

Spring Dance Concert Information 2017

Thank you so much for your attention to the recital agreements and for helping us take care of costume fitting so it does not eat up valuable class time. Although we believe performance is very valuable to dancers' well rounded training, we love to remind all participants that our program's goals are always PROCESS over PRODUCT oriented. That means we want to encourage our dancers to develop artistry and technique and not just learn to pump out "perfect" routines. Time invested in a dancer's younger years in developing a solid foundation of technique will pay off in the dancer's long term future. This means each class will continue to spend the majority of class on the exercises that build this foundation. Instructors typically spend 15-20 minutes out of every hour on routines until it gets closer to the show.

If this is your child's first performance, welcome to recital world! We hope this letter serves to inform and reassure and not overwhelm! This is a lot of information coming in one piece, but we felt that having all of the necessary information in one place might serve you better to find important information later. Please read the information carefully and file it for later reference. Feel free to speak with an instructor if you have additional questions.

Show Days and Times by class:

Thursday, May 11, at 6:00 PM

All Dance Fundamentals, All Tap Fundamentals, Hip Hop Fundamentals, and All Pre-Primary

Friday, May 12, at 7:00 PM

All Primary, Secondary I and II, and Tap I-V

Saturday, May 13, at 7:00 PM

Secondary III-VIII, Tap VI-IX, Hip Hop I-III/IV

Our dance concerts are hosted by the Zeeland Youth Dance Company and Zeeland Dance Company. Our high school aged dancers will help supervise kids (so you can enjoy the show) and the companies will also perform. ZYDC/ZDC are Zeeland Recreation's auditioned ensembles of dancers in upper elementary – high school. These experienced dancers will make sure your child is cared for and help children on and off stage.

We do want to emphasize that none of these shows, certain groups or sets of classes are more important or valued to us than any other. We welcome our newest dancers into the program, congratulate this year's seniors, and celebrate dancers of every age and ability in between.

Finally, all of the shows are a great opportunity to bring young children to see live dancing. We encourage you to bring your child(ren) to a show that he or she is not in to watch. They will love

to see what kids just a little older or more experienced are working on as well as be inspired by talented high school aged students.

The following pages outline the blocking, dress rehearsal and show day process. Blocking and dress rehearsals are **REQUIRED**. Dancers who miss rehearsals without prior communication with instructors will not be allowed to perform, except in the case of emergency.

Save the Date - Recital Information Meeting

Please join us on April 12 for a brief informational meeting regarding our concert. Stay tuned to your newsletters for a location to be announced at a later date. This will be especially helpful for those who have not participated in one of our dance concerts before, but will also hold some detailed information for all participants. Things like show order and tight requirements will be finalized by this time.

Blocking Rehearsal at Dewitt Auditorium, Zeeland East High School

Monday, May 8

- 3:00 Secondary VI
- 3:30 Hip Hop II
- 3:45 Hip Hop III/IV
- 4:00 Tap VII
- 4:15 Dance Fundamentals 3 and 4 Year Olds (Ms. Rachel's Wednesday Morning)
- 4:30 Pre-Primary I
- 4:45 Dance Fundamentals for 4th-6th Grade
- 5:00 Dance Fundamentals for Young 5s/Kindergarten (Ms. Kayla's Friday Night)
- 5:15 Dance Fundamentals for 1st-3rd Grade
- 5:30 Tap Fundamentals for 1st-3rd Grade
- 5:45 Dance Fundamentals for Young 5s/Kindergarten (Ms. Sarah's Monday Night)
- 6:00 Tap Fundamentals for Young 5s/Kindergarten
- 6:15 Pre-Primary II
- 6:30 Primary II and Primary III
- 6:50 Pre-Primary III
- 7:05 Primary I
- 7:20 Tap VIII
- 7:40 Secondary VIIB
- 8:10 Tap IX
- 8:30 Secondary VIII
- 9:00 Pointe

Tuesday, May 9

3:00	Secondary V
3:30	Hip Hop Fundamentals
3:45	Hip Hop I
4:00	Dance Fundamentals for 3 and 4 Year Olds (Ms. Cydney's Wednesday Afternoon)
4:15	Dance Fundamentals for 3 and 4 Year Olds (Ms. Cydney's Saturday Morning)
4:30	Tap I and II
4:50	Primary IV
5:05	Primary VB
5:20	Primary VA
5:35	Secondary I
6:05	Tap III/IV
6:20	Secondary II
6:50	Tap V
7:05	Secondary III
7:35	Tap VI
7:50	Secondary IV
8:20	Secondary VII A

All dancers should arrive 15 minutes prior to the time listed (see attached schedule) ready to dance in a leotard, tights, proper shoes and their hair well secured out of their eyes and face. No costumes.

