

The NZ Dance Company is a competitive dance company designed for the serious dancer who is highly motivated in the performing arts. Those selected for company will possess the following:

- Must be physically fit with emphasis on healthy mind and body
- Must be self-motivated and able to self-evaluate
- Must have solid technical and performance skills
- Strong desire to grow and develop as a dancer
- Must have a sense of humor, bright smile, and positive attitude
- Have respect for the team and staff
- Show support for the studio, teachers and fellow dancers
- Must have a supportive family base that shows respect for the teachers and students at all times
- Understand that we will not tolerate racism, inappropriate and unkind social media posts (private or public), or bullying of any kind, from dancers or parents.

Commitment: Company participants are required to participate from August 2023 through Nationals 2024. This is a serious commitment and will not be taken lightly. Participants are expected to fulfill this commitment. All students and their parents will be required to sign a parent/student agreement. The NZ Dance Company attends 3-4 conventions, 2-3 regional competitions – with 2-4 of those regional competitions/conventions being out-of-state, and 1 national competition in the summer (usually at the end of June or early July and is always out of state). Dancers are required to participate in all regional and national competitions and conventions. All are mandatory, unless noted otherwise. Any violation of this handbook/commitment/contract may result in the dancer's immediate removal from the NZ Dance Company. If a dancer quits Company mid-season, said dancer is never allowed into Company again, unless special circumstance, which is approved beforehand by the director. For any reason, at any time Karla has the right to dismiss a dancer/family from Expressenz Dance Center. If said dancer/family were to be dismissed and/or quits Company no refunds will be given. This includes, and is not limited to, costumes, costume fees, tuition, privates, performance fees and competitions fees.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for all **Company** classes. Ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, tap, conditioning, stretch, and rehearsal classes are extremely important! When it comes to school and family activities you will find Expressenz Dance Center to be accommodating and flexible. However, by accepting placement in this program, you have agreed that this is a priority in your schedule. In addition, any time guest teachers/choreographers are provided for Company dancers – attendance is mandatory. Under special circumstances for guest teaching/choreography Karla may decide to allow a dancer to hire a stand in to learn choreography.

Missed classes for any reason other than illness or emergency must be cleared personally through Karla. Dancers are not allowed to come into the studio while sick. If a teacher believes they are ill they will be sent home. Dancers will not be allowed to come in "to watch" if ill. Dancers are only required to come in "to watch" if they are injured. In addition, dancers are only allowed 2 unexcused absences in a year. Student absences will be recorded, and any ballet/ jazz/ tap/ technique/ conditioning/ stretch missed must be made up as best as possible. Being a well-rounded individual is important, and we support students pursuing other activities. However, when it comes to participation on a competitive team, skills are constantly being taught....students must be present!

Injuries: We realize that injuries happen. Please be sure to notify Karla immediately when an injury occurs. As soon as possible provide proper documentation such as a doctor's note, physical therapy directions, etc to NZ Staff. Note that injured dancers are expected to attend all rehearsals and classes unless specified by Karla, NZ Dance Company Director. Please note that no refunds or credits will be given during the time a dancer is required to sit-out/observe due to an injury. When a dancer must sit out while healing, it can be a very valuable time for them to gain new insight into their technique/routines and play an active role as a teammate.

Attendance of any/ all events and opportunities that are affiliated with Expressenz, which results in missed class, are excused absences. Examples include the following, but are not limited to:

- Breakfast with Santa (kids are excused to promote Nutcracker)
- Television appearances
- Yuletide
- YAGP

Dance education passes: We are allotting each competition dancer 2 dance education passes (excused absences) to use to help further their dance education. One dance education pass may be used first semester and one may be used second semester. These passes can be used for a convention, competition (enter as a soloist), workshop, to watch a professional performance, or classes outside of the studio. These passes must be approved by Karla beforehand. They may not be used the week before a competition/ convention/Nutcracker performance/Recital performance/extra mandatory rehearsals/or during a choreography weekend that applies to your dancer.

