

# Marr Mac Dance

An abstract, colorful background featuring silhouettes of dancers in various poses, musical notes, and swirling patterns in shades of blue, purple, and pink. A large black circle is centered over the text.

## **DANCE STUDIO** HANDBOOK

FOR  
PARENTS AND STUDENTS

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## **COMPETITION 2021/22**

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## 1/ Introduction

It's our absolute pleasure to warmly welcome you into our family at Marr Mac Dance. Our team is thrilled to see many familiar faces return to the studio and always excited to see some new faces join our community. We have created this **COMPETITION** handbook to hopefully shed some light on how things will run throughout the year as well and answer a lot of queries you may have as the year begins. While we would love you to take the time to read this information carefully and keep your handbook in a safe place to refer to as you need, don't forget that our friendly office staff, Cydnee and Bridget, are always here to help and will happily answer any questions you may have. We pride ourselves on having open communication with all of our parents and students, and will always do what we can to make sure that everyone's voices are heard. Nothing is too big or too small, we promise! 😊

### QUICK REFERENCE STUDIO INFORMATION

**Marr Mac Dance**

**Address: 8627 – 109 Street, T6G 1E7**

**Phone Number: 780-434-9281**

**Email: 1968@marrmac.com**

**Website: [www.marrmac.com](http://www.marrmac.com)**

**Directors:**

**Cathy McFarlane – 1968@marrmac.com**

**Marie McFarlane – [marie@marrmac.com](mailto:marie@marrmac.com)**

**\*\*Please direct all competition related questions to [marie@marrmac.com](mailto:marie@marrmac.com)**

**Office Administrators:**

**Cydnee Chaulk [1968@marrmac.com](mailto:1968@marrmac.com)**

**Bridget McFarlane [bridget@marrmac.com](mailto:bridget@marrmac.com)**

### **Parking Lot**

Please park in the South lot of Windsor Plaza.

License plates must be registered at Marr Mac using the QR code located in Marr Mac's reception area.

## 2/ Competitive Program Overview

Marr Mac's competitive program is meant for the dancer who is looking for a more intense training program to either help fulfil their love of dance, or to prepare them for the pre-professional/professional dance world beyond their years of training at Marr Mac. Competitive classes are offered in Lyrical, Jazz, Contemporary, Ballet, Hip Hop & Tap, with the option of doing solos, duets and/or small groups outside of class time in all levels. The level of class commitment varies for each discipline and dance level. Dancers are held to a high standard of commitment to their classes, and are assisted to reach their full potential as dancers and as a group. Spring competitions expose students to the world of dance outside of the studio, and help them grow into well-rounded performing artists. Hard work and determination are key, and dancers are encouraged to learn from the experience by remaining positive, gracious, humble, and appreciative of successes.



Marr Mac is proud to offer a competitive program that still allows time for school and family life outside of the dance world. Although training hours and expectations are increased, we understand that dancers are also students, sons, daughters, friends and siblings, and our schedule and class requirements are built with that in mind.

### **3/ Competitive Attendance Policy**

A competitive dancer's attendance in class is very important to their peers and our teaching staff. As a member of the team, it is a commitment for you to ensure your child attends their classes on time each week and attends all lessons planned for them. Not only do absences impact their progress and competition routines we create, it also impacts the team-building principals we work hard to foster in each age group.

If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent due to holidays/vacations, commitments or school trips, please let us know ahead of time so the class impact is minimal. If your child is too unwell to attend class, we ask that you inform our admin team by phone (780-434-9281) or email (1968@marrmac.com) as soon as you can so they can let the teachers know and preparations can be made to catch up on any missed work.

Marr Mac follows a strict attendance policy for dancers in the competitive stream, as dancers need to maintain a certain level of technique and training. This attendance policy applies to all classes that dancers are enrolled in: technique, support, choreography etc. The competitive schedule has been constructed to ensure the dancers are receiving the adequate balance of strength, stretch, cardio, and instruction based on their level and age.

Competitive dancers have a "3 miss" attendance policy, where 3 misses are allowed per class between September and the end of competition season. If there are more than 3 misses in a class, participation in competition may need to be assessed by the instructor. We, at Marr Mac, understand that rare circumstances may come up and every one must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

### **4/ Assessments**

Assessments are important for students wishing to enter the competitive program to ensure that 1) students are placed at the correct level and 2) training is increased at a rate that the dancers body can handle. The increase in training time for a competitive dancer can be hard on the body at the best of times, therefore an increase in training needs to be done gradually and correctly. It may be recommended that some students increase their hours of training for one year prior to entering the competitive program.

