

Danse Arts Company Contract 2026-2027

This contract contains everything you need to know about Devine Performing Art's pre-professional dance company!

JR DAC Ages 7-10 SR DAC Ages 11-18
(Ages as of 9/1/26)



Welcome to the 20th season of the Danse Arts Company! We are beyond excited to support you in honing your craft, growing as artists, and achieving new levels of excellence in dance. Whether you are a returning dancer or new to the company, we are excited to welcome you to the Danse Arts Company family!

This season promises to be a well-rounded experience, where every practice and performance is a stepping stone towards greater artistry and personal development. We firmly believe that each dancer brings unique energy and talent that enriches our community, and we can't wait to see each one of you trust in yourselves and support each other in reaching new heights.

Get ready for a season of hard work, passion, and camaraderie as we embark on this exciting journey together. Let's make the 2026-2027 season one to remember.

Welcome to the Company!

*Ashley Stettes &
Maura Caldwell-Thompson*

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Company Communication

Preferred Communication Channels

The best and quickest way to reach us is via email. Secondly, please download the BAND app and join our band group! BAND is the most effective way to stay informed and receive the latest updates.

All of our communication channels are as follows:

- **Miss Ashley's email:** dpa.ashley.stettes@gmail.com
- **Miss Maura's email:** maura.colombo.10@gmail.com
- **BAND APP:** [Click Here](#)
- **Youtube Playlist:** [Click Here](#)

Studio Communication

All important studio information will be sent via email. Please ensure you are regularly checking your inbox and spam folders to stay updated. We also send monthly newsletters via email to keep everyone informed about upcoming events, important dates, and studio news.

Shows & BAND App Use

During shows & events, we rely exclusively on our BAND group for communication; this ensures that all teachers, dancers, and parents are on the same page and can assist each other quickly. Similarly, the BAND app is the only platform that sends notifications directly to our faculty's phones; we won't see other notifications. Using BAND helps us ensure that any questions are seen by the whole company, and everyone can pitch in to help out fellow dancers and parents. We'll provide all the information you need in advance, and BAND will be our main way to stay connected and organized during the busy performance days!

Mission & Core Values

Purpose and Values of our Danse Arts Company:

At Devine Performing Arts, our pre-professional dance company is a testament to our commitment to excellence in dance and personal growth. The purpose of this company is to allow dancers to grow into their own artistry and performance, as well as provide an opportunity to obtain the best possible training and technique. Dancers will learn and perform choreography in a variety of styles including ballet, jazz, and contemporary throughout the season and perform a full length dance concert in January/February. The second half of the season will focus on student choreography and they will showcase their creations in our Student Choreography Showcase in May! The required courses for the Danse Arts Company are designed to enhance the students' performing experience as well as their technical skills. It not only offers a place to grow as a dancer/performer and build self esteem, but focuses on professionalism first and foremost.

Qualities We Seek In Company Members:

We are looking for dedicated dancers aged 7-18 as of September 1, 2026 who are eager to be a part of our pre-professional dance company. These artists demonstrate a strong work ethic, a willingness to learn, and a passion for dance. We value team-oriented individuals who are motivated by both personal and collective success, and who bring a positive, inclusive attitude to every rehearsal and performance. Our company members are expected to be committed to their dance education and embrace the opportunity to mentor younger dancers, helping to create a nurturing environment that cultivates leadership and artistic growth. If you have a desire to push your limits and thrive in a professional, supportive dance community, we invite you to join us in this exciting journey!

What To Expect:

At Devine Performing Arts, we hold ourselves to high standards, and we expect our dancers to rise to them. When you step into our studio, you're leaving the outside world at the door. Whatever happened that day, let it go. You're here to learn, grow, and immerse yourself in the joy of dance. Our studio is a place for you to pursue your passion with focus, determination, and artistry.

Bring your best energy to every class. This means working hard, being open to corrections, showing up on time, and coming prepared. We understand that it's not always easy to stay motivated, but that's why we're here—to guide you, push you, and support you through the tough times. Your teachers, your peers, and your parents are all in this together to encourage you every step of the way.

Our company has big goals, and reaching them requires commitment and effort. We don't settle for half-hearted attempts or giving up when things get tough. We provide you with the tools—both physical and mental—to help you reach your fullest potential. Some days will be hard, exhausting, and you might wonder why you're pushing yourself so much. But as you start achieving your goals, you'll see your hard work paying off. What once seemed impossible will become your new strength, and you'll understand the importance of the process.

