



Northern Lights School of Dance WELCOME PACKAGE 2025-26

WELCOME

Whether you're joining us for your first season of dance or are a returning student, we want to say thank you for choosing to join our community here at Northern Lights School of Dance (NLSD)!

Please read through this document and use it as a resource throughout the season. In this package we have included information about:

- Communications
- Jackrabbit Parent Portal
- Important Dates
- Performance Opportunities
- Class Uniforms
- Dance Bags
- Day to day procedures
- Parent Participation
- 2025-26 Staff Profiles



Communications

NLSD sends all communications via email. Sometimes NLSD email is screened into junk or spam folders. If you are not receiving our emails, . If you are not, please update your contact information through the parent portal, then contact info@nlsdyukon.com to follow up.

We also post all information on the website at nlsdyukon.com. Find up to date information on the website under the “Announcements” tab.

Contact Information

Administrative Assistant

Janine McJannet
info@nlsdyukon.com

Director of Operations

Glenda Koh
director@nlsdyukon.com

Volunteer Board of Directors

board@nlsdyukon.com

Artistic Directors

Marcy Mills
stagedance@nlsdyukon.com

Jennifer Kosmenko-Eastland
radballet@nlsdyukon.com

Website nlsdyukon.com
Phone (867) 668-6683
Address 27 – 14th Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon



Enrolment, Payment and Policies

Enrolment

All NLSD dance class registrations and payments are made through the Jackrabbit Parent Portal. To access the Jackrabbit Parent Portal visit the NLSD website and choose the 'Announcements' tab to find the link. If you cannot access the Parent Portal, please contact info@nlsdyukon.com.

Payment

As a non-profit organization, we rely on timely payments from families to continue providing high-quality dance programming and meaningful opportunities for all our students. Your support helps us keep our programs accessible and enriching for the entire community.

Please note:

In order to be considered enrolled, your account must be paid in full or you must have made arrangements for a payment plan with our office prior to September 1st.

Full year dance classes account payments paid through Jack Rabbit are due September 1, 2025.

Full Term 1 (September-December) account payments are due September 1, 2025.

Full Term 2 (January – May) account payments are due January 1, 2026.

Policy Agreements in Jackrabbit

As part of the process to enroll in dance classes at NLSD, parents/guardians must agree to the policies on their Parent Portal Account, with the exception of the photo consent policy. Please log into the Parent Portal to agree to these policies.

ALL ACCOUNTS MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY MAY 1, 2026. Any outstanding accounts will not be able to register for the 2026-2027 dance season until paid in full.



2025/2026 Important Dates

Some dates are pending, estimated and are subject to change the closer we get to an event or holiday. Please see our most current communications for up-to-date changes, or see the calendar under “Announcements” on the website.

2025/Term 1

Aug 1	Competitive Team Deadline
Aug 19-22	Intensive Bootcamp
Aug 24-28	Intensive RAD Exam Prep
Sept 2	Classes Begin
Sept 7	Auditions for Nutcracker and Jr.CanCan
Sept 30	School closed for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Oct 11-13	School closed for Thanksgiving
Oct 20-25	Parent Viewing Week
Oct 31	School closed for Halloween
Nov 11	School closed for Remembrance Day
Nov 22/23	Nutcracker Photo Day
Dec 8	Last Day of Term 1 Classes
Dec 10-14	Nutcracker tech and dress rehearsals, and shows at Yukon Arts Centre
Dec 15	School closed for winter break

2026/Term 2

Jan 5	Term 2 Classes Begin
Feb 2-6	RAD Ballet Exams
Feb13-22	Yukon Rendezvous Jr CanCan performances
Feb 20-22	School closed for Heritage Day
March 5-22	Spring Break
March 14-20	Prince George Dance Festival
April 3-6	School closed for Easter
April 11/12	Year-end photo day
April 15-19	Peace River North Festival of the Arts
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 5-15	Year End Shows at the Yukon Arts Centre



Performance Opportunities

NLSD does several major productions and smaller events throughout the year. Details and registration on these performance opportunities will be announced in emails, newsletters and on our website.