## 5/ Competitive Requirements

In order to build the strength and technique required to perform well in the competitive setting, certain classes are required to train at each level. Dancers spend 2 years in each of the Marr Mac levels. Additional competitive requirements are added on one year at a time.

Dancers who do not currently compete, but wish to, will need to come for an assessment class to determine the proper classes and recommendations. These can be booked by emailing 1968@marrmac.com

Each level contains a list of the required classes to compete, as well as additional optional classes that are offered for that age.

PLEASE NOTE: *The following competitive requirements do not apply to students wishing to compete in Tap, Hip Hop, or Ballet classes.*

- **Tap** – *Students must be registered in a Tap Technique and a Tap Choreo Class*
- **Hip Hop** – *Students only need to be registered in the competitive Hip Hop class*
- **Ballet** - *Students need to be registered in two or more Ballet classes*

**\*\*Dancers do not need to compete in all offered disciplines. As long as competition requirements are being met, dancers may partake in non-competitive classes as well\*\***

### **Level 1 Prep – Year One and Year Two**

Recommendations:

- One ballet class strongly recommended

Competition Choreography class offered (this class will compete):

- Jazz tech & choreography

### **Level 1 – Year One and Year Two**

Requirements:

- One ballet class (including those competing in tap) \*second ballet class strongly recommended
- One jazz technique class (in order to compete in jazz)
- Tap Level 1/2 – (in order to compete in tap)

Competition Choreography class offered (this class will compete):

- Jazz choreography
- Tap class (if student has 2 or more years experience in tap)

**\*\* Lyrical begins competing at Level 3. It is recommended to begin training at level 1 or 2 to compete at Level 3**

## **Level 2 – Year One and Year Two**

### **Requirements:**

- Two ballet classes - in order to compete in jazz
- Jazz Technique (if registered in Jazz Choreography)
- Tap Level 1/2 - in order to compete in tap
- 1 support class (not required but strongly recommended)
  - Stretch & strength
  - Jumps & turns
  - Second and/or third ballet class

### **Competition Choreography class offered (this class will compete):**

- Jazz choreography
- Tap class (if student has 2 or more years experience in tap)
- Jazz Large Group
- Concept Piece

### **Additional classes offered (optional):**

- Third ballet class
- Lyrical
  - lyrical begins competing at Level 3. It is recommended to begin training at level 1 or 2 to compete at Level 3

## **Level 3**

### **Requirements:**

- Two ballet classes
- Jazz Technique (if registered in Jazz Choreography)
- At least one of the following “Support Classes”
  - Strength & Stretch
  - Jumps & Turns

### **Competition Choreography classes offered (these classes will compete):**

- Jazz choreography
- Lyrical choreography
- Jazz Large Group
- Concept Piece

### **Additional Classes offered (optional):**

- Additional ballet classes during the week

## **Level 4 & 5**

### **Requirements:**

- Two ballet classes
- Jazz Technique (if registered in Jazz Choreography)
- At least two of the “Support Classes”



- Jumps & Turns
- Strength & Stretch
- Ballet Barre

Competition Choreography classes offered (these classes will compete):

- Jazz Choreography
- Lyrical Choreography
- Hip Hop 4 Comp
- Jazz Large Group
- Concept Piece

**\*New\*** Competitive classes offered

- Level 2-5 Jazz Large Group Choreography
- Concept Piece Levels 2-5

## 6/ Competition Fees & Deposits

Competitions and festivals charge an entry fee per student, per entry. Families are responsible for these costs in full.

Entry fees range, depending on the competition/festival:

Groups – Typically \$35-50 per student, per competition

Duets – Typically \$45-60 per student, per competition

Solos – Typically \$60-\$95 per student, per competition

### Deposits

Dancers are charged a competition deposit per competitive class upon registration. This deposit is \$157.50 and allows Marr Mac to enter the dancers into competitions in the fall. Competitive class competition deposits are due in October.

Students who wish to enter solos/duets/small groups will have competition deposits of \$157.50 added to their accounts per solo/duet/small group, due by November 1.

Competition Deposits are **NON-REFUNDABLE after November 1**, as Marr Mac has paid competition entry deposits to the competitions and festivals by this time.

### Fees

Once competition entries are completed late fall, Marr Mac will invoice families for the remainder of the competition fees. These fees are due upon invoice.

## Administration Fees

There are additional costs to Marr Mac in order to enter dancers into competitions, therefore there is a \$63 Administration Fee charged once per competitive dancer.