Financial Commitment:

- Being in a program such as this requires a certain financial commitment.
- Registration fee \$75 (\$35 for additional dancers in the same immediate family)
- Base fee for Company (including Ballet Expressenz program dues and required technique classes)

T11 level:

- \$245 a month (family discount \$240 for second dancer and \$235 for third+ dancer)
Includes: 2 ballet technique classes, jazz technique/stretch, conditioning, & BNZ program dues

Additional monthly fees include:

- \$17 per month per routine a student is listed in
- \$30 per month for tap technique (required for 12 and under)

T12 level:

- \$245 a month (family discount \$240 for second dancer and \$235 for third+ dancer)
Includes: 2 ballet technique classes, jazz technique/stretch, conditioning, & BNZ program dues

Additional monthly fees include:

- \$17 per month per routine a student is listed in
- Optional T1 2 contemporary technique class (additional class fee applies)
- \$30 per month for tap technique (required for 12 and under)

T13-T14 level:

- \$295 a month (family discount \$290 for second dancer and \$285 for third+ dancer)
Includes: 3 ballet technique classes, pre-pointe/pointe classes, contemporary technique, jazz technique/stretch, conditioning, & BNZ program dues

Additional monthly fees include:

- \$17 per month per routine a student is listed in
- \$30 per month for optional tap technique (required for 12 and under)

T15 level:

- \$310 a month (family discount \$305 for second dancer and \$300 for third+ dancer)
Includes: 3 ballet technique classes, pointe classes, contemporary technique, jazz technique/stretch, conditioning, open class, & BNZ program dues

Additional monthly fees include:

- \$17 per month per routine a student is listed in
- \$30 per month for optional tap technique (required for 12 and under)
- \$50 per month for specialty ballet with Butler professors

T16-T18 level:

- \$335 a month (family discount \$330 for second dancer and \$325 for third+ dancer)
Includes: 3 ballet technique classes, pointe classes, modern, contemporary technique, jazz technique/stretch, conditioning, open class, & BNZ program dues.

Additional monthly fees include:

- \$17 per month per routine a student is listed in
- \$30 per month for optional tap technique (required for 12 and under)
- \$50 per month for specialty ballet with Butler professors

All additional ballet technique, tumbling, jazz technique classes cost \$40.00 per class each month, as well as any other additional class added which is not on your schedule (i.e. hip-hop, leaps & turns, etc.)

NZ TapZ: NZ TapZ is an additional \$45 a month, and NZ TapZ juniorZ is an additional \$30

Technique Privates: Lessons cost \$45.00 a ½ hour.

Technique Semi- Privates (Privates with 2 dancers): Lessons cost \$60.00 a ½ hour.

For example, Susie is in T11 level & in 3 groups and tap - her monthly tuition will be \$326.

Payment for classes is due on the first of every month. **Any payment for classes made after the 7th will be assessed a late charge of \$25.00.**

Competition/Convention Fees: Fees associated with each competition/convention are based upon prices set by the competition/convention itself. These generally run around \$50-\$65 per person per routine. Duet/Trios/Solos are \$80-\$155 per competition routine. Convention participation fees generally run between \$265-\$375 per dancer. Fees for competitions/conventions are due to the studio by the due date indicated on the invoice. In most instances this is at least 45-60 days prior to/in advance of each competition. **Missing an assigned due date will result in a \$25 late fee.** Please note that there will be a \$4.00 administrative processing fee placed on each entry for competition. An additional \$10 convention fee, and an additional \$20 Nationals fee will apply on all convention and Nationals invoices. **NO DANCER WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE IF FEES ARE NOT PAID AND THEIR TUITION PAYMENTS ARE NOT UP TO DATE.**

Competition/Convention Solo Awards: If a dancer receives a cash award and/or gift certificate at a competition for a solo or a scholarship at a convention, the parent/dancer is responsible for notifying Expressenz Dance Center. Parents must notify the studio via email and/or submit all information and documents needed to the front office within **2 weeks after said cash award and/or gift certificate at a competition for a solo or a scholarship at a convention** was received. You will **not** receive a credit towards your account for the cash award and/or gift certificate from a competition or convention for a solo or scholarship **until** the said competition and/or convention has approved and applied your cash award and/or gift certificate. Your scholarships won with Expressenz can only be used if you are still dancing with Expressenz. Scholarships will not be transferred or released in the event that you quit or are no longer a member of Expressenz.

YAGP: Please note there will be a \$5.00 administrative processing fee placed on each entry for YAGP events.

Additional Independent Competition/Conventions: There will be an additional, non-refundable, administration fee of \$50 to register a dancer for any extra competition/conventions they would like to attend that requires the studio to register them. The dancer's account at Expressenz must be current before an outside, extra registration of a competition/convention occurs. All additional independent competitions/ conventions registration requests must be made 45 days in advance. All requests must be made via the google forms education pass request (this link will be sent out via email before the season begins).

