



RYDE RESILIENT

2023-2024

Welcome Packet



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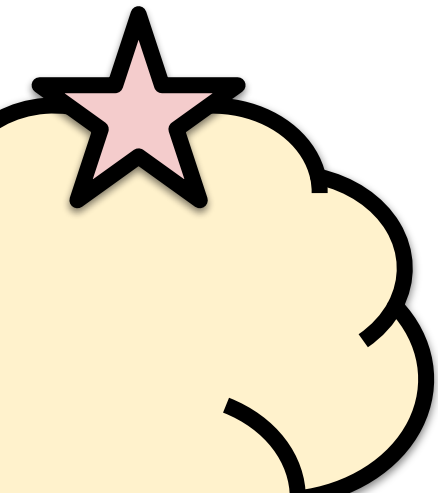
We are looking forward to taking off to a brand new season at RYDE Dance! This season marks RYDE's 9th year and the entire staff is prepared to make this our best one yet.

To our RYDE Dance Parents:

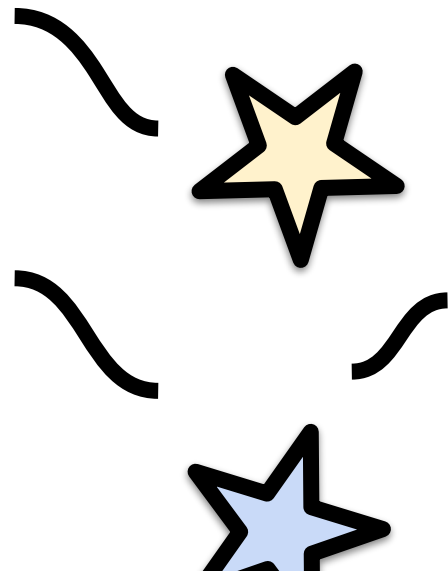
As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your dancer financially, but your emotional support is of even greater value.

Please encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be, regardless of what others may achieve. All students will progress at a different rate, even if they experience the exact same training. What comes easily for one student may present more of a challenge for another.

It's important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be proud of their own accomplishments, so thank you for allowing them to continue or start their journey of dance with RYDE by enrolling them for dance classes this dance season.



ROYAL YOUTH
DANCE ENSEMBLE





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RYDE : PLACEMENT

Placement 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.

This year, RYDE was able to offer two trial weeks for new/returning students to come and try as many new dance styles as they preferred. This gave students and teachers an opportunity to determine which style/class dancers would enroll in for the season.

The third week of our trial period is designated for enrollment into the class our classes parents have decided for their child/children, based off of the teacher's recommendation and in some cases, your child's interest.



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RYDE : EXPECTATIONS Studio Environment

We ask that the noise level from siblings and parents waiting be kept at a reasonable level when classes are in session. Please only bring water and tightly covered drinks. Your courtesy will be greatly appreciated.

Students and parents should not go behind the front office desk for any reason. Should you need help with something, ask one of our staff members. Parents and students should never interrupt a class in session.

Children must be supervised at all times and are not free to run around the lobby, restrooms, hallways, or studio areas. Do not speak negatively about teachers, students, or parents from other studios - this includes social media.

All students must show respect for their teachers at all times. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the studio.

Classroom Environment

There is to be no gum, food or sodas in the dance studios at any time.

Students must eat snacks/dinner in the reception area/lobby.

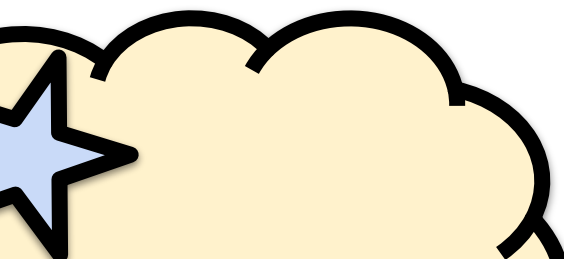
Water bottles are permitted.

NO CELL PHONES allowed in the classroom. If a student's cell phone is seen it will remain at the desk for the remainder of the evening.

If you need to get in contact with a student that is in class, please call the front desk and our staff will happily relay the message to your student.



