

## *dansko* Frequently Asked Questions

**Where is *dansko* studios located?**

4814 West Saanich Road Victoria BC VGZ 3H5

Phone: (250)-475-6606 Fax: (250)-475-6607

**How many studios are there?**

*dansko* has three studios at our West Saanich Road Location. Each studio is specifically designed to suit the various dance styles offered. All studios have sprung floors. Studio 1 is the largest studio and has a hard wood floor, great for jazz, hip-hop and large groups. Studio 2 is the ballet studio, with a new Marley floor that is excellent for class and pointe work. Studio 3 is the tap studio. *dansko* also partners with Saanich Commonwealth Place and runs *dansko* Faculty-taught classes and 10-week recreational classes in the dance studio downstairs.

**What kinds of classes do you offer?**

*dansko* offers jazz, ballet, tap, lyrical, hiphop, funk, break dancing, musical theatre, contemporary, preschool ballet/tap/jazz, adult tap, jazz and ballet. Classes are available from ages 2 to adult. *dansko* also has performing companies - please call for more info.

**Is there certain dancewear I need to know about?**

Each teacher has specific requests as to what to wear for the style they are teaching. Please inquire at the beginning of the fall classes. In general clothes should be comfortable and easy to move in. Dance style specific clothes can be purchased at the various dance stores in town (Toes n' Taps (480-0017) and Ellswear (721-5356) to name a few).

**How do I know which level of class I will be in?**

Please come to our registration days to consult with the teachers or artistic director individually if need be. The teachers or artistic director will be able to place you correctly in a class that suits your skill level and learning style.

### **How do I register for a class?**

Please come by the studio during our registration times for class consultation and to register. You can also call the studio at 475-6606 to request a registration package to be mailed to you, or after classes commence you can just come by the studio during class time and observe classes - all three studios are open to viewing the entire year, some with large windows and all are welcome to use the comfortable lobby/sitting area. (Note: some classes may not have space available). If you would like to join a class outside of the regular registration time, talk to the teacher of the class or call the studio. Joining classes is usually only permitted until Oct./Nov. so please consult the teacher/director of the school.

### **Are there any bus routes close to the studio?**

There are several bus routes that drop off close to the studio at Wilkinson Road and West Saanich Road. From there you can walk to the studio (10-15 minutes). The nearest major bus exchange is the Royal Oak Exchange where the Number 6, 30, 31, 35, 39, 70, 75 buses stop. Please consult The Victoria Regional Transit System on line at [www.busonline.ca/regions/vic/](http://www.busonline.ca/regions/vic/) or call Busline at 382-6161 for further details as routes and fares change periodically.

### **Do you sell dance shoes at the studio?**

*dansko* does not sell shoes. Please try Toes n' Taps (480-0017).

Talk to your teachers for other connections on where to buy used shoes.

### **How many people are there in classes?**

Different styles of dance can have different sizes. Hip-hop classes can have from 15 - 25 people, as can jazz or ballet. Weekend classes usually have less. Classes have a maximum of 28 and minimum of 6.

### **Do you have a parking lot?**

Yes! There is a parking lots attached to the studio with a drive around drop-off lane. Additional parking is available around the corner as well on Beaver Lake Road. Please do not park at the business next door or in the "drop-off" zone.

### **Do you have showers or lockers?**

There are two change rooms - one for girls and one for boys. Each change room has bathroom facilities. There is ample room to change and cubbyholes for clothes and shoes. There are no showers or lockers at this time. Please feel free to bring bags and purses into the studio during class. Please do not leave valuables in the change room.

### **Can I book a private lesson?**

Private lessons are available. Please consult with your teacher for lesson length, fees and availability. Shared private lessons may also be an option.

### **How are classes structured?**

Each teacher and class is unique (especially depending on the dance style), but the general structure is similar. Classes usually start with a fun warm up, followed by stretching and floor work (i.e. flexibility and strengthening exercises). This is usually followed by 'cross-floor' combinations and progressions and then center work or a combination. Ballet begins with barre, followed by center exercises and enchainments, and musical theatre

begins with acting and voice training. Please consult your teacher or come observe a class to see how it's all done!

### **Can I take drop-in classes?**

Drop in classes are offered in adult ballet during the day. It is recommended to register but please consult with the teacher, administrative assistant or director to discuss circumstances and possible drop in solutions.

### **How can I pay for my classes?**

Post-dated cheques, credit card or cash. Please make Costume Deposit cheques payable to *dansko* Parents Aux. At this time we do not have Interac. Please consult with the administrative assistant for payment options.

