

RWB SCHOOL DANCE ENSEMBLE AND INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM



Information and Commitment Policy

2025-26 Regular Session

Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Dance Ensembles provide opportunities for students to experience new choreography, develop their performance skills and learn more about the world of professional dance – all in service of developing their confidence and abilities. RWB School Dance Ensemble students represent the RWB School at various events, competitions, and dance festivals.

For students showing the ability and dedication for intensive training in classical ballet, the Intensive Training Program (ITP) provides a specialized curriculum. Regular ballet classes are supported with additional classes such as pointe, Dance Ensemble, conditioning, modern, and jazz depending on the program level. Within the weekly ballet classes, students prepare for Cecchetti ballet examinations.

Spring auditions are held annually; acceptance into Dance Ensembles and ITP is by audition only, with the exception of NextGen and Tap Dance Ensemble which are by invitation only. Students are selected based on their ability, musicality, commitment, and attendance. Reacceptance into all programming from year to year relies heavily on attendance and progress, as well as individual commitment and class professionalism throughout the previous year.

Should your child be invited to be part of a Dance Ensemble, the commitment would involve registering in the Dance Ensemble class (full class cost) and the student will thereafter be part of the small/large/line group in-class choreography, which could include a maximum of 4 pieces of choreography. Participation in Dance Ensemble is mandatory for accepted ITP students. Students may be asked to participate in additional optional pieces outside of the Dance Ensemble classes; however, these opportunities are not guaranteed should a student be invited to the program.

In order to participate in a Dance Ensemble or ITP, students must also be registered for the following classes in addition to the accepted program:

<u>NextGen:</u>	Students will be required to register for the program in its entirety.
<u>Pre-Ballet:</u>	Minimum of 2 ballet classes. Must be registered in the 2x/wk program for their level. Jazz is strongly recommended.
<u>Pre-Jazz:</u>	Minimum of 2 ballet classes and 1 jazz class. Hip hop and tap are strongly recommended. Pre-Jazz 4 requires 2 Jazz classes.
<u>Ballet (all Levels):</u>	Minimum of 2 ballet classes. Jazz is strongly recommended.
<u>Jazz (all Levels):</u>	Minimum of 2 ballet classes and 2 jazz classes. Hip hop and lyrical jazz are strongly recommended.
<u>Tap (all levels):</u>	Minimum of 1 tap class and 1 ballet <u>OR</u> jazz class.
<u>Musical Theatre (all levels):</u>	Minimum of 1 musical theatre class and 1 ballet, tap, hip hop, <u>OR</u> jazz class.
<u>Hip Hop (all levels):</u>	Minimum of 1 hip hop class.
<u>ITP:</u>	Students will be required to register for the program in its entirety.

COMMITMENT POLICY

As with any commitment, there are several expectations, should you/your child be invited into ITP or a Dance Ensemble. These expectations are outlined below:

Due to the accelerated nature of this programming, a high level of commitment is required from students. Students involved in other extra-curricular activities outside of the RWB School should be prepared to make the ITP and/or Dance Ensemble their priority and all dance related events are expected to come first.

Attendance at all registered classes is **crucial**. When attendance is lacking, it slows the progress of the class. If technical abilities begin to suffer due to poor attendance, students may be asked to withdraw from ITP and/or Dance Ensemble *without refund of tuition, entry, and costume fees*. Should students withdraw from a pre-requisite class at any time during the year, they may be asked to withdraw from the Dance Ensemble *without refund of tuition, entry, and costume fees*.

Students will be permitted to be absent for a **maximum of 4 Dance Ensemble classes** throughout the year.
Students will be permitted to be absent for a **maximum of 12 ITP classes** throughout the year.

Family vacations should be discussed with the teacher at the beginning of the year before booking flights. All efforts should be made to book vacations during the Fall, Winter, and Spring breaks. Vacations should not be planned during regular classes after the Winter break, when exam preparation, rehearsal, and cleaning of choreography is crucial. Should absences occur in conflict with the above, students may be asked to withdraw from the ITP and/or Dance Ensemble *without refund of tuition, entry, and costume fees*. Student attendance records will be taken into consideration when they are assessed for reacceptance into the Dance Ensemble the following year. **Please note that should the 2025-26 season have interruptions to in-studio programming, all ITP and DE students will be required to continue their training and participation through distanced learning via an online delivery method.**

All students and parents/guardians are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful to their peers, teachers, and general public at all times and abide by the RWB School Code of Conduct. Should students'/parents'/guardians' behavior be deemed unacceptable by the RWB School, students may be asked to withdraw from ITP and/or Dance Ensemble *without refund of tuition, entry, and costume fees*.

