

VDS village dance STUDIOS @ Ridge



FIRST DAY NEWS **2026-2027**

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back! We are all very excited to start the 2026-2027 dance season. We have a great year planned and cannot wait to get our dancers back into the studio! We have a lot of new and exciting plans for our dancers this year including three amazing Performances to highlight our dancers. We will be presenting our Nutcracker Performance on Saturday, December 12, 2026 featuring all of our Classical Ballet dancers and other VDS dancers.
On Saturday, January 30, we present our Annual Student Showcase featuring the Village Performing Company at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center. Then on May 9, 2027, we finish off the season as we present all of our dancers at our amazing Annual Spring Performances at the Carpenter Theater at The Dominion Energy Center.
I am grateful to have my amazing team of VDS Instructors all back with me this year, Ella Birdsong, Grace Bouchard, Kate Christner, Deandra Clarke, Lexi Firestone, Suzanne McClung, Taylor Ritchey, Paige Smith and Rob Petres. In addition, we are excited to welcome Amelia Semp to our team!
We have so much talent and energy to share with our students, and I am excited to get everyone back into the groove! Please check out our web site and like us on Facebook and Instagram so you can keep up to date with the new classes and workshops at VDS!
Melissa

VDS OFFICE TEAM ~ CONTACT US

VDS Office Hours (call for an appointment or tour)
Monday—Wednesday 10:30 -4:30pm
804-288-7735 ~ info@villagedance.com

MELISSA GRAVELY ~ DIRECTOR
~ E-mail: melissa@villagedance.com

KATE CHRISTNER ~ OFFICE MANAGER
~ E-mail: kate@villagedance.com

JORDAN RITCHEY ~ ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT
~ E-mail: registervdsrva@gmail.com

BE INFORMED

Please keep this handout for future reference. Other important notes will also be sent throughout the year so check your email and our web site. We will post our calendar of events and all handouts on our studio website. Any new updates or changes will be emailed and also posted on social media. So follow us on Instagram and Facebook!
A full performance packet for our Annual Spring Performance will be sent out in January with all the details that you will need for the event. Please feel free to e-mail us with any of your questions at info@villagedance.com. We are also working to set up text reminders through the Remind App. So check your email for the link to sign up.

OPEN HOUSE & TOURS

We would love to invite you to come tour the studio prior to our first week of classes. We will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, September 3, 2026 from 3pm –6pm. You can come to tour the studio and grab some VDS gear! For other appointments, please email and we will schedule a time for you to visit.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

We have found that our younger students do much better with drop off and pick up at the door. It allows us to get our dancers into the studio, focused and moving without the distraction of parents and siblings in the waiting area. We ask that if you need to come into the office, to please do so after classes have started or call and make an appointment.
~ Dancers will wait to enter the studio at the marked entrance outside. Instructors will open the door and welcome the dancers into the studio when it is time for classes to begin.
~ Dancers will be dismissed from studio C and parents should stand in line by the purple door to check out your dancer.
~ We are only responsible for your child while they are in the studio during class time. Please be prompt in picking up and dropping off. If you have an emergency, please call the studio and email us.
~ Dancers ages 8 and up can enter on their own and wait in the waiting room for their class to open. They can also be picked up from our waiting room.

TUITION BILLS

~VDS invoices will be emailed from our Quickbooks account with a direct link to pay online. You can also mail or drop off a check. We also accept payments through Pay Pal and Cheddar Up. If you have any questions, email Jordan at registervdsrva@gmail.com
~Payments *not received within 15 days of the due date* will receive a $25 late fee. Late fees will continue to accrue every 15 days payment is not made.
~As noted in your registration policies, the payment plan is available for your convenience. If you select the payment plan, you will be charged a one time service fee of $40 and will receive an emailed invoice with the tuition breakdown and details of your plan.
~All tuition is due in full and is non-refundable.

POLICY ON REGULAR STUDIO CLOSINGS

All scheduled holiday closings have been listed on the enclosed schedule and are on our calendar on our website. The studio will not observe bank holidays. In cases of severe weather the studio will open IF teachers are able to attend safely. We will send emails and will post on all social media accounts to notify all of our VDS students if we decide to close due to inclement weather.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

~Phones are not permitted to be used during class. VDS Instructors will ask all students to put phones on silent and leave in their bags during class.
~All students are expected to follow the class rules. Students that disrupt the class will be given three opportunities to correct their behavior before they are sent out of the class and to the office.
~Students that continue to disrupt the class will not be allowed to continue in our program and tuition will not be refunded.

PARENT OBSERVATION & PHOTOS

We will be offering an informal Parent Observation for our younger dancer's families in January. Parents are invited into our large studio for a 20 minute observation of their dancer's class. We will rotate each class and parent group during their regular class time. Dancers will be in class for the full time during this week. A specific schedule for each class will be sent out in November with some pictures from our classes. There is a limit of 2 people per student to observe. Classes in level II or higher will not have an observation. The older dancers will be sharing photos in December.
We will also continue to take a few class photos that we will share with our parents throughout the season. Please make sure that you sign our photo release form so that we can share our class action shots on Instagram and Facebook.

PICTURE DAY

We are working to set up a Picture Day with a professional photographer and will have more info. Coming soon.

NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE

All of our Classical Ballet classes and Ballet & Tap will have the opportunity to perform in our VDS Nutcracker Performance! Auditions for our older dancer Special Parts will be held August 26th, 2026 from 6:30-7:30pm. For younger dancers, Special Parts are available and will be open for sign ups mid August. All of our ballet classes will learn a dance during their regular class time to perform in the show. We have special dates for cast rehearsals and everyone participating will attend two full rehearsals before the show. We will present our Nutcracker on Saturday, December 12, 2026 at Benedictine High School Theater. This event is a fundraiser that will help us to provide photography and videography for our VDS dancers, provide VDS Scholarships and a portion of our ticket sales will go to a non-profit organization.
Our previous performances have made donations to Miracles in Motion, ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation and Tads Kids . Everyone is welcome to attend this fun event to support our dancers. Tickets will go on sale in November. Digital downloads from Memories Video will also be available for purchase.

ATTIRE

~Please make sure your child has the appropriate attire for class. See our website for details.
~If your dancer is unable to come dressed for class, they can use our changing room. Please do not leave items in the changing room.
~Dance bags are highly recommended for all dancers. Please send in the appropriate shoes and a water bottle. Bags will be placed on the shelves in each studio upon arrival.
~Please mark your dancer's shoes with their names in permanent marker. We will hold lost and found in the waiting room, so check there if you lose something.

SPRING PERFORMANCE COSTUMES

~ As stated in our policies and rates, Spring Performance Costumes are not included in our tuition rate. Costume fees are $75- $85 per costume and includes the sizing, selection, shipping and retail value. Costume invoices must be paid in full by January 15, 2027 for dancers to participate in the Annual Spring Performance.
~Dancers are not required to perform in the Spring Performance but you must let our Office know by November 15, 2026 so that our instructors can plan and costumes are not ordered.

SPRING PERFORMANCE VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteer parents to help with our Spring Performance. Please check yes on your Student Info. Form sent in August if you are interested. In the past we have had parent volunteers and alumni that have helped us with our dancers backstage. In recent years, we have had to hire babysitters to help. If you have a babysitter that would be interested in working at our show, please let us know.