



PARENT HANDBOOK

2026/27

Edmonton Studio • Sherwood Park Studio

ROYAL ACADEMY OF
DANCE
REGISTERED TEACHER

WELCOME

We are excited to welcome your family into a school community built on Ukrainian dance, strong training, performance excellence, and a love of the arts. Whether your child is dancing once a week, entering the Intensive Division, studying ballet, or preparing for the next step in the Shumka family, our goal is to help every student grow with confidence, discipline, joy, and a sense of belonging.

This is your official Parent Handbook. It provides important information about being a student and parent at the Shumka School of Dance, including program expectations, communication, uniform requirements, performing, conduct, and tuition information.

We recommend that students and parents read this handbook and discuss the contents together. The School functions best when students, families, instructors, and administration work together and stay informed throughout the season.

STUDIO CONTACT

Shumka Dance Centre
10515 111 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5H 3E8

St. Sophia's Parish Hall
53012 Range Rd 224 #25
Strathcona County, AB T8E 2K5

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ABOUT US

It is the mission of the Shumka School of Dance (SSD) to nurture well-rounded, ballet-trained Ukrainian dancers with high performance levels, while providing all students with opportunities to grow and discover themselves. Through a planned curriculum-based program, Shumka School creates a welcoming, respectful, and inspiring environment where students can make friendships and build confidence, discipline, artistry, and a lifelong connection to the arts.

Shumka School of Dance has trained thousands of young dancers since it was founded in 1989. The School offers programming for dancers ages three and up, with a progressive pathway that supports students from their first classes through to advanced training and future opportunities within the Shumka family.

Shumka School is proud to offer Canada's only Ukrainian dance curriculum, Shumka's Syllabus for Ukrainian Dance, alongside Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) ballet, and an Intensive Division Ukrainian dance program, all taught by professional and experienced teachers. Students perform at community events, competitions, and twice each season at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. The School also offers summer camps, spring classes, and youth leadership programs, including the Junior Instructor and Leader-in-Training programs.

FACILITIES

The Shumka Dance Centre in Edmonton features large, custom-designed dance studios with sprung flooring, Marley dance floors, full-length mirrors, and air-conditioning. The facility also includes change rooms, washrooms, a kitchen with a microwave and fridge, a costume room, and spacious parent sitting areas. Sherwood Park offers a large dance space with sprung flooring, a Marley dance floor, mirrors, washrooms, kitchen, and a parent sitting area.

FACILITY EXPECTATIONS

Families are expected to treat all facilities with care and respect. Please remove all footwear before entering the building, and place footwear on the provided shoe racks. Barres are not to be hung on or sat on, as they can break. Mirrors are breakable and easily smudged, and should not be touched, leaned on, or handled. Picture frames, exercise balls, set pieces, and equipment must not be touched or disturbed. Children should behave respectfully in the lobby and waiting areas. Rough play, running, throwing balls, jumping on furniture, and entering restricted areas are not permitted.

LOST & FOUND

Label all dance wear, shoes, and personal items with the child's name. Check the lost and found regularly. Items left in studios will be collected and placed in the lost and found. At both locations, the lost and found is located in the coatroom.

PARKING

At the Shumka Dance Centre, parking is limited to nearby street parking, with paid public parking available in front of the building for approximately \$2–\$3 per session. The parking lot behind the building is reserved for Shumka staff, instructors, and costume personnel and is not available for parent or student use. There is ample free parking at the Sherwood Park location.

PARENT WAITING GUIDELINES

Parents are welcome to wait in the lobby while their child is in class. Overflow seating includes the upstairs kitchen and boardroom when available. Parents are not permitted in the hallways near the studios, as this area is for students and instructors only. Parents should be ready for pick-up five minutes before the end of class so students can be dismissed promptly. Younger siblings are welcome in the building, but they must be supervised at all times. For the safety of everyone, children are not permitted to run around the lobby, classroom areas, or hallways.

IMPORTANT DATES

All dates are subject to change. Please check the School Calendar for complete details.

September	12	All classes begin!
	26	Junior Instructor training and orientation
	27	Children's Nutcracker auditions
	29-30	Measurements for boots/footwear
October	2	Tuition payment due
	5-10	Parent view all classes last ten minutes
	12	No classes (Thanksgiving)
November	2-7	Parent view all classes last ten minutes
	6	Costume rental payment due (Beginner to Grade 4 classes)
	10-12	No classes (Fall Break)
	13	Costume rental payment due (Grade 5 to 9 classes), deadline for tuition refunds
December	30-5	Nutcracker Week and full class parent view for all classes
	4	FundScrip order due
	21 - 1	No classes (Winter Break)
January	2	Classes resume
	4-9	Parent view all classes last ten minutes
	8	Winter concert tickets on sale, tuition payment due, festival payments due
	15	St. John's Malanka performance
	31	Performance at Edmonton's General Hospital
February	7	School Winter Concert
	15	No classes (Family Day)
March	5-7	Camrose Dance Festival (no classes Friday or Saturday)
	13	Optional Photo Day (Saturday classes still running)
	22-28	No Sherwood Park classes (SP spring break)
	26-28	Easter weekend (no classes)
	29-2	No Edmonton classes (Edmonton spring break)
April	2	Syllabus exam payment due
	9	Year End Show tickets on sale
	9-11	Grande Prairie Dance Festival (no Friday or Saturday classes)
	22-25	Shumka Dance Festival (no Friday or Saturday classes)
	26-30	Parent view all classes last ten minutes
May	1	School Year End Show
	4, 5	Intensive Division auditions (two date options)
	19, 26	Ufest rehearsals
	29	Ufest performance