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RYDE : MISSION, VISION, & GOAL

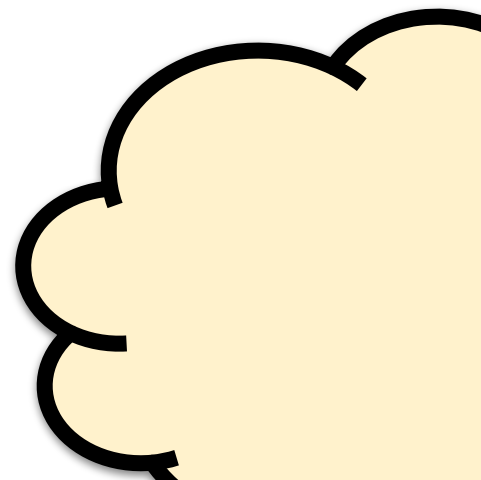
The mission of our program is to provide a creative outlet for youth that builds character, raises self-esteem, boosts confidence, and promotes positive interaction through artistic expression.

The vision is to inspire youth to use the arts and its disciplines to aid them through life and its experiences.

The *GOAL* is to provide ARTs for ALL in a safe, welcoming, positive environment. Allowing the arts to act as a vehicle for guiding them on a journey of self-discovery, freedom to express themselves, cultural exposure, recreational enrichment, enjoyment and fun.



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RYDE : OUR PHILOSOPHY

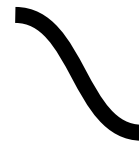
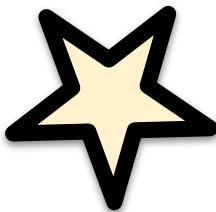


RYDE is committed to providing high-quality dance classes to enhance the overall development of the child.

We provide a safe and child-centered environment to encourage our students to explore dance with qualified, nurturing teachers.

We believe that dance training encourages young people to develop a positive self-image as they increase awareness of their physical being. Along with improving coordination skills and developing muscular awareness, dance classes give children the freedom to express themselves through movement.

The highest educational standards are expected from all. RYDE staff members are lifelong learners who continue to educate themselves through certification programs, teacher-training schools, conferences, and other learning opportunities.



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RYDE : COMMITMENT

Statement of Commitment to Child Safe Standards:

RYDE has a commitment to providing a safe environment for all children and young people who access our services, actively implementing strategies to ensure that services are physically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally safe. All children and young people involved with RYDE have a right to feel safe and be safe.

The welfare of the children and young people in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to abuse, which is any act committed against a child/young person involving:

- ★ physical violence
- ★ sexual offences
- ★ emotional or psychological abuse
- ★ neglect

RYDE proactively takes measures to protect children and young people from abuse which also includes actions and attitudes that deliberately ignore, deny, denigrate or attack the culture of a person or community.



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RYDE : CORE VALUES Interactions

We measure all our interactions with staff and customers in accordance with the values. We expect the same between team members, and between customers.

Decision Making

We refer every decision we make back to how it would affect our values which in turn directly affects the experience our students (and parents) receive. Our vision for our students is our core business.

Failure to adhere to the values is failure itself.

Accountability

Performance is measured on how the individual team members demonstrate the Core Values in day to day interactions. Were they welcoming, engaging, and positive in class? Do they interact and communicate with parents with respect and integrity?

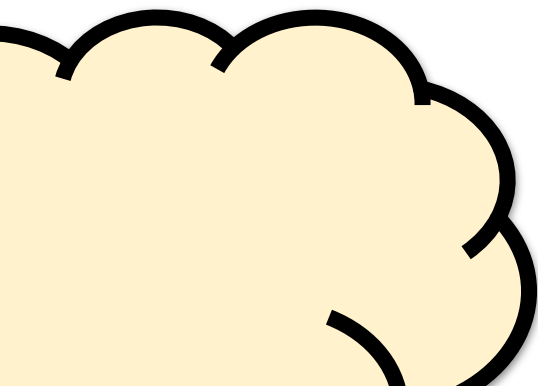
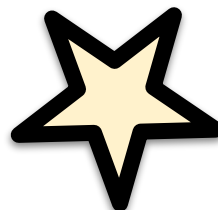
RYDE defines the way in which we manage our relationships, internally and externally, through our Core Values.