When entering an out-of-town competition, there is a \$50 administration fee charged per dancer to those entered in the out-of-town competition. Marr Mac will not be travelling out of town to compete in spring 2022.

## 7/ Guest Choreographers

For some competitive classes, we like to bring in guest choreographers from the greater dance community (Calgary, Vancouver, LA) to set the choreography for the older students (usually in level 3 or 4 and up). We feel this pushes the dancers to learn from a new choreographer and new style, while opening up their connections in the dance world for the future. The choreographers come in over a weekend or two during the fall to teach the pieces, and then the groups are cleaned in class throughout the year. There is an extra fee associated with this to pay the choreographer and cover their costs for their trip. There is no cleaning fee for the set groups, as all cleaning will occur during class time. (Any small groups or solos that require cleaning time outside of class with an instructor will require a cleaning fee to be paid to the instructor.)

For a dancer to be in the choreography, they **must** be available for any rehearsal time during the choreography weekend. No exceptions. Rehearsals may be scheduled during the day on a Friday as well as Saturday and Sunday. We always try and avoid children missing school for choreography but sometimes this cannot be avoided due to choreographer schedules and the amount of dances to be learned. Weekly class attendance is also mandatory, and absences will be assessed on an individual basis, following our competition policy.

The guest choreography fee **per dancer, per group** is roughly \$200 depending on the choreographer. This covers the choreography fee plus expenses for the choreographer's travel/meals/accommodation as applicable. Cheques can be made out to **Marr Mac** and handed in to the office at any time before November 1. Please indicate on the cheque which group this is for to help us keep things organized.

The guest choreography fee **per dancer, per solo** is \$425, **per duet** is \$600. This covers the choreography fee plus expenses for the choreographer's travel/meals/accommodation as applicable. Please also make this out to **Marr Mac** and hand in to the office before November 1.

## 8/ Solos, Duets, Small Groups

Students wishing to enter a solo, duet or small group (outside of class time) into competition are always welcome to. The only requirements for these extra competition pieces are that the dancers are training in the discipline they wish to compete in. Additional competition requirements do not apply.

Solo/duet/small group sign-up sheets are posted at the studio in September. Dancers can choose the discipline they wish to compete in and approach an instructor they would like to choreograph the piece. If an instructor agrees, students may sign up by **October 1**.

Instructors set their own choreography fees, and choose how much choreography and cleaning time this fee includes. Please speak to each individual instructor for this information.

**Choreography fees are paid directly to the instructor and are due at the time of FIRST rehearsal.**

There is a one-time studio rental fee of \$30 plus gst charged to each student to learn and rehearse choreography. Students are welcome to book studio space to rehearse their competition dances when convenient for them. Bookings can be made through the office.

Costumes for solos, duets, small groups may be ordered from costume catalogues or made by our seamstress (\$162.75 costume fee applies), rented from Marr Mac, or purchased from stores. We have found that some solo or duet costumes are easy to find in clothing stores rather than in costume catalogues, if a more simple costume is desired. The decision is left to the student and family.

## 9/ Travel

Students in level 2 and up are entered in the out-of-town competition in the Spring. However, this year Marr Mac has made the decision to only attend local competitions to accommodate family budgets and travelling comfort levels as we return to our first competition season since the pandemic began. There will be no out of town competitions in Spring 2022.

## **10/ Pre-Competition Showcase**

A Pre-competition showcase is held prior to spring competitions to help prepare the dancers. This allows for practice on stage in front of an audience and allows instructors the opportunity to try out costumes and space dances properly on the stage. The Pre-Competition Showcase theatre rental is provided by DancEnhance Parent Society yearly. Thank you DancEnhance!

This year's Pre-Competition Showcase is tentatively booked for **March 2, 2022 at Festival Place in Sherwood Park** after school hours. Please watch for emails approaching this date with schedule, costume requirements, etc.

Parents are welcome to come watch this rehearsal if Covid protocols allow at the time, but please keep in mind that it is a *rehearsal* and time is spent spacing and correcting dances on stage.

## **11/ Costume/Hair/Makeup Requirements**

### **Costume**

In order to present well at competition, the competition costume fee is higher than it is for recreational classes. Some instructors order from costume catalogues and some choose to have the costumes made by our professional seamstresses.

The costume fee for level 1 & 2 is \$89.25 per class, and Level 3 and up is \$162.75.

### **Earrings**

Rhinestone earrings are worn with each costume unless instructed NOT to do so by the teacher. Please check with your teacher if unsure. Earrings will be available for purchase from the Marr Mac office prior to competition for \$10 per pair. Clip on versions will be available.