FOR PARENTS

Parents are expected to stay informed and engaged throughout the dance season by regularly reading all emails and reviewing important dates on the School calendar.

Families should attend parent watch classes, the Winter Concert in February, the Year End Show in May, and all applicable dance competitions. Families should stay informed about costume requirements throughout the season.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential for student progress, confidence, safety, and success, as well as the success of their classmates. Our classes are built progressively, and choreography depends on students being present and prepared each week. Absences can impact individual development, class progress, competition preparation, and the team-building experience we work hard to create. If a student will be absent, a parent should notify the Shumka office before class. Planned absences, including vacations, school trips, or other commitments, should be communicated as early as possible. Attendance at performances is mandatory. If a family anticipates difficulty attending a performance, they should notify the office as early as possible. The School reserves the right to adjust or remove a student's role in choreography due to lateness, absences, or class disruption.

ILLNESS

Students who are sick who may be contagious should stay home. Students who are injured, recovering, or not well enough to dance, but are not contagious, are encouraged to attend and observe so they do not fall behind.

INJURIES

If a student is injured, parents should notify the Shumka office as soon as possible. Injured students who can attend safely are encouraged to observe class so they stay connected to choreography, corrections, and class material. For all serious injuries, medical clearance is required before returning to full-out dancing. Families are asked to be especially careful in the five weeks leading up to performance season and avoid high-risk activities, including skiing. If a student participates in a high-risk activity during this period and becomes injured, they may be removed from the remainder of the season's performances. The School reserves the right to adjust choreography, spacing, formations, or a student's role as needed due to injury.

COMMUNITY

Shumka School is committed to creating a positive and respectful learning environment for students, families, instructors, and staff. Cooperation between parents, respect for instructors and classmates, and support for the School's expectations all help create a strong community. Parents are important role models, and the way adults interact with one another in the studio, at performances, and at events makes a lasting impression on students and the wider community. Mutual respect between families and faculty allows us to provide the best possible experience for every student.

STAFF

You'll enjoy our caring and committed teaching staff, selected for their qualifications, experience, positive attitudes, and excellence in teaching! They are: Tamsin Carreck, Anna Kanevets, Tasha Orysiuk, Paul Olijnyk, Annikka Dobko, Peter Eeles, Anna Frolov, Kostiya Frolov, Allister Malin, Abigail Moser, Ava Moser, Kelsey Olijnyk, Joshua Pacholok, and Leda Tarnawsky.

PROGRAM

Shumka School of Dance offers programming for students beginning at age three, with each program designed to build confidence, technique, artistry, and a love for Ukrainian dance.

PRE BEGINNER & BEGINNER

The Pre Beginner (ages 3-4) and Beginner (age 5) Program introduces young students to foundational movement, music, classroom structure, creativity, and performance in a positive and encouraging environment. Students learn a Ukrainian dance and perform at the Winter Concert and Year End Show. These classes are performance-focused but do not take part in competitions. At this age, dance is about much more than learning steps. Children learn to use their imagination, express themselves creatively, develop coordination, learn to follow instructions, and become comfortable in a class setting. Separating from a parent to attend class independently is also an important developmental milestone for young dancers. SSD fully supports each child through this process, recognizing that every child reaches this step at their own pace.

CORE PROGRAM

Beginning at age six, the Core Program provides high-quality Ukrainian dance training through Shumka's Ukrainian Dance Syllabus. All students participate in the Core Program and there is no audition requirement. Each Core class from Grades 1 to 9 includes both technical training and choreography, giving students a strong foundation while preparing them for performances, dance competitions, and continued growth within the School. Students in Grades 1 through 8 learn one choreographed dance each year, while Grade 9 students learn two dances. Families may also choose to add R.A.D. Ballet or Tricks class training to further support their dancer's development, or audition for the Intensive Division.

