

**The Roberts Conservatory of Dance
2026-2027
Mini
Company Handbook**

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Company Directors: Hannah Skipper &

Kaycee Kaschak

Owner: Carolyn Roberts

RCD offers competition opportunities to all ages and promotes every child to shine! Competition allows students to:

- Grow as performers
- Gain self-confidence & stage presence
- Learn good sportsmanship
- Be part of a team

Being a company dancer requires dedication and commitment, not only to themselves, but also to their teams. Anyone interested in joining the RCD Company Team must exhibit:

- Commitment
- Maturity
- Good work ethic
- Dedication

RCD Company is for ages 5-18. We compete in contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, tap, musical theater, pom, and production. Teams will be chosen after auditions held **Sunday, June 7, 2026.**

Coaches for the 2026-2027 Season:

- Hannah Skipper
- Kaycee Kaschak
- Raven Whitt
- Baylee Kintz
- Sydnie Hillis
- Morgan McLennan

Requirements for **mini team**:

- One weekly ballet class.
- Mock competition on **February 7, 2027**.
- Pre competition weekend intensive (held in January).
- August competition camps beginning **August 3, 2026**.
- Kent State Homecoming Parade on **October 3, 2026**.
- Weekly team rehearsals.
- Company photo shoot held in September.
- Four local competitions.

Commitment, Music Editing, Mock Competition and Team Party Fees:

- Each dancer will pay \$35 towards judges fees for mock competition and supplies needed for parties throughout the year. This will be paid **separately** from competition fees.
- Each dancer will pay a \$50 commitment fee when teams are accepted for the 2026-2027 season.
- Each dancer will pay between \$10-\$20 for music edits, depending on the extent of the cut. This is for solos, duets, trios, and groups. Solo music fees will go directly to the teacher and duet, trio, and group editing fees will be paid to the studio.

Competition Entry Fees:

- There will be 6 competition fees due by the 15th of every month, starting in September.

- If fees are not paid by the 15th of the month, a \$15 late fee will be added.
- If any dancer's 6th payment isn't **paid in full** by February, any competitions in March, April & May **they will be unable to participate in.**

August Competition Camps:

- Competitive teams will have **mandatory** choreography classes during the month of August. One week of class is excused for vacations.
- Fees for choreography & rehearsals:
 - One team \$150
 - Two or more teams \$300
 - Family cap for more than 1 dancer in the same immediate family \$400
 - Duets/trios are not included in the cap – they are \$85 per dancer

Solos:

- Solos can either start choreography in August or wait until September. This is decided between the teacher and dancer / dancer's parents.
- Solos started prior to fall classes are \$30 per 30 minutes and are scheduled between the teacher and the dancer's parents.
- If any dancer is only competing a solo, they will not be included in big/little pairings. They are welcome and encouraged to attend all company events, they just will not receive a big/little.

Company Dress Code:

This dress code is for all company classes and jumps, leaps, & turns. All recreational classes can follow the studio dress code.

- Female: Black leotard, tan or pink tights, black leggings (optional), assigned dance shoes, hair completely pulled up
- Female Ballet: Black leotard, tan or pink tights, ballet skirt (optional), ballet shoes, hair in a bun
- Male: Black t-shirt or tank tops, black athletic pants or shorts, assigned dance shoes

Competition Dress Code:

- Dancers will receive a list of **required** shoes, tights, makeup, & competition jewelry prior to competition season.
- For awards and while not actively dancing, dancers must wear company attire. Dancers should look and act as part of a team at every competition.
- Competition team costumes will be picked by the beginning of August and will cost between \$100-\$150 each.
- Team costume fees will be due in August.

Expectations:

- No video footage of competitive routines is to be posted on social media until after the first competition, in order to protect our choreography.

- Our studio does not compete against each other, but competes as a **team**.
- Whenever we attend a competition, all dancers and their family/ friends are representing RCD. We have worked very hard to have an outstanding reputation in the dance world and strive to maintain that.
- No dancers will compare themselves to each other. Each dancer is talented and brings something special to our company.
- There is no talking about or bullying other dancers with teachers, other students, parents, or via social media. Gossiping, bragging, and negative comments are **not** tolerated. **Any of these will result in immediate dismissal of teams.** The studio is to be a safe place for all.
- There will be consequences for any dancer that is caught with vapes, cigarettes, drugs or alcohol on studio grounds or at a studio event. This is a **zero tolerance** policy.
- We expect you to be polite and courteous at all competitions to our and other studio's dancers, parents, and competition staff. We will both win and lose gracefully while displaying good sportsmanship.
- All RCD staff is to be respected both within and outside of the studio.

Attendance Policy:

- Each dancer is permitted to have 6 absences per class for the entire season. These absences can be for any

reason (illness, injury, appointments, school functions, homework, vacation, etc).

- Any team classes missed more than 6 times in the season will cause the dancer to be dismissed from that team. For example, if junior lyrical is missed by any dancer 7 times throughout the season, the dancer will be removed from the team immediately.
- We will send an absence warning e-mail once 4 classes have been missed.
- If the dancer is present in class, but sitting out, it will not count towards an absence. However, if this becomes a recurrent issue, it will be discussed with the dancer's parent and can also result in dismissal from the team.
- We understand that absences can be situational, however, it is unfair to other teammates and teachers to have significant absences from any dancer.
- If required events such as the KSU parade, workshops, company photo shoot, etc. are missed, it is also cause for dismissal from the company altogether. These events are included in being a company dancer, not just competing.

2026-2027 RCD Company Contract:

- I understand that I am under contract to follow these guidelines when the season begins in August and ends in June.
- I understand the expectations set by RCD for both my dancer and as a parent of a company dancer.
- I understand the financial cost and commitment of being on a competitive team and all required fees are non-refundable.
- I understand all policies in regards to attendance, dress code, and all requirements.
- I understand that dance is a sport and injuries may occur, but that RCD will take all precautions and prevention to help avoid injuries. (We will also have a liability form to be signed).

Dancer's Name: _____

Dancer's Signature: _____

Parent/ Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Office Use Only:

Commitment Fee: _____

Copy of Birth Certificate: _____

Liability Waiver: _____

Music Fees: _____