We're a community that thrives on support and teamwork. Here, you're expected to focus on your own progress while also lifting up your fellow dancers. When one of us succeeds, we all succeed. Bring positivity to the classroom, be the light that lifts everyone up, and watch how the energy around you transforms. With this attitude, you'll start to love the process. Conditioning will become an exciting tool to strengthen your body and help you achieve your goals. Each class will be a precious opportunity to learn alongside your friends. You'll value the convention experiences and long performance days, feeling grateful for the chance to perform and improve.

The recognition you receive our performances will be a testament to your hard work, but the real reward will be the mental strength and confidence you've built along the way. You'll realize just how strong you are and understand that this mindset can help you achieve whatever goals you have in life. Remember, "it is the things we work hardest for that will reward us the most."

Company Policies

For Dancers:

At Devine Performing Arts, we believe that respect, positivity, and professionalism are fundamental to our success. As a dancer, you are expected to embody these values at all times. Treat your teammates, faculty, and spectators with kindness and respect, and approach every class, rehearsal, and performance with dedication and a positive attitude. Come prepared with the proper attire and materials, and be punctual and ready to participate fully. We are a drama-free studio, and we do not tolerate gossip, negativity, or speaking ill of others. Our focus is on building a supportive, inclusive environment where everyone can thrive and grow as artists.

For Parents:

Parents play a crucial role in supporting our dancers and contributing to a positive studio environment. We expect parents to communicate respectfully with faculty and other parents and to address any issues directly and constructively. Your involvement in your dancer's journey is vital, and we ask that you ensure they adhere to the attendance policy and participate fully in company activities. Parents are also expected to model good sportsmanship and a cooperative spirit, supporting all team members and contributing to a drama-free atmosphere. Lift up and support all our artists, teach your child the value of perseverance and work ethic, and encourage a team-oriented mindset.

Commitment to Regular Attendance:

Regular attendance is essential for the success of our company. Dancers are expected to attend all scheduled classes, rehearsals, and performances. Consistent participation is key to company cohesion and individual progress. While we understand that occasional absences may occur, frequent absences will hinder a dancer's ability to perform effectively and grow as a dancer, which may impact their eligibility for performances. We ask that all absences be communicated to the faculty in advance (at least 1 week) to allow for proper planning and adjustments.

Procedure for Reporting Absences:

If a dancer is unable to attend a class or rehearsal, please notify Miss Ashley via email as soon as possible. For planned absences, advance notice is required. In the case of illness or emergencies, please inform us immediately. A doctor's note may be required for prolonged absences due to illness to ensure that the dancer is safe to return to training. Your dancer plays an integral role in our company, and their attendance affects the entire group.

Class Attendance:

To ensure continuity in training, dancers are required to attend make-up classes for any required classes that they miss more than one of each month. Make-up classes should be scheduled within the next month; this helps dancers stay on track with the company's progress and ensures they do not fall behind in their training. If a dancer must miss a class, try to make it an elective.

Rehearsal Attendance:

If your dancer misses rehearsal, it is their responsibility to get caught up before the next rehearsal. Private lessons are strongly encouraged or may be required depending on how many rehearsals they've missed. Missing too many rehearsals could result in your dancer being pulled from certain pieces in the show. Your dancer's progress and their impact on the company are our top priorities.

Performance Attendance:

Attendance at all scheduled performances is mandatory. We rely on every dancer's participation to represent The Danse Arts Company with excellence and pride. Moreover, our dancers work incredibly hard to put their best foot forward at performances, and just one dancer's absence hurts the entire company. Absences from these events will be taken seriously and may result in removal of the dancer's placement on our company.

Performance Attire/Team Uniform

DPA will provide all costumes needed for the show. Dancers are expected to have the following required items:

- Performance Teams T-Shirt
- Performance Leggings
- Team Earrings
- Nude Leotard and Other Appropriate Undergarments
- All Appropriate Dance Shoes (Pink Ballet and Tan Jazz)
- Performance Tights
- DPA Team Jacket (\$150 and optional)

Rehearsal and Show Protocol:

- All information will be emailed and posted to the DAC Band account.
- All rehearsal videos will be posted to the unlisted YouTube playlist.
 - Rehearsal/Performance Videos and/or Photos are **NEVER** to be posted to any social media accounts.
- There is absolutely no cell phone use allowed during rehearsal time (unless otherwise stated by the rehearsal director). Cell phones are to stay in bags and/or backpacks until dancers have a significant break.
- Costumes will be assigned prior to the show and must be fully accounted for at the end of all dress rehearsals and shows.
 - No dancer will be allowed to leave dress rehearsals or shows until each dancer's costume pieces, shoes, accessories, etc. are accounted for.
 - Students will leave all costume pieces hung in their costume bag.