INTENSIVE DIVISION

The Intensive Division is designed for students seeking a more advanced training experience with additional classes and higher expectations in Ukrainian dance, ballet, and performance. The program is by audition and generally includes three broad levels: Junior, Intermediate, and Advanced, with additional groupings within those levels, such as Advanced 1 and Advanced 2. Depending on age level, students may learn anywhere from two to four dances throughout the season. Students also take part in larger yearly projects featuring the full division, such as a large-scale Hopak or other program-wide choreography. At the highest levels, students also participate in the Shumka Repertoire class, which further develops performance experience, versatility, and readiness for future opportunities within the Shumka family and beyond.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Shumka School also offers a variety of additional programs that support student development beyond regular weekly classes. Studia Shumka provides advanced students with a bridge between the School and the professional Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, offering further training, performance opportunities, and connection to the broader Shumka organization. Students may also continue their training through Spring Classes and Shumka Summer Dance Camps, which provide additional opportunities to build technique, learn choreography, experience Ukrainian culture, and stay connected through dance. For older students, the Junior Instructor and Leader-in-Training programs offer meaningful leadership experience, mentorship, and the opportunity to give back to the next generation of dancers.

PLACEMENT

Shumka School faculty meet regularly to discuss student progress and class placement.

Students are most successful when they are working at the appropriate level, where they can build strong technique, proper fundamentals, and confidence. Placement is highly individual. Some students thrive when challenged in a higher-level class, while others develop best in a group where they feel confident and supported. Our goal is to offer appropriate opportunities to every student while helping them continue to enjoy dance and progress at a safe pace.

PLACEMENT & REGISTRATION

At the end of each dance season, parents are emailed a Class Placement outlining their child's recommended classes, schedule, and instructor details for the upcoming year. This guide is used to complete online registration at shumka.com.

HOW PLACEMENT IS DETERMINED

Core Program placement is based on age and ability. Intensive Division placement is determined through an audition. Ballet placement is determined by the Ballet Mistress, with two syllabus ballet classes per week required for students enrolled in pointe or ballet choreography classes, and for all students at the Grade 5 R.A.D. level and above. Pre Beginner and Beginner placement is based on age, with Pre Beginners typically ages three and four, and Beginners age five.

SHUMKA'S SYLLABUS

The Shumka Syllabus is a vital tool for advancing Ukrainian dance technique, enriching the training experience, and shaping future generations of dancers, teachers, and enthusiasts. It was built through careful research and planning, ensuring a precise, progressive path for developing Ukrainian dance skills. The syllabus provides a clear, structured progression from one level to the next. Students follow a course of study that includes barre, centre, and corner work, supported by custom music. Each exercise builds on the last, adding another 'piece to the puzzle' of a student's growth.

UNDERSTANDING CERTIFICATE & DIPLOMA

The exercises are categorized into two levels: 'Certificate' and 'Diploma.' This division helps ease the workload for students who train syllabus once per week while also learning choreography and additional training outside of the Syllabus. The Certificate exercises are introductory level, whereas the Diploma exercises represent more advanced levels of training and for the most part are completely different exercises.

Tier 1: Grades 1 Cert & Dip, Grade 2 Cert & Dip, Grade 3 Cert & Dip

Tier 2: Grades 4 Cert & Dip, Grade 5 Cert & Dip, Grade 6 Cert & Dip

Tier 3: Grades 7 Cert & Dip, Grade 8 Cert & Dip, Grade 9 Cert & Dip

Generally, students will engage in one Diploma variation within a Tier. For instance, they might complete Grade 4 Cert, Grade 5 Cert, Grade 6 Cert, and Grade 6 Dip, though this can vary depending on the individual class. This progression model ensures that students are not overwhelmed by a sudden jump in complexity. It allows them to master one level before moving on to the next, ensuring a gradual and safe development of physical abilities, while allowing students to complete the program as intended, by the age of 16-17.

DANCE EXAMS

The Syllabus Academy conducts independent evaluations on an annual basis. In March, families are provided with exam recommendations (yes, no, or audit). Syllabus exam results from the previous season are delivered to families during the first week of the next season.

RECOMMENDATION PROCESS

Our instructors closely assess each student's skills and abilities, making them well-equipped to offer guidance to families regarding their readiness for the upcoming examination. To ensure a successful and positive exam experience, instructors recommend students they believe will be well-prepared to take the exam in May. In March, families receive a form indicating the recommendation for the syllabus examination (yes, no, or audit). For Core Program students, the decision to participate is ultimately made by the family if they receive a recommendation. However, students in the Intensive Division, when recommended for the examination, are required to participate. Dance examinations are a standard expectation in any professional dance school's program.

BENEFITS

Syllabus exams play a pivotal role by providing a structured and reassuring third-party evaluation of the student's advancement and capabilities. Additionally, they offer positive reinforcement for skills that have been mastered. Students are evaluated on the syllabus exercises learned from the grade they studied that year. Each exercise is graded from 1 to 4, and a final mark is given at the end. The feedback provided is highly detailed, pinpointing areas that may still need refinement and offering concrete strategies for improvement. These exams serve as a focal point for students, giving them a clear objective to work towards and instilling a sense of accomplishment.

AUDIT EXAM

Audit students are evaluated and receive feedback in the same way as other students, but they do not receive a final grade. For example, a student may be showing strong progress in some areas, such as barre work, but may still need more time to develop musicality and centre work. In this case, the instructors may decide that a graded exam is not the best option that year. Instead, the student may audit the exam, receive the same critique and feedback, and continue building toward a future graded examination.