### **Hair**

Marr Mac chooses a studio hairstyle for competition season to make parent and dancer lives easier. This hairstyle can be done for most dances, unless a specific style is required for a costume. Hair style will be sent out closer to competition season.

### **Make Up**

Stage Make-up is meant to accentuate the dancer's face on stage, so the judges and audience members can see their shining faces from the back of the balcony! Stage lights tend to wash out the faces of the dancers, therefore "stage make-up" is much darker and bolder than everyday wear. Foundation, blush, eyeliner, eye shadow, dark mascara or fake eyelashes (preferred), and bold lipstick are required. Individual instructors will choose the shade of lipstick based on the costume.

## 12/ Competition Etiquette

Marr Mac prides itself on being a welcoming and respectful school with thoughtful and humble dancers, teachers and families. It is important to keep this in mind while at competition, and continue to represent Marr Mac 's philosophy in this setting.

Please take note of the following competition rules and etiquette. More specific rules are listed in each competition's program at the venue.

- **Photo and Video** - PICTURES AND VIDEOS DURING THE COMPETITIONS ARE NOT ALLOWED AND MAY RESULT IN THE **ENTIRE** STUDIO'S DISQUALIFICATION! There are often pictures and videos available for purchase at the competition if you are interested.
- **Auditorium Rules** – Please only exit and enter the theatre between performances and remain quiet and respectful in the theatre during all performances
- **Adjudications** – Remember that every adjudicator is different, with varying backgrounds, expertise and preferences. There is always something to be learned from an adjudicator no matter the outcome, and our goal is to remain positive about the experience
- **Costumes** – Please wear a jacket or hoodie over top of costumes while watching from the theatre
- Applaud for all schools, not just Marr Mac
- Remain positive about other schools, enjoy each other's talents and cheer each other on
- **Covid Protocol/ Restriction Exemption Program**- Please note that at this time we cannot guarantee what a theatre will have in place as far as Covid Protocols and Vaccine/Rapid test requirements. We will be required to follow all protocols set by the theatre, even if these protocols differ from Marr Mac's protocols.

## 13/ Team Wear

We encourage all dancers to wear their Marr Mac Team Wear over costumes while warming up or watching from the theatre. This shows unity within the group and exhibits a great team spirit! Team Wear can be purchased at <http://marrmacdance.entripyshops.com/>

## **14/ Pre-Competition Workshop – “Empowered Performance” held at Marr-Mac**

### **March Date TBD**

### **Lyrical, Contemporary, Jazz and Tap dancers**

Again this year, we are planning a pre-competition workshop for our dancers. This workshop is a requirement for the competition team just as the competitions themselves are. Fees will be based on the number of groups, solos etc that a student has, just as it is for competition. This year's workshop is still in the works, but here is an idea of what took place **in 2019**:

*We are pleased to be bringing in Certified Life Coach & Dancer Teacher Lauren Ritchie for this event.*

*Lauren Ritchie has been educating young artists on the physical, emotional and mental intricacies of dance for more than 13 years. Through her love of movement and dedication to developing strength and expression within each dancer, Lauren helps dancers pour their unique brilliance into their training and performance. She is an award-winning Dance entrepreneur with a BA and Coaching Certification. Lauren is the creator and host of [The Dance Podcast](#), where conversations are dedicated to inspire and educate dancers pursuing a career in the industry. Classically trained in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, and Hip Hop, Lauren has worked with Professional companies like [O2 The Dance Company](#) and Princess Cruise Lines; she has danced with performers such as Michael Bernard Fitzgerald, and she sits on the selection panel for the [Intensive Training Program](#) at [Harbour Dance Centre](#).*

*Lauren continues to focus on developing programs and opportunities that allow dancers to reach their highest potential. By combining fundamental dance technique with new ideas and ongoing insights from master instructors, psychologists, and industry leaders, Lauren inspires dancers of all ages. Outside of the dance studio, Lauren is also Certified Yoga Teacher and Barre Instructor in Calgary, AB.*

*The workshop will be geared towards our **Lyrical, Jazz, Contemporary and Tap** dancers with a focus on the mental health aspect of competing. Dancers will take part in a “Competition Conversations” class with Lauren, discussing the obstacles, challenges, joys and celebrations that the competition atmosphere presents. Dancers will be encouraged to view and discuss the positive life lessons that competition can foster, if viewed and prepared for correctly. “Competition Conversations” will be split by age, so appropriate discussions can be had depending on the developmental stage, and involvement in competition, of the dancer.*