Social Media Presence:

Danse Arts Company Members must use good judgment in using social media. Don't post anything you wouldn't be okay with your grandparents seeing. Inappropriate posts will result in a warning, and if inappropriate posts continue the dancer could be terminated from the team.

Removal from the Company:

Respect must be shown to all instructors, dancers, parents, and guests at all times.

- Poor attitudes will not be tolerated—not in the classroom and certainly not at outside events.
- Being disrespectful or rude to the choreographer, rehearsal director, parents, other team members, and other participants is absolutely unacceptable.
- One warning will be given to the dancer and the parent before that dancer is suspended.
 - If behavior is poor enough, the first warning will not be given and the dancer will be terminated from the company.
 - Grounds for immediate termination include physical violence, bullying of any kind, and not showing up for an event.
 - There will be no refunds on performance fees, tuition, or costume fees.

Resigning From DAC:

- Resigning after signing the DAC contract but before the first rehearsal results in being responsible for full payment of the following:
 - \$50 administrative fee
- Resigning after the season has begun (August 1, 2025) will result in being responsible for full payment of the following:
 - \$50 administrative fee
 - \$50 per dance restaging fee
 - All Costume fees for non-returnable costumes

Required _____ Dress Code

Ballet

Required Tights:

- *Pink Ballet Tights. Purchase price through the studio is \$10.*

Required Shoes:

- *Pink Ballet Shoes. Purchase price through the studio is \$20-\$25.*

Required Leotard:

- *Ballet 1: Lavender*
- *Ballet 2: Teal*
- *Ballet 3/4, Pointe, & Variations: Black or other dark color*
- *Purchase price through the studio is \$20-\$35.*

Optional Ballet Skirt:

- *Tie or pull on short Ballet skirt.*

Ballet Hair:

- *Hair must be secured in a slick ballet bun.*

For Boys:

- *Please wear a white shirt, black tights, and black ballet shoes.*

Jazz & Contemporary

Required Attire:

- *Form-fitting dance wear is required. This includes a leotard and tights or leggings/bike shorts and tank top. No baggy pants or tops are allowed.*

Required Shoes:

- *Jazz: Tan Jazz Shoes. Purchase price through the studio is \$35.*
- *Contemporary: Bare Feet*

Hair:

- *Hair must be secured in a slick ponytail, braid, or bun.*

Boys

- *Please wear a solid color shirt, black pants, and black shoes (where appropriate).*

Rehearsal

Required Attire:

- *Black leotard and leggings.*

Required Shoes:

- *Tan Jazz Shoes, Pink Ballet Shoes, and Bare Feet*

Hair:

- *Hair must be secured in a slick ponytail, braid, or bun.*

Boys

- *Please wear a solid black shirt, black pants, and black shoes (where appropriate).*

Company_____

Calendar

We primarily follow the Rockwood School District, but please check our schedule closely and [click here](#) for our studio calendar.

These DAC dates are MANDATORY.

June 2026

- **June 15-19:** Technique Intensive (DAC and Dazzler Audition Friday)
- **June 22:** Summer Classes Begin!

July 2026

- **July 30:** Last Day of Summer Classes

August 2026

- **August 14-16:** DAC Choreography Intensive

September 2026

- **September 8:** First Day of Classes!
- **September 19:** Celebrate Wildwood Parade

October 2026

- Rehearsals like normal
- **DPA Master Class Day TBD**

November 2026

- **November 25:** NO REHEARSAL

December 2026

- **December 23 & 30:** NO REHEARSAL

January 2027

- **January 4:** Classes Resume
- **January 24:** Sunday Dress Rehearsal at DPA
- **January 29:** Friday Tech/Dress at Theater
- **January 30:** DAC Show

February 2027

- Rehearsals like normal

March 2027

- **March 17:** NO REHEARSAL

April 2027

- Rehearsals like normal

May 2027

- **May 10-13:** Recital Pictures and Dress Rehearsal
- **May 26:** DAC Student Choreography Showcase

June 2027

- **June 7-10:** Last Week of Classes AND Recital Pictures/Dress Rehearsal
- **June 12/13:** Recitals at Kirkwood High School
- *June: Intensive Week Dates dependent on Dazzler nationals...*

Calendar Information

Technique Intensive:

Those wishing to join the Danse Arts Company must attend the Summer Technique Intensive **June 15-19, 2026**. Dancers will take multiple classes in multiple styles each day from 9:30am-3:00pm.

