



September 2017

Dear Dancers and Parents,

Welcome to the Zeeland Recreation Dance Program! The program continues to grow with students aged 3 through adult, with many of our recent high school grads going on to pursue dance in college. Dance instills confidence, discipline, grace and appreciation for cultural and fine arts. It is our pleasure to watch our amazing dancers grow from year to year, as well as to welcome new students to our dance family. Whether new or returning, please take the time to read the following information carefully, noting some new policies and important upcoming dates.

The following are a few policies of our program that help provide for a safe environment and facilitate learning in the dance 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 the classroom has windows, we kindly ask that parents not gather at windows to watch or allow siblings to do so, as this can also be distracting.
- Dancers, please use the restroom **before** class. Parents do not need to be in the building during class, but the parents of the youngest dancers often stay on hand just in case. A youngster who is independent in the restroom may struggle getting back into a leotard.
- **Please note our new dress code and shoe requirements.** 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 feet and arches, ensuring correct placement. Tap shoes are needed for all tap classes. Colors of shoes are not specified for class, however, if your child chooses to participate in the spring dance recital, certain colors for shoes are required. Minimizing accessories, such as hats, is also **greatly** appreciated. Full class guidelines and recital requirements are printed in the Zeeland Recreation brochure and can also be viewed online.
- 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. Drink breaks at close by drinking fountains are offered, if needed, usually 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.
- Don't leave personal items unattended in a lobby or waiting area. Bring items into the dance studios. 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. This helps us to keep back to back classes running on time. 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. Please speak with your instructor if you have specific concerns about drop-off/pick-up.

Thank you for your understanding and help as we truly aim to provide quality dance instruction to dancers of all interest levels and abilities and maintain a clean, secure environment. PLEASE READ ON FOR MORE VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION-

- Zeeland Recreation is working hard to reduce paper consumption in our department. It is critical that the Recreation office has your current e-mail address on file and that it is one that you check frequently. Look for future newsletters to arrive by e-mail. We will provide links to the Zeeland Recreation website to connect you to valuable information such as performance opportunities, dance apparel order forms and much, much more. **As a test, we will be sending this newsletter to the e-mail address(es) listed on your household. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THIS ELECTRONICALLY, PLEASE CONTACT KRIS FERRY at kferry@zps.org**
- 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 dance recital. **Recital Agreements with payment are due October 28.** Payments include the cost of extra rehearsals and costuming. Look for more information on recitals and registration soon.
- During the first weeks of class, please allow for adjustments to your child's placement. Instructors may make alternative class recommendations to find the best possible fit for your dancer.
- Kicks Dancewear Sale items have arrived. Unless you received a call from Kicks saying otherwise, your items will be available at your child's first class.
- Instructors never collect money. All performance contracts/ fees and other order forms that contain payments must be turned in directly to Zeeland Recreation. For your convenience, the office has an outdoor drop box available 24/7.
- All lost and found items will be taken to Zeeland Recreation and placed 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. Instructor's e-mails are also listed below.

Finally, we want to encourage our dancers in Preschool-5th grade to attend KID'S DANCE DAY on Saturday, October 14! This fun day is sponsored and taught by the high school aged members of the Zeeland Youth Dance Company, Zeeland Recreation's auditioned ensemble. First thru 5th graders registered for Kid's Dance Day are also invited to perform later that night in *Uplifted*, our Annual Benefit Dance Concert. This is a great opportunity for experienced dancers to share their talent on stage but also a chance for friends not signed up for weekly classes to gain exposure to the dance arts. Please support our program by signing up and inviting a friend to join you! To register, you may visit our website at <http://recreation.zps.org/dance/>, stop in to our office or call 748-3230.

We can't wait to get moving! Thanks again for entrusting us to share our passion with your child! We look forward to the year ahead!

Warmly,

Rachel Plaggemars, Dance Instructor/Co-Artistic Director
rachel.zrecdance@gmail.com

Cydney Sheneman, Dance Instructor/Co-Artistic Director
cydney.zrecdance@gmail.com

Sarah Milburn, Dance Instructor
milburnsm@gmail.com

Kristine Ferry
Aquatic, Fitness & Leisure Coordinator
kferry@zps.org