*Dancers and teachers will then have time with Lauren for each group and solo for a one-on-one adjudication. Lauren will offer up critiques, corrections and thoughts on pushing the piece further than before, with time to work on it right then and there. This will assist the dancers in achieving their optimum confidence and potential before hitting the stage in April.*

## 15/ Day-Of Competition

**\*These day-of procedures may change due to covid protocols and theatre/competition rules. We will update the families if need be, however this is what the day-of looked like pre-pandemic.**

Please drop your child off with their class in the rehearsal hall listed below and then proceed to the theatre. The warm up and rehearsal areas are very busy and crowded and it is best if we don't add to the mix with waiting parents. After the group performs they will go back on stage with the other groups for adjudication. You can wait and watch in the audience until after adjudication is over and then meet back where you dropped your child off. Some competitions have a fee to get into the theatre to watch (dancers get in free). It's usually about \$5 if there is one.

**Please note that all competitions may run up to 30 min ahead-of or behind schedule, therefore it is imperative to be on time! Please arrive at the theatre 1.5 hours ahead of time, with hair and make up already done so time can be spent warming up and rehearsing.**

**EXACT DAYS AND TIMES OF PERFORMANCES ARE RELEASED BY THE COMPETITION IN THE SPRING, USUALLY MARCH. THESE WILL BE EMAILED TO YOU AS SOON AS WE HAVE A HOLD OF THEM.**

Gravity Dance Challenge - April 6-10 2022

Festival Place, Sherwood Park

REHEARSAL HALL: On the right when you walk in

Dare2Dream Dance Festival - April 22-25 2022

Triffo Theatre, MacEwan University, Edmonton

Dance Power Edmonton – April 26-May 1 2022

New location this year – TBD

Evergreen Dance Festival – May 4-8 2022

Festival Place, Sherwood Park

REHEARSAL HALL: On the right when you walk in

## 16/ Competitions 2022

*Exact days and times will be sent once received* in the Spring.

- Gravity Dance Challenge - April 6-10 2022
  - Festival Place, Sherwood Park
  - All competitive dancers
- Dare2Dream Dance Festival - April 22-25 2022
  - Triffo Theatre, MacEwan University, Edmonton
  - All competitive dancers
- Dance Power Edmonton – April 26-May 1 2022
  - New location this year - TBD
  - All competitive dancers
- Evergreen Dance Festival – May 4-8 2022
  - Festival Place, Sherwood Park
  - All competitive dancers



## 17/ COMPETITION ENTRY PERMISSION FORM

To be returned by all competitive dancers

### Attendance & Fee Policy and Parent Permission

Your child will be entered into Spring competitions/festivals held in the new-year. These take place in April and May – usually on the weekends but at times they are scheduled during a weekday for which they may need to miss school. We have 4 local competitions for all competitive dancers.

There is an entry fee for each competition that you will be billed for. Competition fees need to be **paid in full before the first competition date**.

A competition deposit of \$157.50/dance was due upon registration for each competitive class. Solos, Duets and Small Groups will have a deposit of \$157.50 deposit/dance added to their account due November 1.

Dancers who participate in competitions are required to follow the competition policy you agreed to at registration to ensure the students in the group are committed equally. Further clarification of this policy follows;

- Please refer to attendance policy in Competition Handbook/Parent & Student Handbook
- It will be at the teacher's discretion as to whether or not the dancer will participate in competitions if they miss more classes/rehearsals than what is described in the attendance policy.
- If you are going on an extended holiday (more than one missed class) during the dance season, please let the teacher know up front so she/he can decide if your dancer can participate in competitions/festivals.
- There will be **no refunds** from Marr Mac of competition entry fees if a dancer is unable to participate in the competition/festival for any reason. \*Some competitions have refund policies in place this year if a child tests positive for Covid and cannot compete. Individual refund policies will be followed when applicable.
- For Choreography done outside of class time (ie; solos, duets, small group, guest choreographer), choreography fees must be paid to the Choreographer on the **prior to/on the first day of rehearsal**.

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE ASAP**

Dancer (s) name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCAL COMPETITIONS (Parent please initial, or dancer if 18 or older):**

\_\_\_\_ I understand that by registering my child in a competition class or solo/duet/trio, they will be registered in the local competitions outlined above. I understand the commitment involved including the attendance policy and payment of fees.

\_\_\_\_ I would like my child to participate in Spring Competitions/festivals as outlined above; however, we will be on vacation during these dates \_\_\_\_\_. I will make a point of discussing this with the teacher and directors by December 1.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_