

2023-2024 Zeeland Youth Dance Company and Zeeland Dance Company Contract

Company Rehearsal Times/Locations

ZYDC Teal: Mondays: 5:30-7:30, Report to Performing Arts Room

ZYDC Silver: Mondays 5:30-7:30, Report to Shoreline Studio

ZDC Teal: Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 Report to Performing Arts Room

ZDC Silver: Mondays 7:30- 9:30 Report to Shoreline Studio

The following are the rules and requirements for participating in Company:

1. **Dancers must enroll in weekly technique classes.**
 - a. The minimum requirement is two classes per week and at least one of those being a Ballet Technique class. Secondary classes meet the requirement for the second class. A la carte classes such as Jazz Funk or Tap do not meet the weekly requirement. Dancers in ZDC are highly encouraged to take at least three weekly classes, two Ballet Technique (or one Ballet and one Jazz Technique) and one Secondary.
 - b. **Dancers should remain in good standing with attendance in their required classes.** Dancers missing more than three technique classes in a semester, may jeopardize their Company status.
2. **Dancers must have the following items in like-new condition for Performances**
 - a. Black leotard needed as base layer for performances:
 - i. Adult sizes: Capezio CC110 Camisole Leotard with BraTek
 - ii. Child sizes: Capezio CC100-C Camisole Leotard with adjustable straps
 - b. Solid black booty shorts (no visible logo) preferably with a 3 inch inseam.
 - c. Pink Split Sole Ballet Shoes
 - d. Tan or Skin Tone Matched Split Sole Ballet Shoes
 - e. Tan or Skin Tone Matched Split Sole Slide on Jazz Shoes
 - f. Pink Convertible Tights
 - g. Tan or Skin Tone Matched Body Tight
 - h. Black Company Track Jacket.
 - i. Dancers en pointe should keep TWO pairs of sewn pointe shoes ready for class and performance at all times
 - j. ZDC dancers only should purchase dance socks in the appropriate skin tone color.
3. **Dancers must adhere to the following dress code for classes and rehearsals**
 - a. Dancers should wear solid black leotards to weekly rehearsals. They do not need to wear their required leotard to weekly rehearsal, but may if they choose to.
 - b. Pink convertible or footed tights in good condition should be worn to all weekly Company rehearsals.
 - c. Arrive with hair in a secure, neat bun, no bangs on the face. If hair is too short for a bun, it must be secured off the forehead and off the neck, if possible. When buns are required for performances, dancers will need to have a hair piece if they do not have enough hair for a bun. The goal is to have hair that does not need to be redone throughout class.
 - d. Bring Required Shoes to Rehearsal
 - e. No visible undergarments, please. Underwear is generally not worn under leotards; tights serve as the bottom layer. If a dancer needs chest support, please find a leotard with built in support, utilize body tights, or a skin toned bra created to look invisible under leotards. A solid **black** sports bra that blends into your leotard may be worn .

