be paid by mid-October in one lump sum, two payments (October & January), or in post-dated cheques / Etransfers for the beginning of each month given in October. Cheques are to be made payable to the Camrose Veselka Ukrainian Dance Society or CVUDS. Additional costs can also be expected for costuming, photos, festivals, and solo and duet rehearsals. Refunds will be considered for job transfers and medical reasons only. Should a refund be required during the dance year, a letter stating so must be submitted to the executive.

In the event that cheques made payable to the society are returned by the bank for any reason, a \$35.00 service charge for handling the cheque so returned will be billed to the parent(s).

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising sign up is mandatory. Fundraising keeps dance fees at a reasonable rate and has facilitated the club purchasing club –owned costumes and equipment. Fundraising commitments vary from year to year, depending on the number of dancers and whether or not it is a Casino year. \$250 for the first child, \$200 for the second child and \$100 for each child thereafter in gross sales is expected to be raised. Should you choose not to fundraise, \$300 per dancer will be required at the end of the first fundraiser.

COMMUNICATION

In addition to this handbook, emails and TeamSnap will be used regularly throughout the dance season to keep dancers and parents up-to-date. Please sign up to TeamSnap so that you can be a part of all the

communication being, confirm your attendance to all practices and events as well as be aware of all things that are happening within the club.

Parents are encouraged to contact the president with any suggestions or concerns or the appropriate executive members on specific issues. Any questions concerning your child's performance should be directed to the instructor when they are not in class. Any follow up meetings may take place jointly with parents, instructors and executive members as needed.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

The Camrose Veselka Ukrainian Dance Society's program very existence and management depend on parent input and cooperation. Parents are strongly encouraged to become actively involved by volunteering their skills, talents and efforts. General meetings are held regularly throughout the dance season and parents are encouraged to attend. These meetings are a means to update the parents about the clubs' activities. Also, think seriously about assisting in a formal capacity! Elections for executive positions occur at a general meeting in April for the upcoming season, there are also many volunteer positions that need to be filled, and will be discussed at the first meeting in September.

DANCER EXPECTATIONS

The goal for any dancer is to enjoy improving one's skill in the art they love. Therefore, dancers are encouraged to exhibit dedication and commitment to their dance studies and the Camrose Veselka Ukrainian Dance Society. As Veselka dancers, you are ambassadors and role models for others. It is important that you present a positive and appropriate character at all times.

Membership in the group requires dancers to attend all rehearsals. Any dancer who has three or more inexcusable absences jeopardizes his/her participation in performances and competitions. If a dancer will be absent due to illness, injury, schooling, etc., it is the parent's responsibility to provide notification to the instructor – or an executive member to notify the instructor. Injured dancers, where possible, should observe rehearsals. For the fairness of all dancers, any absence (excused or unexcused) in the week prior to any performance may result in the dancer being pulled from the upcoming performance.

CVUDS requests that families do all that they can to give dance rehearsals and performances some priority. Instructors realize that dancers also have other interests, but it is difficult to run classes efficiently when dancers are often missing or late for rehearsals. Please discuss any scheduling difficulties with the instructors in advance, as to avoid major disruptions.

Dancers are to arrive on time for rehearsals. While in the waiting area (Art Studio B), dancers are to avoid creating undue noise so as not to distract others who are waiting or in rehearsal. Dancers are not to enter the dance studio until such time as the instructor invites them to do so. Drinking, chewing gum, or eating during rehearsals is not permitted.

REHEARSALS

Weekly dance instruction and rehearsal is to be held every Wednesday evening at the Chuck MacLean Art Centre at the hours determined by the President and Instructors. The dance season will run from September to May. A rehearsal schedule will be established at the start of each season and instructors will determine class arrangements based on age and ability.

In event of inclement weather, the president, in consultation with the instructors, will decide if dance classes or performances should be cancelled. A TeamSnap / Email fan-out will be initiated to notify all parents and dancers if classes or performances are cancelled.

Parent viewing will be at the invitation of the instructors.

DANCE REHEARSAL ATTIRE

The following attire is compulsory for rehearsals:

Girls - dance slippers or jazz shoes, body suit, tights; hair is to be pulled back; jewellery is not to be worn.
Boys - dance slippers or jazz shoes, short sleeved, fitted t-shirt, dance pants (preferred) or close-fitting shorts or jogging pants; jewellery is not to be worn.

Appropriate dance attire is essential to reduce the risk of injury. Proper footwear is important for manoeuvrability and support while clothing must enable the instructor to ensure proper body positioning. A neat, clean and safe presentation should always be strived for.

