

CAMROSE VESELKA UKRAINIAN DANCE SOCIETY (CVUDS) Handbook

BITAEMO – 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 and registration fee are due after placement classes have been confirmed. If there are any guardian or custodial considerations or orders, please plan to discuss with any executive member. For parents not living in the same household separate registration forms are requested to ensure accurate contact information and consents.

- Registration Fee \$20/family
- Monthly Fees are due on or before the 15th
- Semi Annual fees due on or before Oct 30th & Jan 30th (5% discount)
- Annual Fees Due on or before Oct 15th 2024 (10% discount)

Group	Time	\$/Month (x8)	\$/Semi Paid Before Oct 30 Jan 30	\$/Year 10% Paid before Oct 15th
Group 1 & 2	30 mins	\$44	\$176.00 - 5% \$167.20	\$352.00 -10% \$316.80
Group 3	45 mins	\$52.80	\$211.20 - 5% \$ 200.64	\$422.40 -10% \$380.16
Group 4	60 mins	\$77	\$308 - 5% \$292.60	\$616.00 -10% \$554.40
Seniors	75 mins	\$85.80	\$343.20 - 5% \$326.04	\$686.40 - 10% \$617.76
Adults	60 min	\$64.38	\$257.50 - 5% \$244.63	\$515.00 - 10% \$463.50

Dance fees will be paid by mid-October in one lump sum, two payments (October & January), or in post-dated cheques / E-transfers for the beginning of each month. Please indicate your preferred method on your registration form.

Cheques are to be made payable to the Camrose Veselka Ukrainian Dance Society or CVUDS. 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).

E-Transfers are accepted to treasurer@camroseveselka.ca and must include in the message your child’s full name and the reason for transfer.

Additional costs can also be expected for costuming, photos, and festivals.

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 for decision.

FUNDRAISING - Participation in fundraising is mandatory. Fundraising keeps dance fees at a reasonable rate and has facilitated the club purchased costumes and equipment. Fundraising commitments vary from year to year, depending on the number of dancers and whether it is a casino year.

Should you choose not to fundraise, \$300 per dancer will be required by January.

Typical fundraising expectations are Davidson Fruit Sale (Sept), Ice Melt (Oct – Feb), Widynowski Sausage Sale (Christmas, Easter), item of donation/child for Malanka Silent Auction.

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 remember to keep the comments light as there are other avenue to air grievances and the youth dancers are on the app as well.

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.

A parent representative will be selected for each group at the meeting in the fall. This parent will assist with representing their group parents and could include communication related to weather, community shows, or costume questions.

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. This includes some shifts at Malanka or year end shows, help with costumes, or fundraising (casinos).

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, please consider assisting in a formal capacity.

Elections for executive positions occur at a general meeting early May for the upcoming season. Additional, volunteer positions that need to be filled and will be discussed at the first meeting in the Fall.

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 our dancers always present a positive and appropriate character.

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 priority. Instructors realize that dancers also have other interests, but it is difficult to run classes efficiently when dancers are 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, dancers are to avoid creating undue noise so as not to distract others in rehearsal. Dancers are not to enter the dance studio until such time as the instructor invites them to do so. Phone use, 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 instructor. 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 instructor, 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/shorts/ jogging pants; jewellery is not to be worn.

Appropriate dance attire is essential to reduce the risk of injury and for the instructor to ensure proper body positioning. Proper footwear is important for manoeuvrability and support. 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 Edmonton Store On Stage 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. Participation in the workshops is strongly encouraged. Dancers missing choreography workshops may not be included in the dance. 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 and ensure there are 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 necessary to ensure a practice is set, rehearsals are attended, and costuming is appropriate and complete in every detail.

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. As with costumes, make-up, and hair are to be well groomed and consistent.

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. If there is any damage to the costume the family will be expected to cover the replacement value of the costume.

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.

PORTRAITS - Individual and group photos will be taken during a regular dance class sometime in the New Year. This allows the instructors to be in the photos and gives us time for new costumes to arrive and not to lose any instructional time before the first performance. 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 late April or early 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, will be communicated through email

and TeamSnap. For both these events, set up and rehearsal, is required before the show. All dancers and parents are expected to help as required.

2024-2025 Executive

Melissa Elliott – President – info@camroseveselka.ca 780-806-9008

Tamara Tansowny – Vice President rantam@shaw.ca 780-906-9001

Candace Perry – Secretary – candace34@hotmail.com 780-226-6254

Carol Burr – Treasurer – veselkatreasurer@yahoo.com 780-679-8146

Kathleen Riggins – Costume Co-ordinator – kathleenkerr@gmail.com 780-608-9363

Abby Pasychnyk – Communications & Media

Malanka Committee – Katlyn H, Carson H, Stacy P, Kim W