The Nutcracker

Auditions for roles in the Nutcracker are open to NLSD dancers who are taking ballet or primary and first steps ballet/tap classes.

Auditions are held in September.

Rehearsals are held on Saturdays and Sundays between 10 am and 6:30 pm. All choreography is taught during weekend rehearsals; therefore, attendance is mandatory.

Additional fees apply.

Matinee performances on school days may be required.

Dancers are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

Year-End Shows

The year-end shows feature Jazz, Contemporary, Acro, Commercial, Tap, Primary, First Steps, and Broadway classes. The shows also feature all Novice, elementary, intermediate, Senior, Intensive ballet. The number and style of shows will vary from year to year to keep it fun and interesting and to showcase our dancers' talent! Here's some more info:

- Generally, all non-intensive pieces for the year-end shows are taught during regularly scheduled classes.
- Dancers may be required to attend additional rehearsals, usually on weekends, in April or May leading up to the performance.
- A matinee performance during school hours will likely be required.
- All intensive dancers must attend an audition and additional rehearsals similar to Nutcracker. Audition requirements change from season to season.



Class Uniform

Proper attire and grooming are considered to be an essential part of dance training and helps the dancer feel correctly prepared for their class.

We wear a uniform at NLSD for a few reasons:

- Uniforms encourage discipline and preparedness in students.
- Consistent attire enhances equality and unity in the group.
- Instructors can better see the students' form and technique without any wardrobe interference.

Students who are inappropriately dressed may not be permitted to participate in class.

Where two options are given, students must choose either Option A or B in their entirety for all styles. Previously, Option A was previously known as the girl uniform, while Option B was for boys.

Class Uniform: Primary and First Steps

Hair must be secured back off the face and neck, in a very tidy ballet bun if long enough.

Option A

- Pink ballet slippers with elastics across the top of the foot
- Solid color bodysuit (no graphics, or patterns)
- ballet skirt mid thigh/just above the knee length
- Pink or skin toned ballet tights

Option B

- Black ballet shoes with elastics across the top of the foot
- Solid colored fitted t-shirt (with no pattern or graphics)
- Black or white socks
- Black shorts or leggings

*First Steps TAP STUDENTS WILL ALSO NEED TAP SHOES



Class Uniform: Ballet

Ballet

Hair must be secured back off the face and neck, and in a bun if long enough.

Option A

- Skin color or pink ballet slippers with elastics across the top of the foot
- Solid dark toned bodysuit (no graphics, or patterns)
- Skin toned or pink convertible ballet tights (no shine)

Option B

- Black ballet shoes with elastics across the top of the foot
- White fitted t-shirt (with no patterns or graphics)
- Black or white socks
- Black shorts or leggings (dance belts maybe require for older dancers)

****Dancers on pointe should bring their pointe shoes to all ballet classes**

Intensive Ballet

All dancers will need character shoes. Please do not purchase these shoes until your instructor confirms with the class.

- Intensive 1 & 2: Canvas character shoes, low heel
- Intensive 3 & 4: Canvas character shoes, Cuban heel

Weekend Rehearsals (Nutcracker, etc.)

During weekend rehearsals, dancers must follow the uniform requirements above. However, dancers may add a wrap shirt or wear a more brightly colored bodysuit. Dancers are encouraged to bring warm clothing such as sweatpants and hoodies to layer over their dance clothing during breaks.

Class Uniform: Jazz, Broadway, Contemporary, Acro, Street Styles

Jazz/Broadway

- Hair secured off the face and neck (ponytail or bun)
- Black jazz shoes (not jazz runners)
- Solid color leotard or fitted t-shirt that doesn't flip up when going upside- down
- Solid color jazz pants, leggings or shorts

Contemporary/Acro

- Hair secured off the face and neck (no bun for Acro!)



- Bare feet or thin socks
- Solid color leotard or fitted t-shirt that doesn't flip up when going upside- down
- Solid color jazz pants, leggings or shorts

Tap

- Hair secured off the face and neck (ponytail or bun)
- Black tap shoes
- Solid color leotard or fitted t-shirt
- Solid color jazz pants, leggings or shorts

Street Styles

- Hair secured off the face
- Looser fitting comfortable clothes
- Clean indoor runners

Jewelry

Only small stud earrings are allowed in class. Other jewelry and valuables should be left at home where they are safe!