Jewelry, Make-Up and Costumes: All Company members are required to purchase Company jewelry. Cost is usually around \$10.00. Specific make-up is required for the Company, and will also need to be purchased by you. Everyone is required to purchase the same eye shadow, blush, and lipstick. A separate costume will be chosen for each routine that a dancer is selected. By accepting placement in this program, you agree to purchase and wear the costumes designed by the director or choreographer. We usually try to keep the cost of costumes between \$100-\$350ish a piece. (These numbers do **not** include sales tax.) Dancers will not receive a costume until paid in full. **Missing an assigned due date will result in a \$25 late fee.** If a costume needs alterations or repairs after they've been passed out, parents are responsible for those alterations.

Both Ballet Expressenz Nutcracker as well as Recital performances sometimes require the cost of a separate leotard and/or costume (est. price range \$25-\$85 before sales tax).

Please note the costume deposit schedule:

- 1st ½ of costume deposits due - \$95.00 per costume per routine due by September 1st, 2023
- 2nd ½ of costume deposits due - \$95.00 per costume per routine due by October 1st, 2023
- Soloists are required to come up with their own costume. Soloists' costume options can include borrowing, buying, or custom-made costumes.

For example: If your dancer is in 6 groups you will have 3 costume deposits due September 1st and the other 3 costume

deposits due October 1st. If your dancer is in an odd number of dances, the majority of the costumes will be invoiced first. For example, if your dancer is in 5 routines you will be invoiced 3 costume deposits September 1st and 2 costume deposits October 1st.

Missing an assigned due date will result in a \$25 late fee. This includes all fees & invoices.

PLEASE NOTE that these are costume *deposits*. The additional cost per costume will be billed at a later date. The additional invoicing may begin as early as September and continue through January. If a Company member violates this handbook/ commitment/ contract and quits or is dismissed, there will be NO refunds on any costume deposits and/or costume amounts paid. Expressenz Dance Center owns the costumes and also maintains the right to keep any partial or completed costumes.

Every dancer is required to have each and every piece of their costume when attending competitions. If your dancer does not have a piece to their costume, they will not be allowed to dance in that routine.

Nutcracker Participation fee: All Company members are required to pay the fee when due (\$125)

Recital Participation fee: All Company members are required to pay the fee when due (\$100). *June tuition must be paid in full in order for a dancer to participate in the recital.*

Tights: All dancers are required to purchase their tights through the studio for Nutcracker and Recital.

Team Warm-Ups: All Company members are required to purchase a team warm-up jacket. Company members must have it on at all times during competitions.

El Toro Weights: All Company dancers TI 3 & up are required to purchase El Toro Training Speedwraps. These weights can be found online at www.eltorotraining.com. We recommend 1.5-pound weights. Please use the discount code EXPRESSENZ15 to save money on ankle weights.

Prop Fee: If your dancer is in a routine with a prop, you will be billed a prop fee. This fee will be in the range of \$10-\$100.

Solos, Duos & Trios: Karla has final approval of solo choreography. You are only allowed to receive choreography from an outside source if it is approved. Expressenz Dance Center will select the choreographer for all dances. The choreographer will select the style of dance and the music. Solo fees are: \$395.00 per solo; Duo fees are: \$415.00 per duo (\$207.50 each duo dancer); Trio fees are: \$450.00 per trio (\$150 each trio dancer) (all must be paid prior to the start of the routine choreography—no exceptions!). This fee includes 3, one-hour private rehearsals or 6 half hour private rehearsals. After that, students pay the private lesson rate of \$45.00 a half hour. Private lessons dates and times are indicated in the dancer's audition results schedule, if applicable. The Company Registration fee of \$75 must also be paid prior to the start of the solo, duo, or trio. Dancers who are invited and accept placement into routines that are choreographed by an outside guest choreographer. Please note additional varying fees will apply.