What our customers can expect from us, and what we expect from them:

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
COMMUNITY FOCUS
CONNECTION, ENGAGEMENT
COMPASSION, PASSION
PROFESSIONALISM,
QUALITY, EXCELLENCE
SUPPORT, RESPECT & HONESTY



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DANCE ENSEMBLE**





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DANCE ETIQUETTE

Arrive on time for dance class

When dancers arrive on time it allows them to get settled and focused, so they do not enter the class in a whirlwind. Often when parents bring their little ones to class late, the child feels overwhelmed. This is because they don't have time to get used to their surroundings.

Entering the dance class

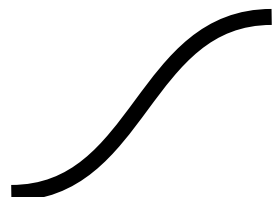
Dancers should wait outside the classroom until the teacher invites students in to begin dance class. It is challenging for the dance teacher when children are running around the room, while the teacher is trying to set-up for their next dance class or talk with parents. The teacher needs an appropriate amount of time for preparation so they can teach the next class well.

Dance studios dress code

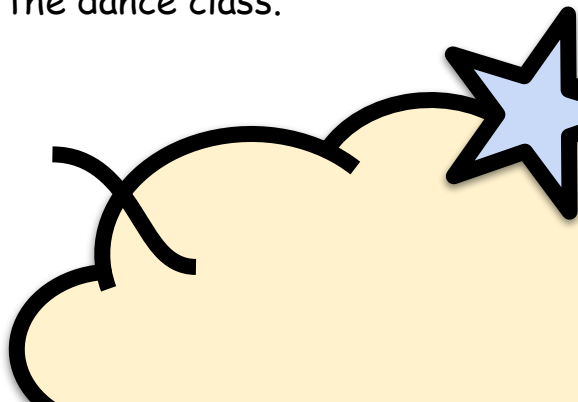
Please follow your child's dress code (as noted in the parent handbook). Often, young dancers show up in party dresses, costumes, or jewelry. As fun as that is, it can be very distracting to everyone in the room. Dance attire is flexible and clingy to show the dancer's lines while giving them the ability to move as much as they can. Please wear appropriate dance shoes, as this make a big difference too!

Talking in dance classes

With an experienced dance teacher, time should be given to the dancers to talk to help cut down on disruptive talking while the lesson is going on. In children's dance classes, kids begin to learn that they should be quiet unless their teacher is asking them to speak or it is an unstructured time of the dance class.



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DANCE ETIQUETTE

Water breaks in dance classes

Many teachers give about one water break per hour in children's dance classes. Especially if the class is high energy or if it is hot. Some teachers do not give any water breaks in young ballet/tap dance classes for kids if the dancers are in a more mellow environment. When children start asking for a water break frequently, that means they are losing focus. Dance classes run much more smoothly when dancers know to wait for their teacher to give them a break rather than interrupting. Please send your dancer with a labeled water bottle if needed.

Restroom breaks in dance classes

Dancers should go to the restroom before dance class starts. It is especially difficult for a teacher if a child needs to go to the restroom and their parent has already dropped them off.

Parent involvement during dance classes

Parents should not enter the class without being asked by the teacher or giving comments/feedback to their dancers during it. It can be very distracting to the student and affect their attitude. If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments, please talk to your teacher or dancer after the dance class.