What to Bring in Your Dance Bag

Having a designated dance bag will help dancers be prepared. Here is a list of ideas of what should be in your dancers' bag.

- Hair Kit: elastics, hair pins, bobby pins, hair net, brush, comb, etc.
- Safety pins of various sizes
- Pointe Shoe Kit: scissors, needle and thread, tape, spacers, ouch pouches, lamb's wool, second skin, etc.
- Clear nail polish (for runs in tights and ribbons)
- Body deodorant
- All dance shoes
- Extra change of dance clothing
- Warm up clothing
- Note book and pen
- Small first aid kit: ice pack, Band-Aids, hand sanitizer, etc.
- Water bottle
- Healthy snacks



Day to Day Procedures

Pick Up and Drop Off

NLSD opens at 3:30 pm on weekdays and 8:45 am on Saturdays. Students are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes before class starts in order to be properly prepared.

Parents are responsible for picking up their dancer(s) at the end of their dance classes and rehearsals. NLSD instructors do not supervise children outside of their class/rehearsal time.

Attendance

Students are encouraged to attend classes regularly so they do not fall behind as it can be discouraging for everyone. If your dancer is going to be absent, please notify us by logging into your Jackrabbit Portal and selecting "Submit an Absence".

Class Placement

We offer dance training that encourages both recreational and intensive program students to meet their needs and strive towards personal artistic goals.

Our school operates on a cohort system in which groups of individuals progress together - similar to grades in public school. Occasionally, we may need to reassess a dancer's placement levels to ensure the appropriate level. This process is initiated by our instructional staff and artistic directors. Decisions are based on a mix of criteria including attendance, participation, classroom preparedness, age, skill development and years of training completed. This system helps ensure that dancers are in classes that suit their technical and performance abilities.

Parent Participation

Fundraising

In order to offer high quality programming and keep registration and costume fees reasonable, NLSD relies on fundraising. NLSD is always looking for new ideas or volunteers to help organize fundraising efforts.



Corporate Sponsorship

NLSD has launched a new sponsorship program and is looking to partner with businesses that are known to contribute to the betterment of the community, and that share our vision of enhancing the lives of Yukoners.

For further information contact us at board@nlsdyukon.com

Board of Directors

NLSD's annual general meeting is held in the fall for the new season. If you're interested in joining the Board and helping shape the future of the dance school, please email board@nlsdyukon.com.



2025-26 Staff

Jennifer Kosmenko-Eastland

Artistic director & Instructor of Ballet

Jen began her dance training in her birthplace of Whitehorse, continuing her studies at Simon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts. She holds a BFA in dance and a Certificate in Liberal Arts. Jen worked and collaborated with various independent choreographers and companies in Vancouver for many years, including performances at 12 Minutes Max, Press Play, Press Play 2, and a variety of works by choreographers such as Monica Strelke, Susan Miller, and Trevor Klushin.

Jen received her RAD certificate in Ballet Teaching Studies and spent 20 years teaching and choreographing ballet and contemporary works in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. She worked as an Artistic Director for the Reach Student Performance Company, and Senior Instructor at Steps Ahead Dance. In addition to preparing hundreds of successful candidates for both graded and vocational ballet examinations, Jen has mentored many emerging instructors, had many students pursue professional training, and won numerous awards for her choreography.

Marcy Mills

Artistic Director & Instructor for Jazz, Acro, Tap, and Broadway

Marcy is entering her 6th year teaching with NLSD. Born and raised in Prince George, Marcy started dancing at Judy Russell's Enchainment Dance Centre, and grew up training in all styles of dance, from ballet to tap, jazz, hip hop, contemporary and musical theatre. Marcy has competed across BC and participated in various summer intensives including: Okanagan Summer Dance Intensive, the Move, Arts Umbrella, Lines Ballet in San Francisco and Movement Invention Project in New York City.