Each group will have approximately 15 minutes (30 minutes for groups that have two pieces) on stage to determine spacing on stage, entrances and exits, as well as one or two run-throughs of the choreography. Though the time may be short, this rehearsal is invaluable to the learning process. In the past we have had families not prioritize blocking rehearsal because of the brevity of the time required. We know that your time is valuable, so instead of having you block off an entire afternoon or evening for this, and making you sit around and watch several other groups, we worked hard to put a schedule together so that your time here, while short, would be well utilized. *Please do not let the other dancers in your child's class down by missing this rehearsal.* Dancers are dismissed when they are finished. Please be patient, as blocking can run behind schedule. Time spent on stage during blocking will make dress rehearsal run smoothly and make the dress rehearsal much more like the show. Without blocking, dress rehearsal would be a much longer process of learning where to stand as we go.

Dress Rehearsal at Dewitt Auditorium, Zeeland East High School

Wednesday, May 10

Saturday Show 4:00-6:00 PM

Thursday Show 6:00-7:00 PM

Friday Show 7:00-8:30 PM

Please arrive fifteen minutes before start time ready to dance in costume or first costume a half an hour prior to start time listed above. Dressing room opens one hour prior to dress rehearsal start time for those who have costume changes only. *If your child does not have costume changes, she should not be in the dressing room.* No supervision is provided in the dressing rooms during dress rehearsals.

No Dads/male guardians in the dressing room, please. Dancers who do not need to change, please report to the lobby and wait for invitation from directors to enter the auditorium.

*****Every dancer should bring a towel to put over the back and seat of their chair.** This is to prevent glitter from embedding into auditorium seating.

Dancers will sit with their class. Signs will designate where each class will be sitting. Two pieces before theirs, dancers are asked to quietly exit the side of the auditorium near the stage to go backstage to line up for their dance. When dancers are finished they are welcome to stay and watch or may be dismissed.

During dress rehearsal dancers will have one run through of their piece that is as close to the show as possible. Costume, tights, shoe, hair and makeup requirements should be met.

Dress rehearsal is your opportunity to take pictures and make sure everything stays in place with your child's costume and hair. It is not an opportunity for extended family members and friends to see the show.

Dance Concert Protocol

Dressing room will open and check in begins one hour and 15 minutes prior to show start time.

Check in: Dancers will check in with our volunteers at a check in table in the hallway south (left when facing the stage) of the auditorium outside of the dressing room. Dancers will be greeted by older dancers and brought to their class group. We apologize, but due to the amount of dancers and limited space, we simply cannot allow parents or guardians in any dressing room or waiting area. If you need help with your child's make-up, feel free to connect with the parents of

classmates and arrange a place to meet to do make-up somewhere in the lobby or adjoining halls before call.

Call: Please be checked in a ready to dance with costume on 45 minutes prior to concert start time.

Warm-up: 40 minutes prior to curtain. We want to emphasize the importance of proper warm up before shows to maximize all the hard work dancers have done throughout the year and prevent injury when adrenaline is flowing. Dancers should not miss warm up.

Check out: After the show, please send ONE female family member to the dance studio door across from the auditorium restrooms to pick up your child, we will keep kids organized and sitting together by class. (Dads- send a friendly mom in to get your child or let us know ahead and we can arrange to meet you, so you don't have to enter the dressing room to retrieve your child). Dancers in sixth grade and up may be dismissed without a family member, but please arrange a rendezvous point as the lobby is very busy after the show.

A few extra notes for ALL participants-

- The house opens half an hour prior to the start of the show.
- No photography or recording of any kind is allowed during the shows. (A professional video of each concert is available for purchase.)
- Dancers cannot check out from the dressing room/leave until the end of the show. If special circumstances force you to leave the show early, please make sure your tickets are aisle seats and make arrangements with your instructor to allow for your child's early dismissal.
- Under no circumstances may children in costume enter the auditorium after they are done dancing. Children remain backstage where they can watch the dance concert on TV or do other activities with the high school volunteers.
- ZYDC/ZDC sells flowers in the lobby as a fundraiser before the shows. Congratulate your favorite dancer with a beautiful flower.

Dancers are to meet the following requirements for dress rehearsal and the recital:

COSTUME- Dancers should wear all costume pieces, unless otherwise directed. Please follow all specific instructions if provided. Straps must be well-fitting and skirts pinned into place over the hip bones as skirts/ tutus tend to twist or ride up if not secured.