REASONS FOR NOT BEING RECOMMENDED

Factors considered include attendance, punctuality, physical development, behaviour, attitude, understanding of the exercises, musicality, and body awareness. If a student is not recommended for an examination in a given year, they will still advance to the next grade with their peers.

MAKEUP EXAM

A make-up examination may be offered for reasons such as a death in the family, illness or injury supported by a doctor's note, or severe weather. Scheduling requests must be submitted before the exam schedule is finalized. Once the schedule is complete, no further requests or changes will be considered. Refunds will not be issued for missed exams due to scheduling conflicts.

EXAM COSTS

The exam fees for Core Program students must be paid by the deadline specified in the School Calendar. The exam fees for Intensive Division students are due along with tuition at the beginning of the season. If your child is in the Intensive Division and does not receive a recommendation for the examination, a refund of the exam fee is provided.

Grade 1: \$66, Grade 2: \$68, Grade 3: \$70, Grade 4: \$76, Grade 5: \$78, Grade 6: \$80, Grade 7: \$86, Grade 8: \$88, Grade 9: \$90.

JUNIOR INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM

The Junior Instructor Program gives students the opportunity to assist in classes while learning from experienced instructors in a supportive and professional environment, gaining valuable experience in teaching, leadership and communication.

APPLICATION

Applications for the Junior Instructor Program are posted on the Shumka website typically in late July or early August. All current and prospective junior instructors must apply and provide their availability. Successful applicants are selected based on the content of their application, availability, class needs, and previous experience. Because the Junior Instructor Program is an additional opportunity within SSD, scheduling depends on enrollment, budget, and the number of classes offered each season. For this reason, junior instructor schedules are usually communicated near the end of August, when enrollment numbers are more finalized.

QUALIFICATIONS

Volunteer junior instructors should be 13 years of age or older, willing to learn, take initiative, and work as part of a team. Paid junior instructor positions are generally available to students who are 16 years of age or older, have previous volunteer junior instructor experience, and have successfully applied through the program. The number of positions available each year depends on the number of classes offered at SSD.

DUTIES

All Junior instructors support the lead instructor in a variety of ways, including demonstrating exercises and choreography with correct timing and full energy, providing one-on-one help to students when directed, starting and stopping music, setting up the studio with barres, props, or mirrors, and helping keep the studio clean and organized.

Junior instructors may also help with student spot placements, props, stickers, and dancing on stage with the students at the Winter Concert and Year End Show. Depending on the class, they may also assist with student syllabus examinations, learn about the choreographic process, and arrange for a substitute when they are absent.

BENEFITS

The Junior Instructor Program offers meaningful benefits, including mentorship, professional work experience, skill development, leadership opportunities, teamwork, community building, personal growth, and resume development.

ORIENTATION

All junior instructors must participate in a mandatory training session, which typically happens in the fall each year. Reference the School Calendar for the date.

INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOPS

Junior instructors are encouraged to participate in a Syllabus Workshop as part of their continued training. This teacher-training workshop focuses on the Shumka Syllabus for Ukrainian Dance, beginning with Tier 1, Grades 1–3. Participants learn how the syllabus is structured, how exercises are built, how to teach material consistently, and how to use syllabus resources properly. Junior instructors who have been teaching for two to three years should consider the workshop as a valuable next step in building confidence, strengthening teaching skills, supporting lead instructors, and deepening their understanding of the material that forms the foundation of Shumka School training.

COMMUNICATION UNIFORM

Shumka School of Dance communicates with families in several ways, including email, the Shumka app, and through instructors. The majority of communication is sent by email, using the email addresses provided during online registration. Please contact the main office if an email address changes.

SHUMKA APP

The Shumka app is an important resource providing access to key School information in one convenient place. Through the app, families can view the school calendar and timetable, class videos and music, costume details, this Parent Handbook, performance and competition schedules, and staff contact information. Families are encouraged to use the app regularly to stay informed and prepared throughout the season. It can be downloaded from the App Store for Apple devices and the Play Store for Android devices.

PARENT VIEW

SSD invites parents to observe portions of class throughout the year to stay connected to their child's progress. To keep classes focused and productive, unscheduled parent viewing is not permitted, and parents should not enter the studio unless invited by the instructor. Parent View takes place during the last ten minutes of selected classes, with dates listed on the School Calendar.

Parent View is not scheduled every month. There are times in the season when holding Parent View immediately before or after a major performance does not make sense.

SSD also offers one Full-Class Parent View Week during the season, giving families the opportunity to observe an entire class.

Correct uniform helps instructors clearly see each student's alignment and placement, allowing corrections to be made safely and effectively. It also creates a consistent and professional appearance for the School.

HAIR

Students with long hair should have their hair pulled back off the face and styled in a tight bun. If a student's hair is too short for a bun, it should be neatly groomed and kept away from the face and neck so the head and neckline remain visible. For performances, extra care should be taken to create a secure, polished bun, with hairspray used to reduce fly-aways under stage lighting.