For the month of September, dancers are invited to practice in items available at home (yoga pants, bare feet, tank top, etc.). The club will host a sample sale via On Stage the last Wednesday in September. Slippers, body suits, tights, wrap skirts, etc., will be available for purchase at a club discount.

DANCE STUDIO

Normal wear and tear through the use of the Chuck MacLean Arts Centre is understandable and is included in the dance fees. Any malicious damage or theft that occurs during rehearsals will be assessed by the executive with the resulting bill being forwarded to the parent(s).

The Camrose Veselka Ukrainian Dance Society cannot accept responsibility for any items that are lost or stolen during dance rehearsals. As such, students are strongly encouraged not to bring valuables with them to their classes. Instructors will not be responsible for any items brought into the dance studio and left behind.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops may be held throughout the year, the schedule of which will be communicated to families by the end of October. Workshops pertaining to choreography will be considered mandatory. Dancers missing choreography workshops may not be included in the dance during regular dance instruction and will not be reimbursed for time missed while not included in that choreography. Workshops geared toward technique improvement will be somewhat more flexible.

Workshops are not planned during long weekend and are strongly scheduled around the Battle River School Division calendar.

PERFORMANCES AND COMPETITIONS/FESTIVALS

Dance performances will be arranged by the Executive in consultation with the instructors. Notification of any dance commitments will be set forth in email and TeamSnap. In this regard, please contact the president or executive if you have any suggestions as to where our dancers may perform.

Dancers are to arrive in full costume and make-up at least one hour prior to any performance. Many of the local performances are done to fulfill obligations when the club applies for and receives Government and Lottery Board Grants.

All dancers, upon discretion of the instructors, may be entered in competitions and festivals. Such commitments will be communicated to parents by December. Dancers shall arrive one hour before

scheduled competition time in full costume and make-up. Many of the competitions do not have food on site, so remember to pack snacks.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The policy on behaviour of the students during dance rehearsals, performances and competitions will be as follows: any students misbehaving and causing difficulty will be removed from the class. Parents will be notified immediately and future lessons will be discussed. Should the dancer be asked to leave more than three classes because of disciplinary problems, the dancer may be expelled from the society by the instructors/executive. The discipline of the rehearsals and consideration and determination of any expulsion shall be at the sole discretion of the instructor/executive. Expulsion is without consideration of refund.

SOLOS, DUETS, and TRIOS

Students wishing to undertake a solo or duet, etc., should contact their instructor as early in the dance season as possible. Upon consent by parent(s), the instructors will choreograph a dance. The parent(s) will be consulted regarding costuming. The instructors will determine rehearsal times and fees. Solos, duets, and trios are not paid for by CVUDS. These performances are arranged directly with the instructor and any costs associated will be covered by the family in addition to regular dance fees.

Learning and perfecting a solo/duet/trio takes a great deal of extra effort by both the student and teacher alike. It is expected that the dancer(s) will be committed to putting extra time into these routines so they will be properly prepared. Parent help and co-operation is definitely necessary to ensure a practice is set, rehearsals are attended, and costuming is appropriate and complete in every detail. Your support and encouragement is very important.

Remember that solo/duet/trios represent not only themselves, but also the instructors and society.

COSTUMING and MAKE-UP

It is imperative that all costumes be complete and meet with association specifications as set out by the costume coordinators. Details regarding costuming will be outlined early in the dance season.

The accessibility to club-owned costumes keeps costs to families down as these costumes require many hours of work to make and are very costly. A contract regarding use and care of the costume is required to be signed and a nominal rental fee will be charged. Parents and dancers are encouraged to care for these costumes as they would their own. A cheque for damage deposit is also required and will be cashed should the costumes be returned incomplete or in poor condition.

Club owned costumes are only to be worn &/or used for club attended or club produced events. If you would like to use a costume outside of club performances, a written request must be submitted to the executive for approval.

As with costumes, make-up is to be consistent with society requirements.

PORTRAITS

Individual and group photos will be taken during a regular dance class sometime in the New Year after Malanka. This allows the instructors to be in the photos and gives us time for new costumes to be portrait and performance ready. Dancers are to come dressed in full costume and make-up. Payment for orders is to be made at this time. Photos will be distributed when available. Purchase is optional, but attendance is mandatory, so all dancers can be in the photos.

MALANKA and SPRING CONCERT

Each year, the Camrose Veselka Ukrainian Dancers present "Malanka" (Ukrainian New Year's celebration) in January and a Spring Concert in April or May. This gives the dancers the opportunity to showcase what they've learned in a formal performance for parents, relatives, and friends. Date, time,

location, ticket prices, etc. will be communicated through email and TeamSnap. For both these events, set up and rehearsal, is done the day/night before. All dancers and parents are expected to help out as required.

CONTACT INFORMATION

email info@camroseveselka.ca