

## Why a syllabus?

Ballet all around the world is taught with a syllabus. The syllabus is a tool for both teachers and students; the yearly examination system promotes accountability in each student, providing them with detailed goals that help them develop their skills. The grade-level specified work provides a firm and structured curriculum so that parents and teachers know what is being taught.

Here at Amherst Dance Academy, we are working at making fond memories of ballet - cultivating the love of dance. Research for a syllabus that is based on encouragement, building confidence, and accepting of all body types, led us to the SCB syllabus. The use of this syllabus will really strengthen your dancer and will continue to keep the positive atmosphere that we all recognize here at ADA. This syllabus is not the only ballet syllabus available to studios, but the difference with the SCB syllabus, is that it allows for all types of dancers – recreational and those headed toward being a professional ballerina. This syllabus has been in use internationally for over a decade.

building  
confidence

## Why exams?

The purpose of the yearly exams is to give both students and parents a common goal to work towards. It is through the examinations that these goals are fulfilled, and the achievements become a source of inspiration.

encouragement

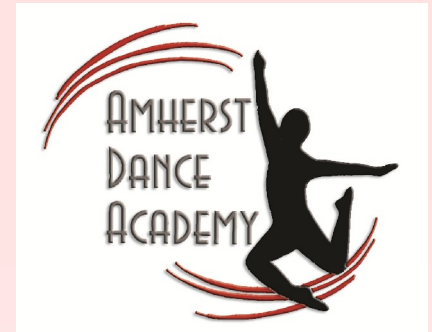
## Exam Costs

- Exam registration fee (to be paid with tuition for March):

Beginners:	\$18	Grade 4:	\$40
Pre-Primary:	\$21	Level 5:	\$45
Grade 1:	\$24	Level 6:	\$50
Grade 2:	\$32	Level 7:	\$60
Grade 3:	\$35	Level 8:	\$70
- Exam preparation classes (levels Pre-Primary and up):

These classes are highly recommended as on average 70% improvement takes place during this preparation time. These 4 extra classes will be held on selected Saturdays in March and April. All four classes are included in the flat rate of \$30. These classes are not pro-rated.
- Class music deposit

Class music will be made available for students interested in using music as they practice at home. A \$5 cash-only deposit will be collected for the class music, and \$5 cash will be returned to you once the CD has been returned. This opportunity is optional, and CD's will be available starting March 13th on a first-come-first-served basis.



*Amherst Dance Academy*  
**BALLET EXAMS**

**“Making dance fun for all ages”**

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## Pre-Exam Classes

Pre-exam classes, or exam preparation classes, are highly recommended for levels Pre-Primary and up! It's during this time of year that each dancer is working so incredibly hard to achieve high marks on their exam. So, the extra practice during this time coupled with the extra effort by each student continues to prove that an average of 70% of the improvements take place during these classes.

Mothers or a female supporter are encouraged to attend these classes to take notes for your dancer. Each dancer may have someone in the studio with them to put on paper the comments of the instructor. In this way, the reminders from class are available for at-home practice as well.

This year, we will hold 4 exam preparation classes.

March 13  
March 20  
March 27  
April 17

During these classes we will focus only on exercises to be seen in their exam.

Tuition for the exam preparation classes (\$30) can be included in your regular tuition payment.

### Exam Preparation Class Schedule:

9:15 - 10:15	Pre-primary/Primary
11:30 - 12:30	Grade 3
12:30 - 1:30	Grade 2
1:30 - 2:30	Grade 1

If your dancer is in a Beginner class (pink class), you do not need to worry about these exam preparation classes. At this young age, they are constantly absorbing what they are being taught. Instead of adding another class during the 4-6 weeks prior to exams, (although many 5-year-olds would love it!), we will only bring these dancers in for one "exam practice." This will give the dancers an opportunity to dance together as some of them may be enrolled in a different weekly class. This 45-minute exam practice class will be held Saturday, April 17th.

**Notify the studio by March 10th to enroll your student in the 2010 exam preparation classes!**

## Dress Code

Exams are classical and formal occasions. Students caring for every detail of the physical presentation.

**Hair:** classical bun with no bangs, and NO fly-aways (use lots of gel and hairspray) Bun should be in the middle of the head, not visible from the front. If hair is too short for a bun, pull hair out of face with a hair band. A white ribbon (provided by ADA) will be placed around the bun.

**Leotard:** black tank style leotard (or pink leotard for Beginners)

**Tights:** pink (or white for Beginners)

**Shoes:** clean, well-fitted, pink practice shoes usually with ribbons attached. (A sheet is available from the office which shows correct placement of ballet ribbons and how to sew them on securely.)

**ADA Instructors are here to help! Arrive early for any assistance with hair, tying shoe ribbons, etc.**

## NEW EXAM DATE:

**2010 Ballet Exams  
Saturday, April 24th**

(Schedule for Exam Day will follow)

## Exam Day

**This year's examiner is Ms. Sonja Staines from Houston, TX, studio owner, and co-author of the SCB Syllabus.**

**Preparation** - All dancers will be beautifully groomed, from hair to shoe ribbons and everything in between.

**Arrival** - Be sure to arrive about an hour before the exam time—especially if you would like assistance with your hair (available on a first-come-first-served basis). This way each dancer will be completely ready to go when it's time to enter the studio.

**Studio Differences** - On exam day, there will be much excitement in the air. So, to aid in concentration for the students, the blinds on the observation window will not be open. Also, the mirrors in the studio will be covered. Exams are, in this way, similar to a dance recital: performing what has been learned.

**Starting the exam** - Most groups of students will need to wait for the examiner to finish writing the reports. To signal that she is finished with the reports and ready for the next group of students, she will ring a bell. Once the bell is heard, the dancers will begin running in (executing beautiful ballet runs), one at a time as directed by an ADA instructor.

**During the exam** - The exams will be over the exercises and exam dance that are practiced each week during class. An example of how each exercise will be marked is as follows: Needs Improvement or Mastered (M) which may be labeled as -M, M, M+, M++, and will reflect each student's strengths on each exercise. The exam also has two overall marks: Technique and Expression. At the end of their form, you will see these overall marks.

**After the exam** - Congratulations are definitely in order! You may want to celebrate with a flower for the dancer, and/or capture the moment with your camera. The dancers have all worked hard, and what a feeling to have finished the exam! In about a week, you can expect to receive the exam reports. They will either be mailed to you or you will receive them after your dance class. Exam reports may be not be opened at the studio.