



# Royal Youth

DANCE ENSEMBLE

## 2024-2025 PARENT HANDBOOK





# Overview

Royal Youth Dance Ensemble or (RYDE) is a community-based dance program for children and youth ages 3-20. The mission of our program is to provide a creative outlet for youth that builds character, raises self-esteem, boosts confidence, and promotes positive interaction through artistic expression. The vision is to inspire youth to use the arts and its disciplines to aid them through life and its experiences. The HOPE is that the arts will act as a vehicle for guiding them through cultural exposure, enrichment, and enjoyment, which leads to healthier outcomes.

We offer Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Musical Theatre, Majorette, Tumbling, Cheer, and Hip-hop classes at RYDE Dance Studio, which is located at 1109 Abilene Place, Knoxville, TN 37917. We also provide outreach dance classes to local youth by partnering with local schools and community centers.

All classes promote social and emotional development, school readiness, spatial awareness, balance and coordination, and cooperative learning. All performances, recitals and classes are designed to build these 5-core virtues in our dance students: character, self-confidence, self-esteem, healthy self-image, and positive peer interaction.

We invite youth on a journey to proactively develop natural character that will last them a lifetime. The policies described in the following page were created to help further this mission.

## WELCOME TO RYDE DANCE



REMEMBER...  
THE BEST PERSON YOU CAN BE IS YOU!  
BE YOU  
BE UNIQUE  
BE KIND  
BE HAPPY  
BE CREATIVE

MOST IMPORTANTLY Bee-lieve in yourself! You can do it!



## Attendance

Our dance instructors spend a significant amount of time preparing for each class, so when a student misses, it takes time away from the whole class to teach what the child missed. From the first class in August through May, we will be working very hard on special performances, and our year-end spring recital. This makes class time even more valuable. Chronic absences hurt overall performance—whether it is in class or on stage.

- Students are expected to attend every class and to arrive on time to prevent disruptions.
- If a dancer misses more than the first fifteen minutes of class, she/he would not be properly warmed up. Injuries are less likely with properly warmed up muscles.
- Therefore, if a student misses more than the first 15 minutes of class, he/she will be asked sit and watch the rest of class.
- Progress in class is dependent upon regular and consistent participation.
- If students miss, they can make-up their class before the beginning of the next month.
- If your child will not be attending class, please call to inform us.

## Tuition

- Tuition is due by the 1st of the month during the regular dance season (Aug-May), regardless of attendance.
- Tuition is late if received after the 5th of the month.
- Our regular dance season runs for 10-months, tuition is calculated based on number of operating months, not on the number of weeks/classes in a month.
- If your child has had more than two consecutive absences, in a month, we will contact you to see if they will be returning back to dance.
- We require a two-week notice for class withdrawals.
- You may choose to pay monthly, by semester (Fall or Spring), by the or for the entire dance season.



## Annual/Sessional Fees

- Annual registration fee: \$35 per dancer. \$50 per family
- Winter performance fee: \$30 per student\* includes costume
- Spring recital fee: \$60 per student, per class \*includes costume
  - Costume payments may be made starting October 1st - Feb 1st
  - Costumes will be ordered no later than March 1st

## Tuition Rates\*

### MONTHLY

- 1 - weekly class: \$55/month
- Each additional class: \$30/month
- Five class bundle: \$150/month
- Unlimited classes: \$175/month

### SESSIONS: 4-12 week open sessions each semester and during summer

- Waived registration fee
- End-of-session dance demonstration day
- Open sessions: 1 class each week (45-60 minutes)
  - \$15 drop-in/weekly rate

\*Any tuition payment returned to Royal Youth Dance Ensemble as NSF, will be subject to a \$25.00 returned item fee in addition to the tuition owed. After two returned items, all payments for your account will be required to be paid via cash, money order, or cashier's check.



## Dance Attire\*

- Pre-Ballet: Ballet pink leotard, skin tone tights, and ballet slippers (no socks)
- Ballet I: Pink or black leotard, skin tone tights, and ballet slippers
- Ballet II: Black leotard, skin tone tights, and ballet slippers
- Ballet III: Black leotard, skin tone tights, and ballet slippers
- Tap: Black leotards, tights or leggings, and tap shoes
- Jazz: Leotard/shirt, leggings, or shorts, and jazz shoes
- Musical Theater: Leotard/shirt, leggings or shorts, and jazz shoes
- Modern/Lyrical/Contemporary: Leotard/shirt, leggings, shirt, and ballet shoes
- Hip-hop: sweat pants, jeans, or shorts, t-shirt & tennis shoes (no crocs, sandals, or flip-flops)
- Majorette and Cheer: t-shirt, shorts or leggings, and tennis or jazz shoes
- Tumbling: t-shirt, shorts, tennis shoes - no crocs or sandals
- Dance Company: company t-shirt, shorts or leggings, and jazz shoes

\*We have a dancer's bin for students who may need uniform assistance.

## Performances

- At the end of the Winter/Spring/Summer sessions, we will have a performance/recital showcase.
- It is not mandatory, but we encourage participation and dedication while preparing for these events, as missing classes will cause dancers to miss important routines, techniques, and instructions.
- Teachers will make recommendations of students to participate/perform in special performances/events, then talk with parents and students to determine level of commitment for extra rehearsals/practices in preparation for event.
- The performance-ready rehearsals will be scheduled accordingly.

