

ANN PARSLEY

SCHOOL OF DANCE

CECCHETTI EXAM INFORMATION

EXAM DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018

Ann Parsley School of Dance uses the Cecchetti method of ballet as a teaching tool for serious students. This method consists of Primaries I, II, III and Grades I-Diploma. Students are recommended for an exam class after several years of study. In graded classes, most students become eligible to take a ballet exam when they have been in the class twice a week for two or more years. In an exam class, students master and perfect the syllabus of the grade. Often students think that they are ready to take an exam when they “know the combinations, the terminology, or have been in the grade for one or more years.” In reality, that is only the beginning.

Generally speaking, for any level, students who take exams should take a minimum of two ballet lessons per week in the level they wish to test. In an effort to provide the student with the greatest opportunity to succeed in the exam, we ask that those students interested in examining attend two classes. This gives the students a chance to master and perfect the syllabus of the grade. The students should have excellent attendance, and practice and study regularly at home. A student should not attempt to take an exam unless he or she is willing to make this commitment.

Talented, hardworking dancers usually spend two years in preparation for each exam. On rare occasions an individual will go through one level in a year. Please remember that this method is used to ensure the systematic development of a dancer on an individual basis. Some students start out slowly and speed up. Some students start out quickly and slow down. Individuals mature and grasp concepts at different times.

No student is required to take a ballet exam. Some dancers elect not to test and study for years without taking exams. It is possible to progress to the next level without taking an exam if the student has mastered all of the necessary technique to advance to the next level. However, a student may not advance without the teacher’s permission. If a student is interested in testing, they should: notify their teacher of their desire to test, begin attending two classes a week of the level in which they would like to test and purchase a grade book with steps and terminology from the front desk. The student must get the approval of their teacher before they are eligible to take an exam. Please respect the judgment of your teacher and accept her decision.

Students that are interested in testing work diligently on the grade for months while they are observed by the teacher. Usually, a few weeks before the exam, the Cecchetti teachers meet and decide who is prepared to test, based on their understanding of the material and ability to execute the steps properly with the required technique and quality of movement.

There are several benefits of taking an exam. Exams offer students an opportunity to demonstrate their technical ability and understanding of the material. Each level provides attainable goals that build self-confidence in their developmental progress and successful achievements. They receive beneficial comments and corrections from CCA examiners. Most importantly, exam preparation motivates the dancer as they are driven by the desire to master the syllabus. As a result, they develop a higher level of discipline and their technique is greatly improved. For these reasons, it is recommended that students try to take an exam. In the end, if they have not yet mastered the required technique, they still will have improved significantly.

Please remember that the Cecchetti method is used to ensure the systematic development of a dancer on an **individual basis**. No two students are alike! It is our goal to provide all of our dancers with a solid foundation through the focus of proper technique. Thank you for choosing to dance with us!

The current fees for exams, book prices and exams lengths are listed below. These fees go to the Cecchetti Council of America. They pay for: the examiners to examine, the registrar to organize, the printing of certificates, the compiling of fees, and the keeping of records. The Cecchetti Council of America is a nonprofit (501c) educational organization.

| Grade | Exam Fee | Book Price | Exam Length |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Primary I and II | Based on # of students | \$6.50 combined I-III | 30 min |
| Primary III | Based on # of students | \$6.50 combined I-III | 45 min |
| Grade I | \$55 | \$3.50 | 45-60 min |
| Grade II | \$55 | \$3.50 | 45-60 min |
| Grade III | \$65 | \$4.50 | 75 min |
| Grade IV | \$75 | \$5.50 | 90 min |
| Grade V-Elementary | \$95 | \$10.50 | 90 min |
| Grade VI-Intermediate | \$105 | \$15.50 | 90 min |
| Grade VII-Advanced | \$125 | | 120 min |
| Diploma | \$185 | | 120 min |
| Blue Book for Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced | | \$10.50 | |

Grades may be told to each examinee on a confidential basis. The goal of all students should be simply to do the best that they can do and to pass the exam. Any special grades are extra and considered “honors”. The grading scale is as follows:

RETAKE - The student did not pass, but can retake the exam after waiting one year.

CONDITIONAL PASS - The student passed, but must wait two years before taking the next level exam.

PASS - The student fulfilled the requirements for the grade.

PASS PLUS - The student took an above level exam.

PASS COMMENDED - The student took an outstanding exam.

PASS HIGHLY COMMENDED - The student took a near perfect exam. This mark is very rarely given.