- f. Long sleeve leotards may be worn in winter time for warmth, otherwise a fitted wrap around sweater may be worn until warm-up is over. The company jacket, baggy sweats, leggings, t shirts, tank tops, and long sleeve shirts are not acceptable warm up wear for company rehearsals.
 - g. Black dance shorts can be worn for jazz rehearsal only. Black ballet skirts may be worn for ballet rehearsal only. Dancers should come to rehearsal prepared to remove any extra clothing (including booty shorts or ballet skirt) at the directors' discretion.
 - h. No jewelry or accessories, except for a set of post or stud earrings.
 - i. Failure to comply with dress code requirements will result in probationary status (see below).
4. **Dancers must be committed to excellent attendance and promptness:**
- a. Dancers are allowed ONE unexcused absence from a Monday rehearsal or calendar event per semester. All calendar events are required as well as parades (which may be excused for ZDC members only). Please submit an absentee form to the envelope in Studio A in advance of your absence.
 - b. Excused absences include circumstances of bereavement, illness/injury, or curricular conflict (extra curricular conflicts are not excused and count towards the one allotted unexcused absence per semester). In the case of last minute emergencies or illness, call the Zeeland Recreation service desk at (616)748-3230 to leave a message and please fill out an absentee form within one week following your absence. E-mails are great to let us know about absences, but we would like dancers to fill out the absentee form for accountability as well.
 - c. Summer rehearsals are required, but timely and well communicated absences will be excused during the summer months.
 - d. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of rehearsal. Dancers who arrive more than 5 minutes after rehearsal begins will be given an unexcused absence.
 - e. Dancers who miss more than their one allotted unexcused absence will be put on probationary status (see below).
 - f. Dancers should arrive early to prepare for class, so rehearsal can begin on time. Dancers are responsible to walk into rehearsal with their body completely warm and muscles (specifically core and turn out muscles) activated to prevent injury.
 - g. Extended absences due to long term illness or injury are dealt with on an individual basis.
 - h. Even when absences are excused, students should work with a fellow company member to catch up on missed material before the next rehearsal.
 - i. It is up to the discretion of the directors to determine if a dancer's lack of preparedness for rehearsals have left them unable to perform. Dancers should arrive with a concrete mental and physical knowledge of previously set choreography. This is the responsibility of the dancer. Choreographers will gladly answer questions and walk through sections of choreography for dancers who present knowledge of the choreography and a clear display that the choreography was practiced to the best of their ability.
 - j. The burden of obtaining missed information after an absence falls on the dancer and not the directors or choreographers.
5. **Classroom etiquette is held to the highest standards.**
- a. No talking during Company rehearsals. Weekly Company time is too short and valuable to waste time with chit chat. Please take advantage of special social events which are planned for fun and bonding. On Company nights, be prepared to walk through the studio door with absolutely no noise and get right down to business.
 - b. Dancers will maintain eye contact with the director or choreographer when they are talking/teaching at all times.
 - c. Stay on task. Questions for the choreographer should pertain to the task and choreography at hand. Unrelated questions should be asked after rehearsal. Dancers will refrain from rehearsing choreography from other pieces or classes during ZYDC time.

- d. Dancers do not sit down in rehearsal, unless directed to do so. Dancers do not lean against barres or walls while standing. Dancers maintain good posture throughout rehearsal.
 - e. No complaining. Address concerns with the instructor after rehearsal.
 - f. Failure to follow the above rules can result in dismissal from rehearsal. Dancers will be given one warning for talking and at the second offense, will be dismissed from the studio with the absence counted against them. Dancers who are dismissed twice from rehearsal will be placed on probationary status (see below) and any recurring offense can result in ejection from the company.
6. **Represent our organization well outside of the studio.**
 - a. Dancers must possess conduct becoming a young lady and a gentleman at all times.
 - b. We expect professionalism whether on stage, back stage during performances, at all fundraisers and outings or even during a break in the Recreation lobby.
 - c. Dancers must behave as models of courteous and helpful citizens to each other, young dancers whose eyes are always upon them, instructors, Recreation staff, and all parents (Yes, dancers, even your own).
 - d. Please limit conversations outside of class to ones that are positive and encouraging to all.
 - e. Please be respectful of other Recreation patrons and keep voices low in the lobby, this is a common area for all to use, not a dancer locker room.
 - f. Finally, be respectful of other dancers who are not in Company. Questions about company should not be addressed during regular class.
7. **Dancers must commit to respecting themselves:**
 - a. Make healthy lifestyle choices like eating a balanced diet, going to bed on time, studying in order to maintain good grades and refraining from peer pressure if friends are making bad choices.
 - b. Dancers should refrain from use of cigarettes, vapes, alcohol and illegal drugs.
8. **Dancers should participate in occasional group fundraisers.**
 - a. These events allow ZYDC to afford costuming and props, gain valuable community exposure, and almost as importantly, allow the members to bond by working together for a common cause.
9. **Dancers are responsible for a large number of costume pieces, props, and accessories.**
 - a. Dancers must agree to be responsible for caring for these items so that they are returned in the same condition as they are issued.
 - b. Individuals are responsible for replacing misplaced or damaged items, replacements can range from \$25-100 dollars depending on the loss or damage.
 - c. Costumes must be turned in on time. Costume check-in is often done on the first Monday night following the ballet and the night of auditions, with exact dates given through email. If you will be missing a costume check in date, please make arrangements with directors beforehand. For your convenience, a labeled bin is often left in the studio to collect items for a week or so after major performances. If a director or wardrobe volunteer has to track down missing items after this grace period, a late penalty of \$20 per item may apply to pay for the time of restocking.
10. **Other miscellaneous rules:**
 - a. No gum or food allowed in studio or performance venues.
 - b. No drinks in the studio, stage, auditoriums and performance dressing areas besides water. Water bottles are allowed; a fountain is readily available also. Dancers should wait for designated break times.
 - c. Remove street shoes before entering the dance studio.
 - d. Pick up after yourself and leave the studio, lobby, and all changing areas the way you found them.
11. **Communication comes in the form of emails.**
 - a. All company correspondence will come from our leisure coordinator, Corrie Hilt at chilt@zps.org. She is your first line of contact if you feel like you may be missing some information about upcoming events.