WATER

Water bottles are permitted in class, but they should contain water only and be clearly labeled with the student's name.

WEARABLES

For safety reasons, jewelry is not permitted during class or performances. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets, wristbands, watches, and similar items, as they can become caught on clothing or skin. The only exception is for newly pierced ears when earrings cannot yet be removed; in this case, earrings must be covered with a Band-Aid.

PERFORMANCE FOOTWEAR

All performance footwear is age dependent and is confirmed at the beginning of the dance season.

UNIFORM GIRLS

Girls should wear the required bodysuit, tights, skirt, and footwear for their class level. Hair must be pulled back off the face and styled in a tight bun for all classes and performances.

PRE BEGINNER - GRADE 2 CERTIFICATE

- Pink convertible tights for all classes.
- Black short sleeve bodysuit with rounded neckline for Pre Beginner and Beginner or black high-neck tank bodysuit for Grade 1 and 2.
- Black pull-on skirt for all classes.
- Red full sole leather dance slippers for all classes (with shoelace strings tucked in).

GRADE 2 DIPLOMA - GRADE 6

- Pink convertible tights for all classes.
- Black high-neck tank bodysuit for all classes.
- Black pull-on skirt for all classes except Ballet.
- Tan Elastabootie shoe for all classes except Ballet.
- Pink full sole leather slippers for Ballet-only.

GRADE 7 - 9

- Pink convertible tights for all classes.
- Black camisole bodysuit for all classes. To commemorate the graduating year, Grade 9 students may wear colourful bodysuits of their choice during all classes.
- Black character skirt for all classes except Ballet. Black shorts may still be worn.
- Tan Elastabootie shoe for all classes except Ballet.
- Pink full sole leather slippers for Ballet-only.

UNIFORM BOYS

Boys should wear a plain white t-shirt tucked in, plain black shorts, black ankle socks, and the appropriate footwear for each class. Boys with long hair should have it pulled back and off the face for all classes and performances.

For Pre-Beginner, Beginner, Grade 1, and Grade 2 Certificate, boys wear black full-sole leather dance slippers for all classes and performances, and knee-length black socks for performances.

From Grade 2 Diploma and up, boys wear black Elastabootie shoes for Core and Intensive classes, and black full sole leather ballet slippers for Ballet classes.

For Grade 7 and above, black pants may be worn for Ukrainian classes, but shorts are required for Ballet.

PERFORMANCE MAKEUP

GIRLS

Makeup is a standard part of every performance and helps dancers' facial expressions show clearly under stage lighting. Makeup requirements are organized by Core grade. Younger dancers require minimal makeup, while older dancers gradually add more stage makeup. Girls should wear rosy red blush and red lipstick for performances. Depending on grade level, black mascara, black eyeliner, foundation, eyeshadow, contour, and false eyelashes may also be required. False eyelashes, contour, and highlights are generally reserved for stage performances or situations with significant stage lighting.

PRE BEGINNER - GRADE 2 CERTIFICATE

- Rosy red blush
- Black mascara
- Red lipstick

GRADE 2 DIPLOMA - GRADE 6

- Rosy red blush
- Black mascara
- Red lipstick
- Black eyeliner

GRADE 7 - 9

- Rosy red blush
- Black mascara
- Red lipstick
- Black eyeliner
- Foundation
- Eye shadow trio
- Contour (theatre performances only)
- Highlights (theatre performances only)
- False eyelashes (theatre performances only)

BOYS

Makeup is a standard part of every performance and helps dancers' facial expressions show clearly under stage lighting. Makeup requirements are organized by Core grade. Younger dancers require minimal makeup, while older dancers gradually add more stage makeup. Boys should wear rosy red blush and brown lipstick for performances. Depending on grade level, black eyeliner, foundation, and contour is also be required. When eyeliner is used, it should be applied to the bottom of the eye only, from the middle of the eye to the outside edge. Contour is generally reserved for stage performances or situations with significant stage lighting.

PRE BEGINNER - GRADE 2 CERTIFICATE

- Rosy red blush
- Brown lipstick

GRADE 2 DIPLOMA - GRADE 6

- Rosy red blush
- Brown lipstick
- Black eyeliner

GRADE 7 - 9

- Rosy red blush
- Brown lipstick
- Black eyeliner
- Foundation (theatre performances only)
- Contour (theatre performances only)

MAKEUP APPLICATION

Families are encouraged to practice makeup before the performance so dancers are comfortable and the final look is appropriate. Foundation should match the dancer's skin tone. Blush and contour should be applied lightly. Eye makeup should be clean and age-appropriate, with no eyeliner wings.

COSTUMES

MEASUREMENTS & FITTINGS

Costumes are managed by a dedicated team of parent volunteers, led by the Shumka School Wardrobe Director. SSD maintains an extensive inventory of costumes, with each piece numbered so it can be carefully tracked. All classes from Beginner and up rent costumes from Shumka School, while Pre Beginner students rent a regional hat or headpiece and wear their class uniform on stage. Costume measurements typically take place during regular classes between October and December, with younger students usually measured later because they tend to grow the fastest. Fittings generally take place between November and February. Once a class's costumes are ready, families will be notified about costume pickup, which is scheduled by class as each set of costumes is finished.