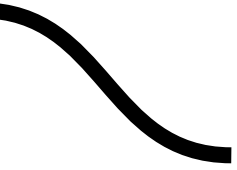
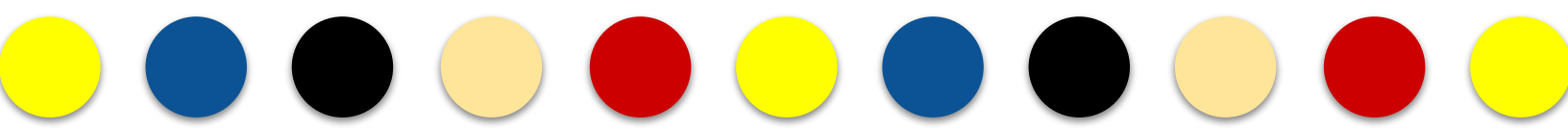
Parents stay outside the dance classes

Some younger dance classes ask that parents stay in the room and participate while others ask that you stay out. This is really about the developmental stage of the child. When kids are under 3 years old, it is very beneficial to have parents in the room helping as needed. When kids are 3 or older, they tend to focus and have better attitudes when parents watch from a distance. Please respect your teacher's rules if you register for his or her kids' dance class. Explain to your dancer in advance that they are in a big kids' class and tell them where you will be. This way, they won't get any surprises and will feel more comfortable knowing where you are.



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DANCE ETIQUETTE



Distractions in dance classes

Dancers should not bring anything into a dance class that will be distracting to the learning environment such as toys, electronics or accessories. These only end up causing more problems and sometimes tears if the teacher has to take them away from the dancer.

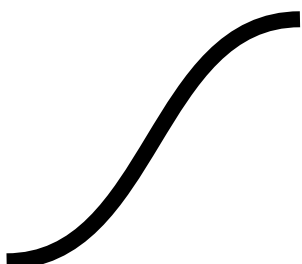
Thanking your teacher after dance classes

It is a tradition in dance class (all ages!) to thank your teacher after class for giving you their knowledge and energy. It is a big sign of respect and teaches kids that dancing is a privilege that they should be grateful to learn.

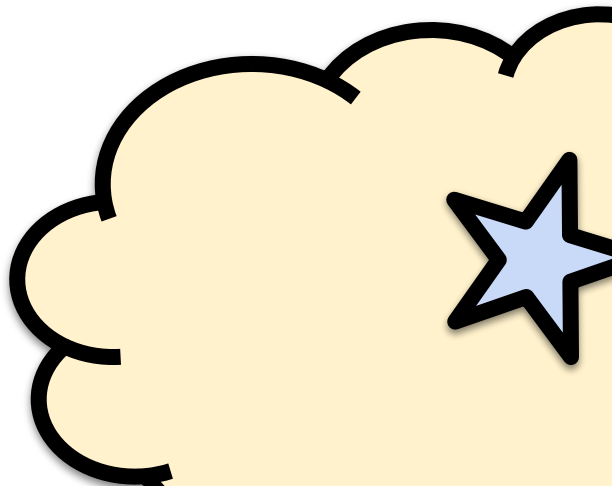
The good news is that kid's dance classes are great for teaching kids etiquette! These manners go a long way throughout the rest of their lives and should be reinforced at home. The more respectful everyone is in class, the easier it is to learn and have a good time.

Talk to your dancer about these topics and ask your dance teacher for feedback if you have any questions. We hope these tips helped.

Any questions or comments, please let us know below. We look forward to growing with your child through their most vulnerable, formative years of development.



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Concessions:

Volunteer to run our Concessions for a Cause stand and serve snacks, refreshments, drinks, etc. during special events throughout the season. The money raised will be donated back to RYDE to help with operations, supplies, materials, equipment, and to fund our tuition/costume assistance fund.

PAC (Parent Advisory Council):

Parent support and help coordinating special events during the dance season. Join our private Facebook group and join BAND our messaging app.

Volunteer opportunities:

There are many ways to support RYDE throughout the year. Sign-up online or request our Volunteer packet for more ways to donate your time.