Company Auditions:

Company placement auditions will take place on the final day of the Summer Technique Intensive **June 19th**. Dancers level 1-2 will learn an audition combo in the morning to present in groups of 2-3. Dancers Level 3-5 will learn an audition combo in the morning to present in groups of 2-3 and then will stay to present a 1 min self choreographed solo.

Summer Classes:

Danse Arts Company Members are required to register and pay for the full six-week summer session by the first day of classes **June 22, 2026**. Company members are required to take ballet (2 classes per week for Senior DAC), jazz, and contemporary. Choreography and Leaps and Turns are highly encouraged electives.

Students are encouraged to take additional elective classes beyond their required classes to increase technique, help condition, and become more versatile performers.

Choreography Intensive:

Dancers are required to attend the choreography intensive **August 14-16, 2025 (Friday 5:00-9:00pm and Saturday and Sunday 9:30am-3:30pm)**. Dancers will begin each day with a technique class and then move into rehearsal.

Season Classes:

Danse Arts Company Members are required register and pay by the first day of classes **September 8, 2026**. Company members are required to take ballet (2 classes per week for senior company members), jazz, and contemporary in addition to their weekly rehearsal (Junior rehearsal is 1 hour per week and Senior rehearsal is 2 hours per week). Choreography and Leaps and Turns are highly encouraged electives.

Students are encouraged to take additional elective classes beyond their required classes to increase technique, help condition, and become more versatile performers.

Dance Concert:

Danse Arts Company Members are required to participate in the annual dance concert **January 30, 2027**. There will be an in house dress rehearsal the Sunday before the show **January 24, 2027** and a tech/dress rehearsal at the theater the Friday before the show **January 29, 2027**. All of these events are mandatory.

Master Class Intensive:

Danse Arts Company Members are required attend DPA's master class intensive. Date will be announced as soon as we have it.

Student Choreography Showcase:

Danse Arts Company Members are required to participate in the student choreography showcase. This will take place at DPA on **Wednesday, May 26, 2027**.

Recitals:

Danse Arts Company members are required to participate in DPA's annual recitals **June 12 & 13, 2027**. This includes all events related to recital (pictures, dress rehearsal, etc). Fees and due dates are released in September.

DPA Tuition & Fees

Class Tuition

Monthly installments (9 total installments) as listed OR pay each semester in full for a 3% discount.

Full semester payments must be completed by September 8th or January 5th to receive the 3% discount.

Dance cards are excluded from semester discounts.

Tuition and registration fees are non-refundable.

Monthly Tuition Rates

Class Lengths	Monthly Installments	May/June (Prorated)
30 Minutes	\$53	\$80
45 Minutes	\$69	\$104
60 minutes	\$84	\$126
90 minutes	\$116	\$174
120 minutes	\$147	\$221

Dance Cards (Unlimited Classes)

Applied if total number of classes exceeds the monthly tuition totals by class

1 Dancer	\$525	\$787.50
2 Dancers	\$603.75	\$905.63
3 Dancers	\$682.50	\$1,023.75

Registration Fee

First Student	Additional Students
\$35	\$30

Multi-Class Discount

3 Classes	5% Discount
4 Classes	8% Discount
5 Classes	10% Discount

Drop-In Rates

30 Minutes	\$25
45 Minutes	\$30
60 Minutes	\$35
90 Minutes	\$40

Private Lessons

60 minutes	\$75
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Additional Information

- A credit card is required to be on file and will enroll you in monthly autopay.
 - *If you would like to opt out of auto-pay, please contact Ashley immediately at dpa.ashley.stettes@gmail.com*
- A late fee of \$25 will be added to your tuition on the 8th of each month.
- Accepted forms of payment (w/no additional fees): Cash, Check, or Credit Card
- Written notice is required by the 15th of the month prior to dropping to avoid being charged.
- Tuition is not prorated for illnesses or vacations, but makeup classes are available.
- There will be a \$30 fee on any and all returned checks.

DAC Fees & Due Dates

- DAC rehearsals are added in with class tuition.
- Juniors Pay the 1 hour class fee and Seniors pay the 2 hour class fee. Multi-class discounts and dance card rates do apply to DAC rehearsal tuition.

Monthly Performance Fee - \$40

Summer Fees

Technique Intensive Fee

Amount: \$300

Due Date: June 15, 2026

Details: Technique Intensive Fees are due on the first day of the intensive.

Summer Tuition

Amount: Determined by number of classes.

Due Date: June 22, 2026

Details: Summer Tuition is due on the first day of classes.