VPLs- Remember, female dancers should not wear underwear under leotards. Tights should always serve as a dancer's undermost layer. Please avoid the unsightly distraction of unmentionables sticking out of your daughter's costume on stage.

HAIR-TBD- As costumes arrive and choreography unfolds decisions regarding hair will be made for each class.

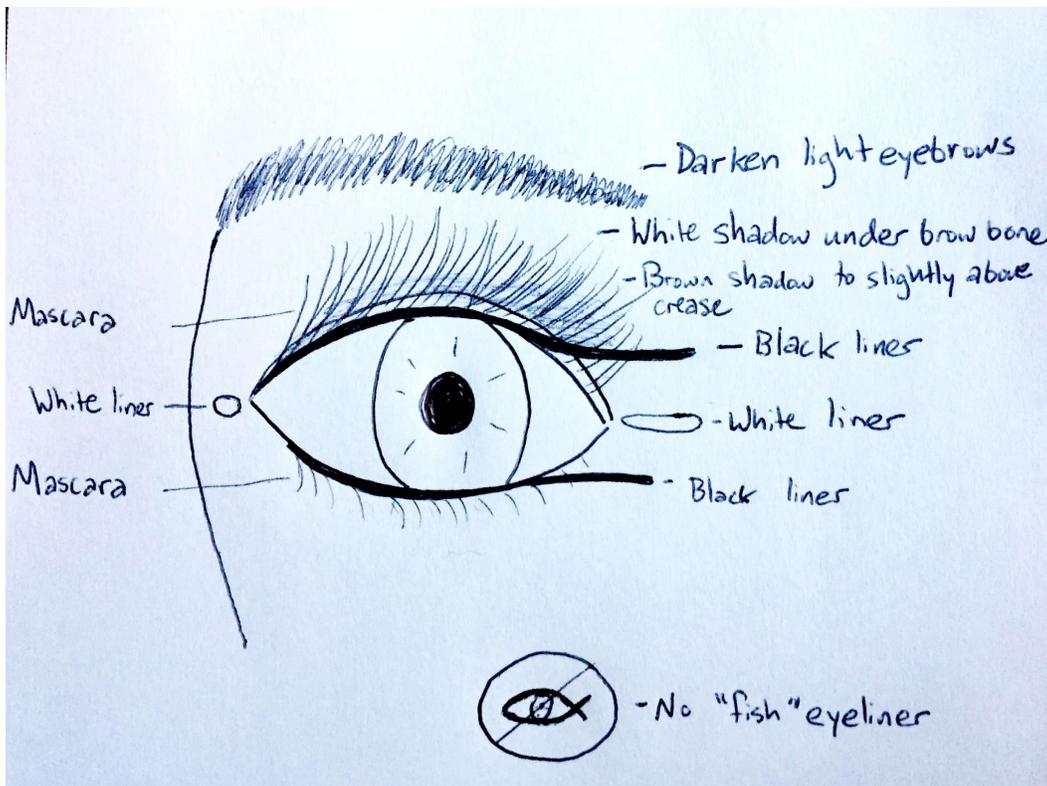
TIGHTS AND SHOES- As stated in the recital contract, dancers must have the correct shoes to perform on stage. Ballet slippers should be leather or canvas and must be properly secured with elastic sewn in place. Dancers in Secondary classes should have tan (caramel) colored jazz shoes, preferably lace less. *All tap classes use tan (or caramel) tap shoes (tie, buckle or slide on).* Boys wear black ballet, jazz or tap shoes for performances.

Exact tight requirements will be given in March. Tights order forms from Kicks Dance and Activewear are usually due at the end of March and delivered to the office by the last class or available at blocking rehearsal. We highly recommend Kicks for tights for consistency of color. In addition, these tights are very nice quality and durability for the price. Zeeland Recreation makes no money on this service. Tights should be footed (unless specifically indicated otherwise), and should be designed for dance (no texture or “control top” type of seam across the upper thigh).

MAKEUP- It is our policy that make-up be enjoyable for your child. We are not trying to instill a beauty standard for our dancers, but simply help their facial features (the students have worked hard on expression) stand out in the bright lights of stage. Please, do what makeup you feel good about considering your child’s age, skin type and coloring and after dress rehearsal make adjustments if needed.

