EXCALIBUR THEATRE ARTS CO.
REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE
Student Placement Guidelines & Recommendations

MINI (3 YEARS OLD)

- The minimum age is 3 years old. Students must be the required age on the first day of class.

JUNIOR (4 YEARS OLD)

- Provided your student is the required age, there are no prerequisites.

* PLEASE NOTE: Beyond Mini and Junior, age groups are also organized by skill level. Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced options may be offered.

** For students 3 years of age and older, dancers are permitted to join an older age group provided they turn the appropriate minimum age on or before **December 31st 2026**. For example, a 3 year old may be enrolled in a Junior (4 year old) class if their birthday takes place no later than December 31st. Exceptions may be discussed, please contact studio office staff for assistance at 250-564-6326 or email studio@excaliburarts.com prior to submitting a registration.

KINDER (5 & 6 YEARS OLD)

- Beginner classes welcome students with no prior experience and dancers advancing from younger age groups.
- Even with prior experience, we recommend that students enroll in a Beginner class when advancing to the Kinder age group. These students are often the youngest in their class, sessions are longer, and expectations are higher. Participation requires additional focus and discipline as dancers explore more complex techniques.
- Exceptions may be considered for students with both Mini *and* Junior experience. Considering the potential challenges, this decision is dependent on the confidence level and temperament of the dancer.
- Intermediate classes are otherwise intended for students with one (1) year of discipline-specific training **within the Kinder age group** (or similar, if transferring from a different studio).
- Open classes (such as Broadway) are not designated a skill level and are meant to accommodate all students regardless of prior experience.

7-9 YEARS OLD

- Beginner classes welcome students with no prior experience and dancers advancing from younger age groups.
- Even with prior Kinder experience, we suggest that students enroll in a Beginner class when advancing to the 7-9 age group. Moving into a 7-9 class can be challenging for younger students. This age group offers a wide range of potential maturity levels and lessons are more demanding. Compared to Kinder, Beginner classes will be an adjustment in terms of expectations and overall complexity, and moving directly to Intermediate may be overwhelming.
- Exceptions may be considered for students with significant prior experience. Considering the potential challenges, this decision is dependent on the confidence level and temperament of the dancer.
- Intermediate classes are otherwise intended for students with one (1) year of discipline-specific training **within the 7-9 age group** (or similar, if transferring from a different studio).
- Advanced classes are generally appropriate for students with at least two (2) years of discipline-specific training **within the 7-9 age group** (or similar).
- Open classes (such as Broadway) are not designated a skill level and are meant to accommodate all students regardless of prior experience.

(continued ...)

10-12 YEARS OLD & TEEN (10-18 YEARS OLD)

- These guidelines apply to both the 10-12 and Teen age groups.
- Beginner classes welcome students with little or no experience.
- Students advancing from the an earlier age group (or similar, if transferring from a different studio) are permitted to enroll in Intermediate and/or Advanced classes, provided they meet the following requirements:
    - Intermediate classes are intended for students with at least two (2) years of training **within the specific dance discipline** (ballet, jazz, hip hop, etc).
    - Advanced classes are intended for students with no less than three (3) years of prior experience **within the specific dance discipline**.
    - These guidelines assume that the required prior experience is recent. For instance, two years of training at ages 3 and 4 would not prepare a teen student for an Intermediate class. In cases similar to this, Beginner enrollment is recommended.
- Open classes are not designated a skill level and are meant to accommodate all students regardless of prior experience.

* Please keep the following in mind:

- **We are very flexible when it comes to adjusting enrollment.** If a student is too advanced for their current class (or otherwise overwhelmed by lessons that are too advanced), the instructor will contact office staff and suggest a more appropriate alternative.
- **At the end of the day, do not worry!** Our goal is to provide dancers with a beneficial classroom environment. We want them to learn, grow, and succeed. Follow these placement guidelines as best you can, and trust that our instructors will suggest a change if one is required.

TROUPE (COMPETITIVE) & HIGHLAND PLACEMENT

Troupe dancers receive intensive training geared toward a competition environment. This requires substantial dedication, commitment, and financial investment. **Admission by audition ONLY**. Contact office staff for additional details.

Selecting a Highland class can be somewhat daunting as several factors determine student placement. **For dancers with little or no prior Highland experience:** Choose the appropriate introductory class. Primary Highland is ideal for 5 and 6 years of age (though exceptions may be discussed if a child is younger). For 7 years and older, Beginner is the recommended option.

Highland classes are not generally structured in terms of age. Beyond the introductory levels (Primary and Beginner), a student is placed based on their knowledge of specific dances and theory, plus prior exam and competition experience. This is determined by our teaching staff. If you have not already been assigned a specific class, please contact the studio for confirmation of placement prior to registration.