Choreography Intensive Fee

Amount: \$200

Due Date: August 14, 2026

Details: Choreography Intensive Fees are due on the first day of the intensive.

Season Fees

Performance Fee (monthly)

Amount: \$40

Due Date: The first of each month.

Details: Monthly performance fees go directly to help cover the costs of the theater and other expenses incurred to produce the dance concert.

DAC Costume Rental/T-Shirt Fee (once)

Amount: \$125

Due Date: October 1, 2026

Details: DAC is required to pay a costume rental fee that covers your usage of our costumes for the dance concert and also allows us to expand our collection.

Dance Concert Tickets

Amount: Approximately \$120 per family

Due Date: Show Date

Details: Each family is required to sell 10 tickets to the dance concert. Tickets are sold online or at the door for \$12. Any tickets not sold will be charged to your account.

Master Class Intensive

Amount: TBD

Due Date: TBD, but in the fall

Details: DAC is required to attend DPA's master class intensive. Specific date will be released as soon as possible.

Dance Concert Preparation

Tech Week

- **Sunday Dress Rehearsal**
 - Held at DPA the Sunday before the show
 - Generally 12pm-3pm (exact schedule sent out as we get closer)
- **Friday Tech/Dress**
 - Held at the theater the Friday before the show
 - Generally 4pm-9pm (exact schedule sent out once we have the theater contract)
- **Show Day**
 - We will meet at DPA for warm up, hair, and make up in the morning and then head to the theater
 - Generally 9am-9pm (exact schedule and detail sent out as we get closer)

Hairstyle

Our company's hairstyle is a Balanchine bun. The faculty will help with these the day of the show. Be sure you bring ponytail holders that match your hair color, bobby pins that match your hair color, a hair net that matches your hair color, and hairspray.

Make Up

All dancers must wear full make up for all performances. This includes foundation, neutral eye shadow, black eye liner, black mascara, false eye lashes, rosy blush, and wine lipstick.

Nail Polish

All nail polish must be removed before a performance. The only acceptable colors are nude or french tips for both fingers and toes.

Earrings

All dancers must wear our company earrings. These are available both stud and clip on and can be purchased at the studio for \$10.

Jewelry

All other jewelry must be removed. Think about timeline when planning to get any new piercings.

Tights

Dancers are responsible to bring their company tights (ordered at the beginning of the season).

Undergarments

Dancers are responsible to bring all appropriate undergarments including nude leotard.

Costumes

Dancers will be given their costumes to transport to the theater from the studio. They are responsible for their arrival to the theater and return to the studio after the show.

Theater Etiquette

Please apply standard theatre etiquette while attending the dance concert. Do not enter or exit the theatre while a dancer is performing; wait for a break between numbers to move in and out. Make sure to turn off phone notifications or set your phone to silent mode. When watching a performance, do not stand up or move around, especially in front of cameras or other audience members, as this can obstruct parents' views and disturb the photos/videos.

Danse Arts Company Agreement

By signing this agreement, you are committing to The Danse Arts Company for the 2026-2027 season. This agreement signifies that you have read, understood, and agreed to adhere to all the information and policies outlined in this company handbook. As a member of The Danse Arts Company, you acknowledge and agree to the following commitments for the entire DPA season:

1. Participation and Attendance:

- You agree to attend all scheduled classes, rehearsals, and performances, as outlined in the handbook.
- You understand that regular attendance is crucial for team cohesion and individual progress.

2. Adherence to Policies:

- You agree to follow all guidelines, dress codes, and behavior expectations detailed in this handbook.
- You acknowledge the importance of maintaining a positive attitude and respectful conduct towards instructors, peers, and parents.

3. Financial Commitment:

- You agree to meet all financial obligations, including tuition, fees, and any additional costs associated with performances and events.
- You understand that failure to meet financial commitments may impact your ability to participate in the Danse Arts Company.

4. Team Spirit and Conduct:

- You agree to support your fellow dancers and contribute positively to the team environment.
- You understand that teamwork and a cooperative spirit are essential for the success of the company.

5. Commitment to Excellence:

- You agree to strive for excellence in all aspects of your participation, including training, rehearsals, and performances.
- You acknowledge that this commitment involves hard work, dedication, and a willingness to accept constructive feedback.

By signing below, both the dancer and parent/guardian confirm their commitment to The Danse Arts Company for the entire 2026-2027 season. This includes a dedication to the outlined expectations, policies, and financial obligations.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

Dancer's Signature: _____

Dancer's Name (Print): _____

Date: _____