### **Do you participate in local festivals?**

Yes! *dansko* participates in various festivals. The main two are the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival and DanceWorks. Additional festivals including the Nanaimo Festival and various Vancouver festivals/conventions (including the Triple Threat Dance Convention and GrooveStreet) are frequented.

### **Do you have a year-end show?**

Do we ever! *dansko* has a three-day recital at the Royal Theatre every June. Students get a chance to rehearse on stage at the state of the art theatre and then perform for sold out crowds at one of Victoria's most impressive venues. Company groups, advanced levels and selected classes get to perform pieces several times.

## **Do you have a company to audition for?**

*danske* has three performing groups to audition for - Junior, Intermediate and Senior (some companies may be split into two groups to accommodate size). Auditions are held in mid-June. Being a company member is an exciting opportunity to perform, work with different choreographers and to have fun! Please consult your teacher for further information.

## **How do I become an assistant?**

Assistants are a great help to large classes and a stepping-stone towards teaching. If you are interested in becoming an assistant let your teacher know. Assistants are chosen by the teachers. There are a limited number of assistant positions available so if you can not become one this year, let your teacher know that you are interested and do your best in the class to display assistant qualities: leadership, awareness, technical proficiency, enthusiasm and dedication.

Our “Dress Code” details will be on our full website (almost ready to put up!), but in the meantime here’s what you’ll need for ballet:

## **What do I wear to ballet and Why?**

**Girls:** A plain coloured bodysuit and pink tights. Black ballet shorts or ballet skirts are also acceptable. Some students can be uncomfortable in this attire, but it is necessary for the teacher to see the body in order to guide and correct students properly, thereby increasing the dancers’ skill and confidence in their dancing and body – no matter what shape or size. If truly uncomfortable in a body suit, students can wear a form fitting black tank top over the body suit (not instead of). There can be hands on correcting of the torso and so a bare midriff isn’t appropriate.

**Boys:** Should wear shorts that come above the knees. It is necessary to see the knees, so that turnout can be monitored. Boys should wear a form fitting tank top or t-shirt. This is so that the teacher can see your posture and guide and correct accordingly. A baggy t-shirt hides too much.

### **What should I do with my hair? And why?**

For ballet, hair needs to be in a bun with a hair net. The bun is necessary because it keeps the hair off the neck allowing the posture and alignment problems to be easily spotted and corrected. Additionally, when turning, having the hair secure keeps it from hitting the student in the face and moreover, helps to allow for ease of spotting. The hair net holds everything in place.

For other dance styles that involve turns (jazz, lyrical, tap, funk, and even hip hop or musical theatre) it is always best to keep hair in a ponytail. Please consult teacher for precise requirements.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFO**

### **Safety**

Although we have not had a safety problem, the issue exists and needs to be addressed. Parents, please discuss safety with your child. We strongly recommend that children not be allowed to leave the studio building before/after class or during breaks.

### **Make-up Classes**

When classes are missed due to snow days or illnesses, they may be made up in the same or similar class level on another day. We recommend that make-ups be made as soon as possible.

### **Snow Days**

In the event of heavy snowfall or extreme weather conditions, classes may be cancelled. If the School District in your area is closed, we will probably also be closed. Driving safety for our students and our faculty is our priority. Please call the studio at 475-6606 for recorded message or check our website for updates. We will do our best to provide make-up classes.

### **Re-Scheduled Classes**

In the event that a class has to be rescheduled, ample notice will be provided with the best possible alternative day and time.

## **Communication**

We strongly encourage open communication.....we can't address or fix a problem we're unaware of!! Weather it be a small request or major concern please contact us by phone or email. We will contact you at our earliest convenience and do all we can to help and/or solve a problem. Please do not have dialogue with a teacher regarding a problem before, during or in between classes. Thank you!

## **Extra Rehearsals**

Many Dansko classes participate in Festival and other extra performance opportunities and therefore "extra rehearsals" may be scheduled by the teacher/choreographer. Extra rehearsals are provided at no cost.

## **Parking**

Usually our parking lot meets the demand, but occasionally when it doesn't, we apologize! Please do not park at the business next door during business hours – you may be towed!

Also, parking in our drop off zone creates huge traffic problems on West Saanich Rd. **PLEASE DO NOT PART IN OUR DROP OFF ZONE!** Thank you! There is additional parking on Beaver Lake Rd.

For any and all other question, please don't hesitate to contact the studio or ask your instructor. Also, we encourage you to make suggestions as to what we could include in these FAQ information pages!

**See you soon!!**