****All Dance Ensemble participants should be aware that they are not permitted to register or perform a piece of RWB School choreography in an outside event in which the RWB School has chosen not to participate in. All other requests for permission must be submitted in writing to the RD Principal at least three weeks in advance of the event registration deadline outlining any choreography that the student requests to present. **Dance Ensemble students are NOT permitted to participate in the same discipline with another school/group in a performance/competition setting; an exception is only permitted for the participation of small/large/line and groups for their academic school requirements that do not conflict with their Dance Ensemble category; solos are not permitted.****

****Fees** – In addition to the class fees, students will be responsible for the entry fees for their small/large/line group Dance Ensemble pieces in a maximum of **three** competitions which should not exceed \$120 per student per piece per competition. They will also be responsible for the costume fee for each piece. Costume fees range from \$55 to \$180 per costume on average. The RWB School will exercise best efforts to ensure costumes fees do not exceed \$250 per costume. Costume fees are non-refundable.

****Jazz Dance Ensemble Specific Fees** - students will be required to enter one convention which is an event of several master classes in jazz, hip hop, lyrical, etc. over the course of a weekend. The cost generally does not exceed \$350 per student. Please note that the RWB School will assess its participation in each event to ensure the safety of the students.

****ITP Specific Fees**– In addition to the tuition fees, the Cecchetti Ballet Examinations will cost an additional \$180-\$600 approximately depending on level. The Cecchetti Ballet Workshops will cost an additional \$150 (approximately). Please note that the RWB School will assess its participation in each event to ensure the safety of the students.

****Absences** – All students/guardians are expected to contact the School Office to notify the teacher of students' absences in advance. RWB Artistic faculty reserve the right to remove a student from choreography who is absent from the final rehearsal prior to a performance without receiving permission from the choreographer or the RD principal no less than 48 hours in advance; in cases of sudden illness, the teacher must be made aware of the absence prior to the final rehearsal. Students who are showing symptoms of illness will not be permitted to attend class, rehearse, or perform on stage.

****Injuries** – Should injuries occur that prevent students from participating in classes, students are expected to observe those classes. We recommend that students seek physiotherapy treatment, if needed, through the RWB School. Our physiotherapists are very familiar with dance-related injuries and can communicate directly with the teacher, if permission is granted from the parent, to ensure the best possible treatment plan. As per our Payment and Withdrawal Policy, throughout the duration of the program, should any changes occur in a student's medical situation which may jeopardize their well-being or that of others, the student may be referred to the RWB Medical Team for assessment. Upon medical assessment, it may be recommended that

the student be withdrawn from the program and/or choreography. If a student has an injury or illness that prevents full participation in class and/or rehearsals within 4 weeks of an upcoming performance, RWB Artistic Faculty reserve the right to remove the student from choreography and/or examinations. This will be at the discretion of the RD Principal and each case will be reviewed on an individual basis

OUT OF TOWN FESTIVALS AND COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

Dance Ensemble students may have the opportunity to travel for festivals and competitions if enough families present an interest. Students would be responsible for covering event entry, staff support, travel, accommodation, and meal fees. Staff would be present at the selected event; however, student supervision would remain the sole responsibility of the participating student's parent. Possible cities could include: Vancouver, Calgary, or Toronto.

IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS

Mandatory Competitions will be confirmed Fall 2025. The RWB School reserves the right to change competition/convention/performance participation and requirements at any time prior to registration of the event.

Dance Intensive: July 28-August 9, 2025

- Students are encouraged to attend the summer program in order to continue developing their skills and to get a head start for the fall.
- It is important for dancers to do some sort of dance program throughout the summer if they would like to reach their full potential.

Power Dance Convention: November 1-2, 2025

Terpsichore Dance Convention: November 22-23, 2025

Rutherford Movement Exchange: November 2025 (TBC)

- All Jazz Dance Ensemble Students are required to participate in a minimum of one dance convention during the 2025-2026 season.
- Dance conventions are highly recommended for all dance ensemble students to attend.

Manitoba Cecchetti Ballet Workshop: January 25th, 2026 (TBC)

- All ITP and Ballet Dance Ensemble students are required to attend Cecchetti Manitoba's annual ballet workshops.
- These workshops consist of 1-5 classes over the course of a weekend and parents will be responsible for the registration fees of approximately \$150.

ADAPT Jazz and Tap Examinations: January 23, 2026 (TBC)

Cecchetti Ballet Examinations: March 2-8, 2026 (TBC)

Festival Preview Performances: March 19-20 (Dress Rehearsal) & March 21-22, 2026 (Performances)

- All Dance Ensemble students are required to participate.
- Parents/Guardians are invited to view all pieces that the RWB School has created for competitions.

Spring Competitions (TBC)

- The RWB School will participate in a 3 mandatory competitions, Spring 2026

Dance Spectrums: May 26-28 (Dress Rehearsal) & May 29-30, 2026 (Dance Spectrum 1/2/3).

- All students must be available for our recitals.