- b. Dancers should take the time to read these emails so they do not make the mistake of asking a question that has already been answered. Instructors do take the time to highlight important information, but many exact details are outlined in emailed form. Please make sure that your household account through Zeeland Recreation has current email addresses, and if dancers would like to receive dance communication themselves, they may add their email to the household as well.
- c. We do also utilize the Band app for quick sharing of information, pictures and videos. This is not the primary mode of disseminating information, but some dancers and parents find it useful for connecting with each other, and dancers really like to utilize it to share videos of choreography.
 - i. Here is the link to the full group Band:

12. Dancers should make the directors aware of injury right away.

- a. If pain does not resolve within several days to a week, we recommend seeking advice from a family physician sooner rather than later.
- b. Cases of injury are dealt with on an individual basis, but as a general rule, dancers missing or sitting down at rehearsal due to injury should be cleared to dance by a medical health professional 7-10 days prior to major performances. The dancer should be able participate fully in blocking and technical rehearsals leading up to a production. This is to be fair to the rest of the ensemble and any understudies put in place. Directors must also determine that the student knows his/her role. Factors such as when the injury occurred, how long the dancer was off her feet, age, ability, and the demands of the particular performance all weigh in when determining if a dancer is able to perform even after being medically cleared.

13. Conflict:

- a. Occasionally, dancers have a conflict with other dancers or a concern about their placement or a correction given. We encourage dancers to handle challenges head on and speak with us before or after a class. If a dancer would like a more confidential conversation, instructors will make arrangements.
- b. We encourage dancers to handle conflicts with other dancers in a similar, direct manner. But it is not the job of a dancer to correct others' behavior, as you can only control your own actions.
- c. If a student witnesses dangerous behavior, don't hesitate to inform a leader immediately. Your directors and choreographers care about the physical and mental/emotional well-being of students, so keep us informed of concerns or situations when necessary. Don't wait until after the fact to talk with us if you are facing a challenge for any reason, even those outside of dance. Know that the door is always open for communication.

14. Probation:

- a. Failure to comply with the above policies on a repeated basis may lead to dancers being placed on probationary status.
- b. Probation is a temporary status where it is up to the discretion of the directors to determine if participation in performances needs to be limited or if any additional measures must be taken.
- c. Probation can be lifted after four weeks or at the end of a semester if corrections are made.
- d. Please be aware that being placed on a probationary status may jeopardize future involvement with the company.

I have read the policies stated in the 2023-2024 contract and understand the consequences of disregarding these rules. As well as adhering to this contract, I agree to work as hard as I can during all rehearsals and classes, giving my utmost effort at all times. I will treat every dancer and instructor with respect to the very best of my abilities.

Dancer's Signature

Date

Parent Agreement:

1. I have also read the above policies and discussed them with my child. I understand and agree to reinforce the rules and ramifications of this contract. I commit to helping my daughter meet her agreement but also recognize she should be taught and encouraged to be as self-sufficient as possible for her age.
2. Parents must pay dues on or before the beginning of each quarterly term. Dancers cannot rehearse if dues are not paid.
3. Parents should refrain from talking about other dancers or dance families in a negative light and maintain a supportive environment not only for their dancer but all dancers, Company or recreation level. All dancers and their families are valued members of our dance family.
4. Parents should encourage dancers to speak with instructors regarding all concerns. After that, directors are willing to meet with parents and students together.
5. Please encourage other parents who come to you with concerns, to speak with directors directly.

Parent Signature

Date

Zeeland Youth Dance Company Absentee Form

Today's Date _____

Name _____

Date of Absence _____ Rehearsal _____ Performance _____

Reason for
Absence _____

How did you make up for your absence or what is your plan to do so?

_____ I have obtained missed information, if applicable.

Dancer's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____