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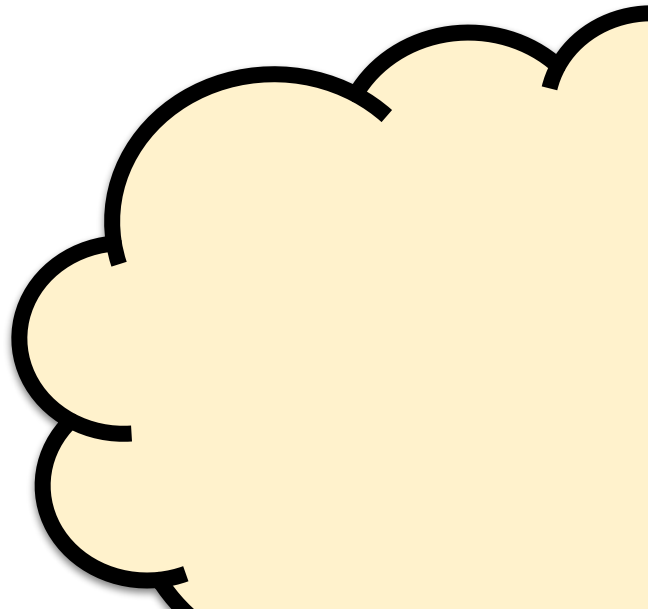
FUNDRAISERS

Each year, RYDE participates in two fundraisers to help support the overall mission of our program. Fundraisers help with operational costs, equipment, materials, supplies, and funds our scholarship/tuition assistance fund.

RYDE asks each dancer to sell/participate in at least one or both of our fall and/or spring fundraisers.



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PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION

At the end of the Winter/Spring/Summer sessions, we will have a performance/recital showcase. There is a costume/performance fee for the winter performance and spring recital. The performance fee helps offset the cost of renting the venue and other related expenses.

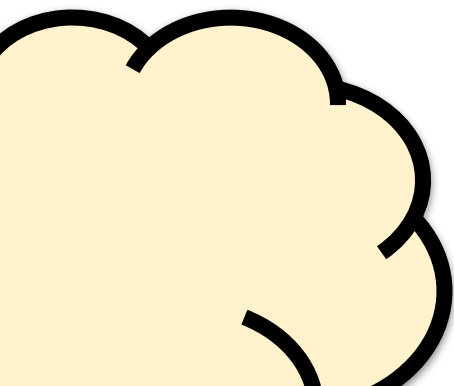
It is not mandatory, but we encourage participation and dedication while preparing for these events, as missing classes will cause dancers to miss important routines, techniques, and instructions.

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 are extra and will be scheduled accordingly.



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ATTENDANCE POLICY

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.

Chronic absences hurt overall performance whether it is in class or on stage.

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.

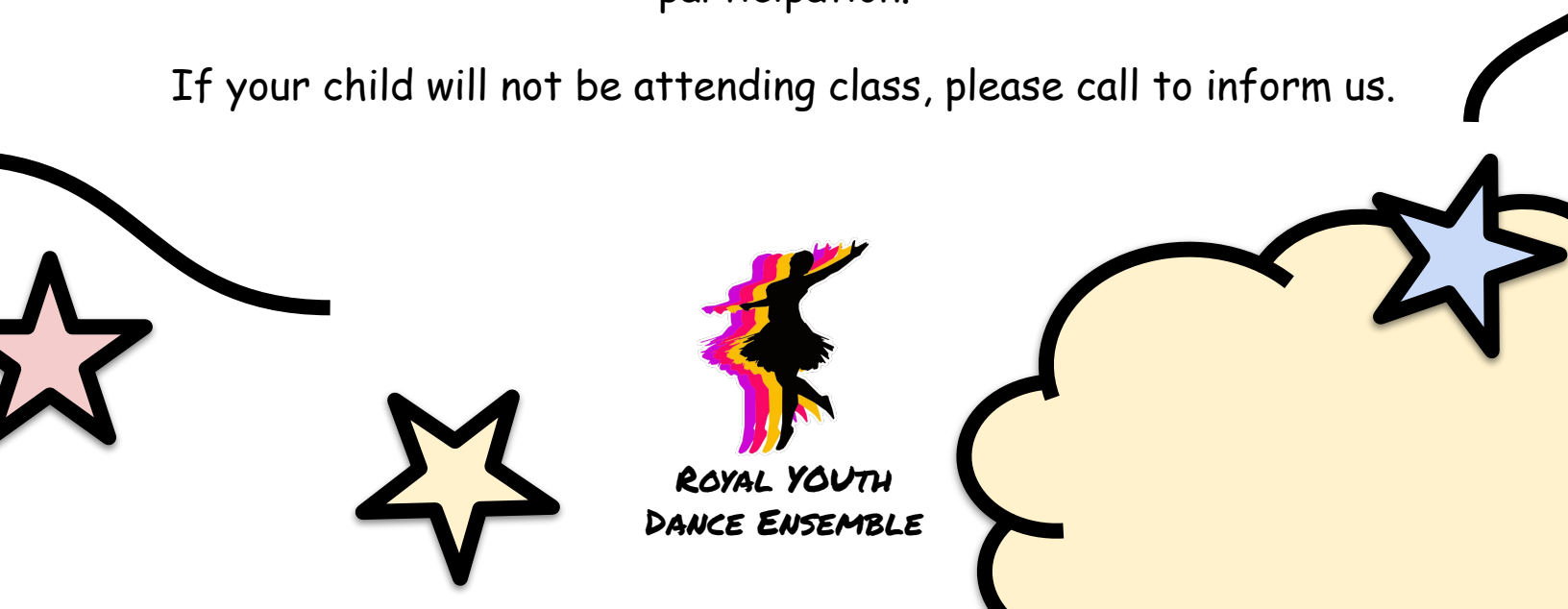
Therefore, if a student misses more than the first 15 minutes of class, he/she will be asked sit and watch the rest of class.