- Letters of Commitment, registration fees, and registration form must be signed and turned into Expressenz before choreography begins
- Soloists are required to come up with own costume
- Soloists costume options include borrowing, buying, or custom-made costumes
- No refunds or credit will be issued on solo, duo, or trio fees
- All solo, duo, or trio choreography (including guest choreography) is property of Expressenz Dance Center and cannot be used without Expressenz Dance Center's permission
- Dancers wanting to use an outside choreographer or choreography of someone who we do not bring into the studio must get permission and approval
- Parents are not allowed to contact guest choreographers that we bring into the studio
- Expressenz Dance Center will select the choreographer
- Choreographer/Teacher has final decision on the style of dance, all music, and choreography
- Dancers who are invited and accept placement to routines that are choreographed by an outside guest choreographer, please note additional varying fees will apply

The Competition Experience: It is important to understand that the "competition" aspect of being a member of The NZ Dance Company should be considered a "performance" opportunity. Competition results are strictly a subjective opinion, and your child's growth should not be completely gauged by their scores or achievements at competitions. It is important to keep your competition experience positive and most importantly, be proud of the growth and development that takes place within your child. We do not foster competition within our Company, and all we ask from our students is that each child works to their full capacity. We understand that each child is a gift to us, and each is uniquely different.

Extra Practices: On occasion a teacher may find it important to add additional mandatory rehearsals before a competition. We make every effort to give enough notice so families are able to coordinate their schedules. These practices do not cost extra money. They usually take place on Friday evenings, Saturday evenings, and/or Sundays. Remember these are to benefit the dancers. We all want them to be comfortable and to dance their best. Sometimes due to weather cancellations or other issues a routine just needs some extra time.

Boot Camp: Families are required to pay full June tuition. Full June tuition payment covers all boot camp rehearsals and class fees.

Competitions/Conventions: The competition schedule for the 2023-24 season will be announced at the parent only meeting VIA ZOOM on July 31, 2023 at 8:00 pm. All dancers are required to participate in all regional and national competitions and conventions. Failure to attend may result in expulsion. Regional competitions/conventions will take place 1-3 locally and 2-4 out-of-state. Families are responsible for their transportation and hotel to all competitions/conventions (in and out of state). Every effort is made to select competitions that will provide our dancers and their families with the best experience possible. Any cash prize awarded at a competition will go to the studio, with the exception of a cash prize for a solo which protocol is further delineated in **Competition/Convention Solo Awards**. Any issue or disgruntlement with a competition or convention needs to be brought to the attention of Karla. Dancers, parents, or family members are not allowed to contact or complain to the competition, convention staff, or management.

Expressenz Dance Center approaches competition with a few things in mind:

- Educational Opportunity- competition against the finest teams allows our teachers and students the opportunity to “see what is out there” and grow from there.
- Pre-professional Opportunity- students who wish to pursue the professional world of dance have an opportunity to grow and develop their performance skills through competition.
- Fun Family Activity- Expressenz wants to attend competitions that are fun for the whole family. Students learn team-building skills, performing arts skills, and develop self-confidence that will last a lifetime. Having fun is the number one priority for this program.
- Please note that permission must be obtained from Miss Karla if your child enters any NZ Company routines or solos at an additional competition not scheduled through Expressenz Dance Center.

National Competition: Nationals always take place out of state and are mandatory for all Company dancers. Families are responsible for their transportation and hotel. The studio will try to give recommendations and guidance regarding lodging if needed. Nationals are typically 4 to 8 days (depending on the nationals we are attending) and you need to be able to stay all those days. Dancers need to arrive sometime the day before they begin and leave the day after the final day. Some families choose to room and/or carpool together to save money. Nationals is a fun activity for the whole family and a great way to conclude a fabulous season! It is a great opportunity to meet and watch dancers from throughout the United States. Karla will announce the national’s location for the new dance season at the July 31, 2023 parent only meeting VIA ZOOM.

Extra Performance Opportunities: Throughout the year The NZ Dance Company performs in various functions and community events. It is important that we accept these invitations from the community. These performances are mandatory, unless there is a school or family conflict.

Spring Showcase: The Company members are required to fully participate in the 2023-24 Spring Showcase. This means that Company routines will be placed throughout the day in both shows. Only in the event of a family emergency will students be allowed to miss the Spring Showcase performances and/or dress rehearsals.

Parent Roles: Expressenz Dance Center is a drama free zone! Parents are expected to be supportive, respectful, and courteous to all team members and their families at all times. This studio will not tolerate rudeness, jealousy, resentment, or disrespect to another team member, their family, a teacher, nor the director. It makes no difference to this studio how good your child is or who you are...you are not permitted to bring any negativity whatsoever into this facility, which is full of fabulous families and kids.