COSTUME CARE

Costumes must be transported and stored in garment bags, aired out after performances, and kept off the bare ground. Students are not permitted to eat while in costume; only water is allowed. All classes must change at the venue and should not arrive or leave dressed in costume. Families should not clean any part of a costume without first consulting the Principal. All costumes are returned at the year end show and nobody should go home with costumes unless otherwise communicated. Hangers must be returned with the costumes, and there is a \$5 replacement charge for lost or damaged hangers. Costumes should always be returned on their correctly labeled hangers. This helps the Principal avoid the time consuming process of matching costumes back to the correct hangers, which has to be done as part of the extensive cleaning process. If a costume piece is lost, damaged, or significantly soiled, the School will be able to identify and address the issue. Families are liable for any damages to a costume.

PERFORMANCES

Parents should bring safety pins, hair pins, hair elastics, and all footwear to every performance. Detailed costume instructions for each rental are available in the Shumka app under SSD Costumes, emailed to families, and attached to each hanger at costume pickup. Beginner and up girls wear light tan fully footed tights and a tan bodysuit under costumes. Grade 2 Diploma to Grade 9 girls also require white bike shorts over the bodysuit. Skirts, pants, aprons, slips, crinolines, and belts should be worn at bellybutton height, as costumes are fitted this way. Families should check costumes the night before and again the morning of a performance to ensure everything is complete and in good repair.

HEADPIECE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers responsible for class headpieces should store them properly, steam the ribbons before each performance, and count them after every performance.

RENTAL COSTS

Costume rental fees are calculated per student and are based on the number of costumes required. The fee is \$100 for one costume, \$150 for two costumes, \$200 for three costumes, \$250 for four costumes, and \$300 for five or more costumes. Costume fees are capped at \$300 per student, and there is no additional charge for more than five costumes unless the additional costumes are for solos, duets, or extra instruction dances. Extra instruction costumes are \$25 per costume. A \$250 damage deposit is collected per family and will only be cashed if costumes are not returned in reasonably similar condition.

BOOTS

Shumka School offers an in-house boot ordering option once red or black dance boots are introduced, usually around Grade 7. Boots are ordered from Alberta bootmaker Don Czuy, and the School Principal has been trained by Don to take the required foot measurements.

ORDER

Families should attend the scheduled boot measuring dates, as listed on the School Calendar. A parent must be present for the measurement appointment to give final approval, and students will not be measured without a parent in attendance. Once the measurement is complete, all paperwork must be submitted to the main office. Families may choose to order boots from another supplier; however, if those boots do not arrive in time for performances, it is the family's responsibility to secure borrowed boots. If suitable footwear is not available, the student will not be able to participate in the performance.

COST

Don Czuy boots cost \$360 per pair plus postage, with an additional \$15–\$25 charge for calf measurements larger than 13 inches. Payment is made in full through Shumka to Don Czuy. Preferred payment methods are cheques made payable to Ukrainian Shumka Dancers or e-transfers to june.eeles@shumka.com.

TIMELINE

Boots ordered by early October are typically shipped to the Shumka Dance Centre in January, although arrival times may vary depending on order volume.

FITTING

Dance boots are meant to fit snugly, similar to socks, to help prevent injury. Families who would like a little room for growth may choose the 'loose' fitting option on the order form, which adds half an inch to the length and arc measurements. Choosing the 'snug' option means the boots will be made exactly as measured. The initial fit of dance boots may feel different from regular shoes, and it can take up to a week to determine whether they fit properly. If boots arrive differently than measured or do not fit correctly, families may either take them to a professional shoemaker to have the leather stretched or return them to Don Czuy for repairs at no additional cost. Repairs are usually completed quickly, often within one to two weeks.

SCHOOL CONCERTS

Shumka School hosts two annual concerts at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium: the Winter Concert and the Year End Show. Each concert is between two and three hours in length.

TICKETS

Both concerts begin at 2:00 pm, and tickets are available through Ticketmaster. Avoid purchasing from non-Ticketmaster websites to prevent scams. Every audience member, including children and infants, must have a ticket. Performers do not need a ticket if they remain with their class during the show; however, students who will be watching Act 2 with their parents require a ticket.

COMMUNICATION

The performance order is determined by costume changes, age, and the overall creative flow of the concert. Requests to adjust a student's position in the show order can be directed to the School Principal, but changes are not guaranteed. Before each concert, families receive detailed communication outlining the concert day process, including the backstage dressing room map, concert program order, and pre show staging schedule for Intensive Division classes.

ARRIVAL TIME

Intensive Division dancers should arrive 20 minutes before their scheduled staging time. Most other families should arrive by 1:00 pm through the main lobby doors. Dancers must arrive with hair and makeup completed. Pre Beginner students should arrive already dressed in their performance uniform, while all other classes change at the theatre.