Progress in class is dependent upon regular and consistent participation.

If your child will not be attending class, please call to inform us.



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PAYMENT POLICY

Tuition is due by the 1st of the month during the regular dance season (Sept-June), regardless of attendance.

Tuition is late if received after the 5th of the month. RYDE's dance season runs for 10-months.

Tuition is calculated based on 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 to dance.


We require a two-week notice for class withdrawals.

You may choose to pay monthly, by semester (Fall or Spring), by the session, or for the entire dance season.

Methods of payment: Cashapp \$Royalyouthdancers, Venmo @royalyouthdance, PayPal royalsdance129@gmail.com check, or cash.



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Studio Team:

Executive Director: Mrs. Sherra Robinson-Branner

Program Assistant: Mrs. Samantha Cobb

Student Teaching Assistant: Miss Becca Jones

Student Teaching Assistant: Miss Kalecia Earley-Jones

Studio Volunteers: Ms. Paula King and Ms. Anne Umbach-Stokes

Board Members:

Sherra Robinson-Branner - Founder/CEO

Ms. Donna Ewing, BS Education - President

Ms. Kristi Harper, MBA - Treasurer

Ms. Linda Tucker, MS - Secretary (Parent Liaison)

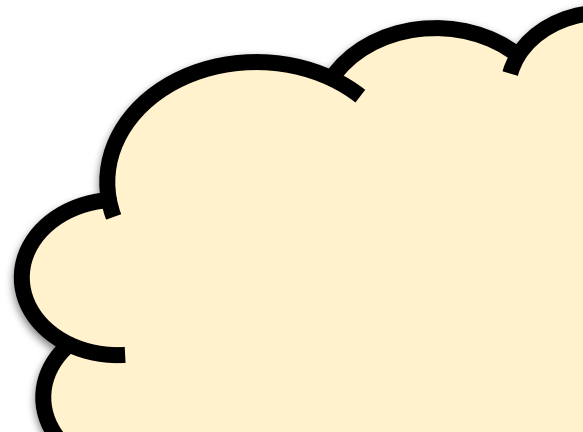
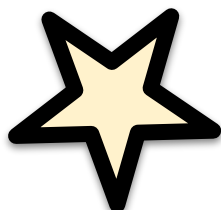
Advisory Council:

Bonita Gillespie, CPA

Eric Amarante, Esq (Community Law Professor)



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RYDE Dance Instructors:

Ms. Rose Attea

Mr. Greg Carney aka Mr. G

Ms. Ruby Heard

Ms. Sandy Larson

Ms. Lena "Marie" Lister

Ms. Kassie Lin



RYDE Outreach Teachers

Ms. Rose Attea

Mr. Greg Garney

Ms. Lena "Marie" Lister

Email: royalsdance129@gmail.com

Program contact: 865-745-9363

Website: www.royalyouthdance.org



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