

School Examinations

It has always been our policy to offer an optional examination program. We do not wish to make examinations a stressful event for any of the students. We feel the year's progress & not a one-day event should govern a student's placement in class next season. Children do not have to take the examinations to move towards the next level in our school. However, some parents like an impartial option from an outside source on their child's progress.

We have noticed that parents may choose not to have their child take dance examinations (as their children are here to "have fun") & not to pursue a dance career. Their students work enough to qualify to get the entry form from their teacher but not with the zeal as students taking the exam & students wanting to get a good mark. After a couple of years, the students not entering the examinations tend to fall behind their counterparts, because they know they are not taking the examination & do not work as hard as those working toward examinations.

Both students & parents are upset when a student does not receive an entry form when others do in the class. This is rarely due to physical difficulties – It is usually due to lack of motivation or unsatisfactory work habits during the season. Often a student feels they are working well & the teacher demanding more is unfair.

We only expect the average student to work at a reasonable level & not beyond their capabilities. In fairness to parents, we will notify you if we feel your child is not applying themselves at a satisfactory level. We do this not because we want them to take the examination but we value the time & financial commitment you make for your child's dance education. We wish to avoid disappointment at examination time.

Many students think the last-minute cramming they often do for academic's examinations, applies to dance. Unfortunately, muscle memory takes consistent repetition & rehearsal. Music examinations cannot be done by memorizing & practicing a couple days before.

To train strength, balance, flexibility & co-ordination takes many months, it cannot be achieved at the last minute.