CONCERT DAY PROCESS

The concerts are run by parent and Shumka volunteers who will be stationed with class signs to assist with check-in and bring dancers backstage. During the show, dancers will wait, practice, or perform depending on their position in the program. After the show, classes return to the main lobby for pick-up. Parents who are not assigned volunteers are not permitted backstage. Drop-off and pick-up take place in the main lobby, and paid parking is available in designated areas.

EARLY DEPARTURES

If a student needs to leave before the end of the show, families must notify the Shumka office in advance so arrangements can be made for pick-up at the backstage door. If a child will be watching the remainder of the show after dancing, families should also inform the Shumka office. In these cases, dancers may only be picked up from the backstage door at intermission.

OTHER PERFORMANCES

Throughout the season, SSD participates in a variety of additional performance opportunities, including community events, cultural celebrations, conventions, seniors' residences, group trips to dance competitions, and other special events. These performances provide students with valuable opportunities to gain confidence, practice performing in front of an audience, and share Ukrainian dance with the broader community. Some performances may involve select Core classes; however, most additional performance opportunities are offered to the Intensive Division. The School does not usually schedule performances during June, July, and August, unless special arrangements are made.

DANCE COMPETITIONS

Shumka School participates in several Ukrainian dance competitions each year. These events give students valuable stage experience and feedback from impartial adjudicators, and the opportunity to connect with other dancers from other groups.

WHAT TO EXPECT

SSD selects the competitions and submits entries for each class, but does not control performance times or when final schedules are released. Competition attendance is mandatory, and students should be ready to perform 60 minutes before their performance time. Dancers perform in adjudication categories with other dance clubs. After the final dance in the category, dancers are usually brought back on stage for summary comments from the adjudicator, followed by the awarding of medals. Each category can be anywhere from 45 minutes to 90 minutes. Parents are encouraged to attend and support their children in the theatre. Most festivals charge an audience entry fee, but performers do not pay to enter. Adjudication feedback will be reviewed with students in class after the competition.

FEES

Competitions charge a per entry fee, and families are responsible for these costs in full. Fees vary by competition, but group dances are typically \$12–19 per entry, duets are typically \$25–30 per student, and solos are typically \$30 per student.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Any scholarship or cash award received by an SSD group dance belongs will be used to support the School and its programming. Scholarships or cash awards received for solos, duets, trios, or privately arranged small groups belong to the dancer or dancers who earned them.

COMPETITIONS 2027

Camrose Culture Fuze

March 5 - 7, 2027

Jeanne & Peter Loughheed Performing Arts Centre is located at 4501 - 50 Street

Grade 5 Core and up, all ID, ballet

Grande Prairie Vitaemo Festival

April 9 - 11, 2027

Douglas J Cardinal Theatre, Northwestern Polytechnic located at 10726 106 Avenue.

Grade 6 Core and up, Int 3, Adv 1, Adv 2, ballet

Bus trip for Grades 7, 9, Adv 1, Adv 2.

Shumka Dance Festival

April 22 - 25, 2027

Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium located at 11455 - 87 Avenue.

All Core classes Grade 1 and up, all ID, ballet

SOLOS & DUETS

WHEN TO DO A SOLO?

Solos or duet can be a very rewarding experience for students who are ready for an additional challenge. Solos and duets strengthen technique, build confidence, develop performance quality, and increase personal responsibility for dancing. A student is ready for this experience when they understand that it is a serious commitment to themselves and their training, are willing to practice independently outside of class, can run their choreography full-out to build stamina, and are technically prepared or motivated to work toward the technique required.

INSTRUCTOR SELECTION

Students may work with any dance instructor, whether they teach at Shumka School or not. Instruction, scheduling, choreography fees, and cleaning time are arranged directly between the family and the instructor and are not processed through the Shumka Office. Instructors set their own fees and determine how much choreography and cleaning time is included. All instructional fees are paid directly to the instructor and are due at the first rehearsal.

FORM SUBMISSION

All solos, duets, trios, and small groups featuring Shumka School students will be entered under Shumka School of Dance. Families must submit the private instruction competition form and all required entry fees by the deadline listed in the School Calendar. After this date, no further submissions will be accepted, and all decisions regarding costumes, instruction, and competition choices must be finalized before the deadline. Groups of five or more students require approval from the School Principal before proceeding.

COMPETITION SELECTION

Families may choose which additional competitions they wish to attend. If Shumka School is already attending the competition, the Principal will stage those students. If the competition is not attended by Shumka School, parents are responsible for arranging backstage access and playing the music. Only Grade 9 solos, duets, trios, and small groups are included in the Year End Show. Other performance opportunities may be available throughout the year, such as the General Hospital Performance or smaller community events.