## Try it or Trial Classes

Try it classes are trial classes that will determine which class/style is the right fit for your child. Whether your child desires more advanced level classes, performance opportunities, or shorter session classes that are more recreational, which are fun dance classes for children with no prior dance experience, our team is ready to help you choose the best dance experience for your child. We are more than happy to set up a time to schedule your child's first dance experience with us.

For more information about this process, feel free to call us 865-745-9363 or email us at [royalsdance129@gmail.com](mailto:royalsdance129@gmail.com).



## Free Dance Days - October & February

Bring your buddy or best friend to class with you and enjoy dancing together during our Character Dress-up week in October and during our Love the RYDE week in February! This is a great way to invite kids in our communities to a fun day of dance by trying out a class, commitment free! We also invite friends to come during the first back to dance week in August and after spring break, in April for our Sampler week.

## Dancers on Social Media

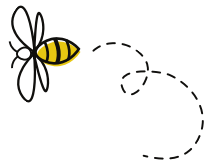
We are working hard to keep our dancers and parents informed. We try to post events, deadlines, pictures, and announcements on our closed Royal Youth Dance Ensemble (RYDE) group page on Facebook. But, many are not on FB, therefore I will send it in an email. There is a Facebook public page that is set-up for general information, upcoming events, etc. We also use the BAND app, which is a phone texting app that we use to send out mass texts. Please keep us informed when you've had a number change.

## Private Appointments

- During the session, if a parent or dancer has a problem that they would like to discuss, we will set up a meeting for you to have with our Director, Sherra Robinson-Branner, Studio Manager, and/or Teacher.
- Parents, PLEASE address your concerns before or after class and not in front of other parents and/or the dancers.
- We value our parents' opinions and concerns.

## The Royal Bees - Classroom Expectations

- Be in control of your body
- Be in control of your voice
- Be aware of your personal space
- Be respectful of yourself, others, and our studio
- Be kind to your teachers and your fellow dance mates
- Most importantly, be unique...and be YOU!



## RYDE Student Lounge: The Royal Hive



The RYDE Student Lounge is a safe space for dancers to come for relaxation, complete homework or study. The Hive promotes positive social interaction, where dancers feel comfortable and at ease, while waiting for their dance class(es) to start. The Hive is a space that creates community, gives a sense of belonging, and offers a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Dancers can also come to the Hive to play games, watch television, have fun, and have a snack. \*Students must clean up their area(s) when they leave the Hive.

## RYDE Dance Company: The Royal Gems



The RYDE Dance Company is a group of dancers who perform in the community at local youth dance festivals, fairs, parades, and other community events. They are exposed to a professional dance experience in a non-competitive environment. Company members are required to take a Company choreography class, a jazz or ballet class, and an elective class during both the fall and spring semesters of each dance season. They are also required to take a two dance intensives/workshops and one choreography class during the summer months. Dancers are also expected to participate in at least two performances (outside of their normal winter performance and spring recital) throughout the season

RYDE-Dance Company consists of dancers who have committed to respect themselves, others, and to help serve their community. They are dedicated to being the best they can be by uplifting others through the art form of dance. These disciplined dancers train in majorette, ballet, jazz, and lyrical dance styles but are open to learning additional dance styles/genres that will help them continue to develop and strengthen their technique skills, balance, and coordination.



## WAIVER & RELEASE FROM LIABILITY FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print your name) have chosen to have my child, \_\_\_\_\_ (print child's name), participate in dance instruction given by The Royal Youth Dance Ensemble or RYDE. I acknowledge that I understand the nature of the activities my child will be participating in and the possibility that despite precautions, accidents and/or physical injury may occur.

I/we agree to release and hold harmless The Royal Youth Dance Ensemble or RYDE including its dance instructors/teachers, and staff members from any cause of action, claims, or demands now and in the future. I/we will not hold The Royal Youth Dance Ensemble or RYDE liable for any personal injury or any personal property damage or loss, which may occur on the premises before, during or after classes or which may occur at any Royal Youth Dance Ensemble or RYDE sponsored event outside the studio.

Furthermore, I/we agree to read and follow the class and facility policies and take full responsibility for my/our behavior in addition to any damage I/we may cause to the facilities utilized by The Royal Youth Dance Ensemble or RYDE a hard copy can also be obtained at the location.

I authorize and agree that The Royal Youth Dance Ensemble or RYDE may take and use photographs, videos or likenesses of myself or my child as needed for its record keeping, advertising, social media and/or public relations projects and that I have no rights to the same and will not be compensated for the same. Photos will not be sold, exploited, or used for personal gain.

My signature is proof of my intention to execute a complete and unconditional waiver and release of all liability pursuant to the terms herein, and agreement as to all terms and conditions contained above. I am of lawful age and competent to sign this affirmation.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THIS RELEASE FORM PRIOR TO SIGNING THE REGISTRATION FORM FOR PARTICIPATION IN The Royal Youth Dance Ensemble or RYDE.

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Legal Guardian (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Legal Guardian (Sign)

\_\_\_\_\_ Dancer's Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Dancer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