Your role is the following:

- Lift up and support all of our children
- Teach your child that there is always going to be someone better than they are
- Teach your child to be happy for others
- Give a hand to those who may be behind or struggling
- Stand firmly behind the teaching staff

- Work with the teaching staff, showing your child that you are behind their coaches

I have observed in my 15 years of owning a studio, 20 years of teaching and my 35 years of dancing that the most successful children are those whose parents support their teachers and coaches 100%. These are the ones who do not bad-mouth or question a teacher or coach in front of their children, and they are certainly the ones who are realistic about their children and their place on my team. We all want the children to succeed, but success is not measured by the trophy a child brought home, by the row in which they stand on stage, or by how many pirouettes they can do. Instead, it is measured by the effort that they put forth. If they give all they've got to give, what more can anyone ever expect?

The Director: Karla is the director and primary teacher for all Company members. She will be teaching all genres. Her focus will be on small groups, large groups, lines and some solos and duo/trios.

Endnotes: Teaching is my utmost passion and I can't imagine doing anything else. Thank you for trusting me and giving me the opportunity to work with your children. I take my job very seriously, your child and their success in the program is my priority. Making decisions regarding placement in The NZ Dance Company and in the many routines that we produce is a long, difficult, and well-thought out process. No child is ever "held back," but instead, encouraged to develop their skills to their fullest. I want each child to reach their full potential as a dancer.

NZ Company Letter of Commitment

This correspondence serves as an agreement between you and The NZ Dance Company & Ballet Expressenz, as produced and directed by Karla N. Curatolo, Owner and Director of Expressenz Dance Center. Your child has been selected to be a member of the 2023-24 NZ Dance Company and Ballet Expressenz, an honor as well as privilege. Your signature below indicates that you have read and fully understand all of the requirements associated with participating in the program, as outlined in your NZ Dance Company Handbook. Furthermore, your signature and that of your child indicates your acceptance of those terms and conditions, and that you are well aware of the commitment involved in this program.

Dancer: *As a member of the 2023-24 NZ Dance Company you will actively participate in all scheduled events from August 2023 through Nationals in the summer of 2024. Your commitment to this program means that you will be participating in all classes, rehearsals, performances, competitions/conventions, showcases and Nationals that are scheduled during this time period. Your commitment to this program means you will come to class each time dressed appropriately with proper shoes, attire, and ready to learn. Your commitment to this program means that you will honor attendance requirements for all classes, rehearsals, performances, and all competitions/conventions, showcases and Nationals. Your commitment to this program means you will be respectful to all teachers and teammates at all times. We will not tolerate racism, inappropriate and unkind social media posts (private or public), or bullying of any kind, dishonesty, from dancer to dancer or dancer to parent.*

In addition to the above, I understand a violation of my commitment to this program/contract has serious consequences that may result in my being permanently dismissed from the program. If a dancer is dismissed or quits from the program, I understand that there will be NO REFUND on any fees and/or payments.

X _____ Date _____

Printed _____

Parent: *Please be sure you feel comfortable with your ability to handle the fees incurred for this activity, as with most competitive activities, there are many uncontrollable circumstances and we don't want to catch anyone off guard.*

*Monthly tuition, convention/competition fees, costume deposits, costume fees, choreography fees etc., all have due dates. Monthly Tuition is due at the beginning of each month and is late after the 7th. All other fees are late after the posted due dates. A late fee of \$25 will be added to any late payments. A \$35 bank fee will be assessed for a non-sufficient funds payment/canceled/returned payment, as well as corresponding late fee of \$25. It is each parent's responsibility to be aware of fees due, schedule changes, etc. We suggest coming into the studio at least weekly to check for news, and to check emails for studio information and updates daily. Commitment to this program means that you will honor attendance requirements for all classes, all conventions/competitions, and Nationals. **Families are required to pay full August-June tuition.** _____ Initial*

Your commitment to this program means you will be respectful to all teachers, dancers, and families at all times. We will not tolerate racism, inappropriate and unkind social media posts (private or public), or bullying of any kind, from parent to parent and/or parent to dancer.

If dancer/family were to be dismissed and/or quits Company no refunds will be given, this includes and is not limited to costumes, costume fees, tuition, privates, performance fees and competitions fees. _____ Initial

I have read the above information and will be responsible for my child's account and activity requirements. I will follow the rules, policies and procedures of the studio as outlined in the NZ Company Handbook. _____ Initial

X _____ Date _____

Printed _____

Please return this signed agreement to the front desk with August tuition, registration fees, and choreography fees for choreography week by August 1, 2023. Please complete one form for each of your children who have accepted placement in The NZ Dance Company and Ballet Expressenz.