Ladies, here are our recommendation for features and smiles that don’t wash out in stage lighting:

- Foundation one shade darker than complexion, if fair skinned
- Bright rosy blush on apples or sculpt a rounder face by applying blush under cheekbones
- Raspberry or red lipstick, can depend on costume or child’s coloring
- Eye Makeup for Stage
 1. Darken light eyebrows
 2. Highlight with white shadow under eyebrow on brow bone.
 3. Brown eye shadow into and slightly above crease, darker at outer corners
 4. Black eyeliner extends out from widest or near widest part of eye. This line should not wing up too much or eyes look slanted. These lines should NOT meet before winging at the outer corners of the eye (no “fish” eyeliner).
 5. Black eyeliner makes a shorter line under the eye. Eyeliner should not come together at the outer corners of the eye as this closes off the eye and makes it appear smaller
 6. White eyeliner makes a thin line, expanding the eye.
 7. White dot on inner corner makes the white of the eye look bigger.
 8. Black Mascara on Lashes.



If this stage make-up is too much for your child consider a simpler look and outline the eyes like you do for yourself, or if black looks harsh on your young child consider brown eyeliner instead. Feel free to use your discretion in these ways or others to ensure that makeup is enjoyable for your child.

Gentleman, we suggest stage make-up as you are not immune to looking washed out in stage lighting either. Foundation, subdued shades on cheeks (think more along the lines of bronzer), definition of lips (if necessary) and eyeliner are all appropriate. Boys do not use as bright of colors as girls and do not line the eye with wings. Again, what is comfortable is fine with us. Young men have time to get used to the idea of stage make-up as they continue to pursue performance arts and get older.

Spring Dance Recital FAQs

Q. When does my child get his/her costume?

- A. Costumes arrive sporadically. Once costumes are in for an entire class, they are tried on and sent home as they "pass inspection". For a class that has only some dancers performing, costumes are handed out more discretely. If that is the case, please try on and check the costume over at home. This prevents hurt feelings in young dancers whose parents have opted for various reasons for their child to not perform.

Q. How do I purchase concert tickets?

- A. Tickets are sold through order form by the Zeeland Recreation office beginning mid-late March. Order forms are processed in the order they are received. Walk in sales for tickets begin the week leading up to the show. Tickets may be purchased at the door if the show is not sold out.

Q. How can I get a DVD of my child's show?

- A. Like tickets, DVD orders should be turned in to the office and not handed to instructors. At all shows the ticket sales booth will have extra order forms and will also collect DVD order forms with payment. Order forms should be turned into the Zeeland Recreation Office and will be due at a later specified date sometime during the week following the shows.

Q. What if my child cannot attend a class?

- A. Please let us know by sending a note if you know in advance that your child will miss a class. Last minute absences can be reported to Zeeland Recreation at 748-3230.

Q. How can I help my child prepare for the recital?

- A. Encourage your child's steady attendance to class, download recital music for at home practice. With instructor's permission, parents may come to class to video tape choreography for at home practice. Have your child read this note or talk about expectations before these big events to help him or her feel prepared.

Q. What if my child is nervous on show day?

- A. After both blocking and dress rehearsal, even very young students usually feel quite comfortable going on stage. In our combined 10 -15 odd years of experience, we have never had a child not "go on". The more relaxed but well-prepared you can be as a parent; the better performance day usually goes for your child. A few common sense suggestions that you can do or encourage an older child to do herself include making checklists and having a show order (esp. when multiple costume changes are involved), laying things out the night or a few days before, and allowing plenty of time for getting ready. After dress rehearsal is done, don't assume everything is in the dance bag and wait

till Saturday morning to reset items. Go through your possessions sometime during the week to make sure all is in order. Be patient with children as last minute jitters can cause “out-of-character” behavior. We only know this because we hear it from seasoned parents. As far as we are concerned, kids keep it together very well in our presence, and we very rarely, if ever, have to address any type of “diva” attitude. So be patient, and help your child keep perspective. Don’t let small things escalate into major crisis and let us know what we can do to help.

Q. What else does my dancer need on show day?

- A. On recital day, your dancer may wish to bring a clean towel or throw to sit on and a quiet, neat activity, such as band bracelets or colors (no markers) to do. Personal electronic devices are not allowed in the dressing room. There should also be no food or drink in the dressing room. A water fountain is available.

Q. What if we have an emergency the day of the show and my dancer will not be able to perform?

- A. Please call Zeeland Recreation (616) 748-3230 and report emergencies as soon as possible. Once we arrive to the auditorium, we will not be checking email, so leaving a message with the recreation department is the best way to communicate the nights of the show.