STUDIO BOOKINGS & COSTUMES

Students and parents can book studio space through the Shumka Office to rehearse their dances when convenient. There is no rental charge for private instruction involving Shumka School students. If the selected dance region requires a costume different from the student's regular class costumes, families must speak with the School Principal to confirm costume availability before any part of the solo or duet begins.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Shumka is committed to providing a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe environment for all students, families, instructors, staff, volunteers, and guests. Every member of the SSD community is expected to contribute positively to the School and help create an environment where students can learn, grow, and achieve their best.

This Code of Conduct applies whenever students, parents, volunteers, instructors, and staff are participating in SSD classes, rehearsals, performances, festivals, competitions, camps, travel, meetings, events, or any activity where they are representing Shumka. It also applies to behaviour outside of SSD activities, including online behaviour, when that behaviour negatively affects the School community or the reputation of SSD.

All members of the Shumka community are expected to treat others with respect, kindness, and fairness. Students should attend class regularly and punctually, arrive prepared, follow the uniform, cooperate with instructors and staff, respect the facilities and property of others, and represent Shumka in a positive manner.

Bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, exclusion, hazing, or disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated. This includes negative comments about another person's dancing, appearance, ability, race, culture, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, family, or personal circumstances. Students are expected to support one another, avoid gossip or public criticism, and help create a positive class environment.

Physical aggression, unwanted physical contact, threats, unsafe behaviour, theft, damage to property, possession or use of illegal or restricted substances, and any

behaviour that puts another person's safety or well-being at risk are considered serious violations of this Code of Conduct.

Shumka community members are also expected to use social media responsibly. Students and families must not post false, harmful, private, or defamatory information about another person, the School, or another organization. Photos, videos, or comments involving SSD students, instructors, classes, rehearsals, or performances should not be shared publicly without permission. Social media must not be used to bully, harass, exclude, embarrass, or publicly air personal concerns.

If a student witnesses or experiences bullying, harassment, discrimination, or unsafe behaviour, they are encouraged to speak with an instructor, the Principal, or trusted adult. SSD will take concerns seriously and will work to support those affected while addressing the behaviour appropriately.

Unacceptable behaviour may result in follow-up from School leadership. Consequences may include a conversation with the student and/or parents, temporary removal from class or activities, loss of privileges, restorative action, reimbursement for damaged property, changes to participation in performances or events, suspension from SSD activities, or removal from the program. Consequences will be determined based on the age and maturity of the student, the seriousness of the behaviour, the circumstances involved, and whether the behaviour has occurred before.

By participating in the Shumka School of Dance and all its related programs, students and families agree to uphold the values of respect, responsibility, safety, teamwork, and excellence that help make Shumka a strong and positive community.

TUITION

TUITION PAYMENT

Families may choose from three tuition payment options. Monthly payments are divided into ten equal payments from September to June and require either ten post-dated cheques or a credit card number on file. Monthly payments are subject to a three percent processing charge. Bi-yearly payments divide the full season tuition into two payments. Families may also choose to pay the full tuition amount in one lump sum at the start of the season.

REFUND POLICY

Refunds for tuition will not be issued after the tuition deadline date. Exceptions may be considered for students who sustain an injury during the dance season and are unable to complete the year. A doctor's note is required, and all exceptions are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

PAYMENT

Shumka School accepts Visa, MasterCard, debit, cheque payable to Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, and e-transfer to june.eeles@shumka.com for tuition and other fees. E-transfers are not accepted for monthly or bi-yearly tuition payment plans. SSD does not publicly distribute tuition fee information. Families with questions about their account should contact the General Office directly. Payments received after the stated deadline will be charged a \$25 late fee, and NSF cheques will be charged a \$25 fee.

LIST OF PAYMENTS

1. Save the \$35 registration fee per student by registering before June 30.
2. Family Volunteer Commitment: Families provide an undated cheque or credit card number equal to \$100 per student, which represents four volunteer hours per student. Volunteer opportunities are shared through the Shumka app, usually by early November, and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If the required hours are completed by the end of the season, the cheque is destroyed or the card is not charged. If it is not completed, the cheque will be cashed or the card charged.
3. Costume Rentals: Costume rental fees are calculated per student based on the number of costumes required: \$100 for one costume, \$150 for two, \$200 for three, \$250 for four, and \$300 for five or more. Fees are capped at \$300 per student, except for solos, duets, trios, groups, or extra instruction dances, which are \$25 per costume. A \$250 damage deposit in the form of an undated cheque or credit card number on file is collected per family and will only be cashed if costumes are returned damaged.
4. Competition Entries: Competitions charge a fee per student, per entry, and families are responsible for these costs in full. Fees vary by competition, but group dances are typically \$12–19 per entry, duets are typically \$25–30 per student, and solos are typically \$30 per student.
5. Syllabus Exams: Core Program exam fees must be paid by the deadline listed in the School Calendar, while Intensive Division exam fees are due with tuition at the beginning of the season and will be refunded if the student is not recommended for the examination.
Grade 1: \$66, Grade 2: \$68, Grade 3: \$70, Grade 4: \$76, Grade 5: \$78, Grade 6: \$80, Grade 7: \$86, Grade 8: \$88, Grade 9: \$90.



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