



Welcome to the Zeeland Recreation Dance Program!

We are happy to see so many students return and new students enrolled in fall classes! The program continues to grow with students three years old - 12th grade and many of our recent grads going on to pursue dance in college. Dance instills confidence, discipline, and grace. Students form lasting friendships and gain great appreciation for the performing arts. It is our pleasure to watch our amazing dancers grow from year to year and also welcome new students to our dance family. Thanks for entrusting us with your children. We look forward to the year ahead. Here are a few important items to get you started-

- **Communication:** It is Zeeland Recreation's ongoing focus to improve parent communication and this year, it is our desire to go paperless and communicate both electronically and via our website. Because of this, it is critical that the office has your current e-mail address and one that you check regularly. Starting in October, monthly newsletters will arrive to your e-mail only on the second Tuesday of each month. We will provide valuable reminders of visiting days, order forms, deadlines and much more. As a test, we are sending this newsletter to the e-mail address that is currently listed on your household in our office. **If you do not receive this test email or you wish to update your records please contact Kris Ferry at kferry@zps.org**
- **Spring Recitals:** Besides visiting days, all dancers who participate in the same dance class for the entire year (fall and winter semesters) are invited to perform in a year end recital. This year, recital information and contracts will not be handed out in class. Instead, we are asking that you review the recital information and contract carefully online. Your payment signifies your agreement to the contract. There is no paper form to be filled out. Recital fees, which cover the cost of costuming, additional rehearsal and performance hours, may be paid by calling/stopping by the Recreation office or online at <http://recreation.zps.org> Recital registration deadline is Monday, October 31. Registration after the deadline will be accepted through November 11 with a \$25 dollar late fee. No further registration can be accepted after November 11.
- **Zeeland Recreation Dance Webpage:** Did you know that we have a page dedicated to dance on the Zeeland Recreation website? Please visit the site often. This is a valuable resource to help keep you up to date on all the latest information.

The following are a few policies of our program that help provide for a safe environment and facilitate a quality education for dancers of all interest levels in the studio-

- Parents are not allowed in the classroom as it interferes with the children's ability to focus on the teacher. **Visiting days will be held in December** (often at your child's last regularly scheduled class of the fall semester). If you wish to watch another time because your child will miss the visiting day, to accommodate out of town guests or for other concerns, please let an instructor know in writing a week in advance. Instructors will take such requests into consideration.
- Many of our classrooms have windows. We kindly ask that parents not gather at windows to watch, as this is distracting to students. This can be especially hard at our ECC location where the windows are quite large.
- Please take the time to use the restroom **before** class. Parents, please help preschoolers avoid starting a potty parade by helping them before class begins. Parents do not need to be in the building during class, but the parents of the youngest dancers sometimes stay on hand just in

case. A younger child who is independent in the restroom may struggle getting redressed into tights and a leotard.

- Leotard, tights and well-fitted canvas or leather ballet slippers (not satin) are required for classes. We have witnessed that dancers in proper dance attire vs. leggings and a tank/t shirt that says "Dance" tend to be more focused in class. Good fitting shoes from a reputable dancewear maker are important as they allow the foot to work properly and the dancers and instructors to see the toes and arches, ensuring correct placement. Tappers should have tap shoes. Colors of these items are not specified- any color of leotard, shoe or tight can work for class. If your child chooses to participate in the spring dance recital, certain colors for shoes and tights are then required. A guideline is printed in the Zeeland Recreation brochure stating some of our preferences and general recital requirements. See your instructor for further details.
- Minimizing accessories is **greatly** appreciated. Hats, tutus, tiaras, large hair bows or flowers, jewelry and/or fashion legwarmers are distracting and best left home for dress up. Fitted warm-ups may be worn when weather gets cold, if necessary.
- Boys can wear shorts (instructors like to view the knees) and a t-shirt or tank. As the student becomes more comfortable in class, less baggy and more fitted attire is preferred.
- Secure long hair out of the eyes and off the neck. Buns are preferred for ballet class. Make sure bangs are secured in a way that won't require constant adjustment.
- Food and gum are not allowed in the studio rooms.
- Water bottles are generally not necessary- they can cause damage to dance shoes if they leak inside of a dance bag or to the dance surface if a large amount spills. Drinking fountains are available to dancers. Drink breaks are offered if needed for classes longer than an hour.
- Remove wet or muddy footwear before entering a studio. Likewise, don't allow your dancer to wear his/her dance shoes outdoors.
- Please leave the studio and waiting areas as they were found.
- Please do not leave your student unsupervised before class and be prompt when picking up your child. Instructors will encourage young dancers to wait inside the classroom if a ride is late, esp. in locations where there is no front desk receptionist. There are times when instructors have to travel to a different location for another class and only have a short window to do so, so promptness when picking up is of utmost importance. Please speak with your instructor if you have specific concerns about drop-off/pick-up.

Thanks for your understanding. Just a few more things-

- If you ordered shoes or apparel from the Kicks Dancewear Sale those items are available from your instructor on your first day of class.
- All items left behind at any dance location will be taken to Zeeland Recreation and placed in the lost and found box in Studio A.
- As instructors, we are happy to speak with you about your child's progress or any other concerns you may have. Feel free to speak with us before or after your child's class. Messages can also be left for instructors by calling the Recreation office at 748-3230.

We can't wait to get moving! Thanks again for allowing us to share our passion with your children!

Warmly,

Rachel Plaggemars	rachel.zrecdance@gmail.com
Cydney Sheneman	cydney.zrecdance@gmail.com
Sarah Milburn	milburnsm@gmail.com
Kayla Hungerink	kaylahungerink@gmail.com