In Vancouver, she trained for two years out of Harbour Dance Centre with the Source Dance Company, then journeyed to Toronto to train with the Conteur Academy under Eryn Waltman, focusing on ballet, modern, and contemporary. On her return to Vancouver, she worked as a freelance professional dancer and choreographer.

Some of Marcy's performance credits include: The Garden (ZGB productions), Velvet Antler's Roundhouse Cabaret, Diamond Tooth Gerties, West Side Story (TUTS), the Village (Response), the Grey Cup Half-time show, Yellowpoint Christmas Spectacular, Pacific National Exhibition, MAC Cosmetics Alluring Aquatic line and TEDx Vancouver.

Alita Powell

Instructor – Broadway and Jazz

Alita fell in love with performing at age six on the Yukon Arts Centre stage and has spent over 20 years training and performing across Canada and Europe. A graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts and recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Dance Award (2015 & 2016), she also completed Decidedly Jazz Danceworks' Professional Training



Program. Career highlights include touring Western Canada with the Confederation Centre Young Company, performing across Italy with Educoltalia, and winning international hip-hop competitions with Spanish crews MUEVELOW and STATUS. With 10+ years of teaching experience, Alita brings positivity and joy to every class, helping dancers of all ages learn, grow their confidence, and leave smiling.

Jada Powell

Instructor – Street Styles and Contemporary

Jada was dancing before she could walk! She grew up in Whitehorse, training and teaching in every style she could access. At age 18, she joined SOULDiers dance company while on scholarship to Simon Fraser University. She went on to choreograph and perform for BC's Project SOUL and Yukon's BoSo for local and international touring shows. In the 7 years before returning to Whitehorse, she operated many dance and yoga events in Spain all while dancing and choreographing for multiple competitive dance groups. In 2024, her choreography won awards in European competitions, including World Of Dance (WOD) Spain. Wherever she goes, she loves to spread her love for dance!

Kylee Fernandes

Instructor - First Steps, Broadway, Jazz, Contemporary

Kylee has been head over heels for dance for as long as she can remember, and started assistant teaching at the age of 9. Kylee has just completed 2 certifications in yoga and therapeutic yoga training in Vancouver. Dancing a season as a cancan dancer at Diamond Tooth Gertie's and on the Rendezvous Cancan lines, Kylee thrives when bringing community together and creating connection to celebrate the joys that dance can provide.

Aila Massie

Instructor - Acro

Aila Massie has been dancing at NLSD since she was three years old in all different dance styles and classes. She loves working with kids, and is very excited to be teaching at NLSD.

Aislynn Lee

Instructor - First Steps

Aislynn danced from the age of three until her graduation last year at the Heart of Riverdale. She has a passion for working with kids and has been a preschool dance assistant and an elementary educational assistant.

Aurora Bagnell-Craig

Instructor - Primary

Aurora has been dancing since she was just 4 years old. She is passionate about dance, and it is an important part of her life. You might recognize Aurora as a 2025 summer camp instructor for NLSD.

Olivia Marquis-Forster



Instructor - Primary

Olivia started dancing at three with traditional Ukrainian dance before expanding into ballet, contemporary, and jazz. Olivia is thrilled to share her love of dance with the primary students.

Janelle Boucher

Instructor – Come Dance with Me and Primary

Janelle spent the past few years as a student teacher assistant at NLSD, where she discovered her love for teaching. Janelle brings warmth, patience, and positive energy into every class. She's all about helping young dancers grow in confidence while having fun and building a strong foundation in dance.

Glenda Koh

Director of Operations

Glenda has been part of the NLSD community for nearly 20 years. She brings her experience as a planner, coordinator, and project manager to this new role at the school. She will help NLSD meet its community, organizational, and financial sustainability goals.

Janine McJannet

Administrative Assistant

Janine's dance journey began right here at NLSD, where she first discovered her rhythm through the joyful clicks and stomps of tap. With a background in both dance and drama, she's been both a tap performer and a teacher, sharing her love of expression and musicality with students of all ages. Janine will be responding to many of the questions sent to the info@nlsdyukon.com email.

