



Zirka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

Parent Handbook

2023-2024

Welcome back! We are looking forward to a new dance year! This year, we return to one registration for the entire program year. Learning will be focused in 2 sessions with the Christmas break in between. September to December will focus on conditioning and learning new dance moves. January – April (wind up dates TBD) will focus on preparing dances for future competitions and performances.

DANCE TIMES AND FEES

Below is the table of class times and fees. Payment may be made in full at the time of registration in September or 50% at registration and 50% at the start of Session 2 in January 8th, 2024.

Classes will begin on September 25th and will end December 20th for Session 1.

Classes will begin January 8th and end either end of April or middle of May depending on the final recital scheduling. This will be finalized as soon as possible.

See the class times below.

Monday	Time	Fees
Mini's (Age 3 years)	4:15 - 4:35	\$200.00
Introduction (Age 4 and Kinder)	4:35 - 5:15	\$250.00
Beginner (Grade 1/2)	5:15 - 6:00	\$260.00
Novice (Grade 3/4)	6:00 - 7:00	\$265.00
Seniors	7:00 - 9:30	\$550.00
Wednesday		
Juniors (Grade 5/6)	5:00 - 6:00	\$275.00
Intermediates (Grade 7/8)	6:00 - 7:00	\$275.00
Seniors	7:00 - 9:30	See above

Please be aware that at registration you will need to provide a postdated (June 1, 2024) cheque for the \$100 fundraising fee PER FAMILY. This cheque will be handed back at the end of the year if you have fulfilled your fundraising duties or deposited if you have not. There is NO fundraising fee for Mini's. See below on how to get this fee back next season.

Your child has 5 consecutive dance classes to decide if they would like to continue with the dance year to receive a full refund. After 5 consecutive dance classes there will be no refund if your child(ren) decide to quit.

No classes on the following days:

Thanksgiving: October 9th, 2023

Christmas Break: December 25th – January 7th, 2024

Louis Riel Day: Monday February 19th, 2024

Spring Break: March 25th – 29th, 2024

On PD days off from school, Zirka classes will continue as scheduled.

MEET OUR INSTRUCTORS

Zirka Directors

Abi Hyrhoruk – Director (Year 2)

Abi choreographs dances for all age levels within Zirka. She oversees all Instructors and Junior Instructors. Abi instructs directly with our Novice class (Grades 3/4), our Junior class (Grades 5/6), our Intermediate class (Grades 7/8) and our Senior group (Grade 9 – Adult)

Dan Kozak – Assistant Director (Year 1)

Dan assists Abi with choreographing and with our Instructors and Junior Instructors. He instructs with the same age groups as Abi. Dan will assist with younger age groups as Instructors need.

Instructors & Junior Instructors

Claire Cholka - Instructor

This is Claire's first year with Zirka Dance Ensemble! Claire will be instructing our younger age groups. Mini's (Age 3), Intro's (Age 4 – Kinder), and Beginner's (Grades 1/2).

Junior Instructors are paid senior students who have many years of dance experience. They assist the instructors with whatever they may need. For the 2023/2024 dance year we have three Junior Instructors: **Lynden Yakimishen, Nicholas Slobodzian-Plustwa, and Keeley Hassel.**

REGISTRATION

In-person registrations will be at the hall on Wednesday, August 30th from 5:30-7:30pm and at the Dauphin Rec and Leisure Mart Tuesday, September 5th from 5-7pm. Beginning September 1st, registrations may also be completed online at <https://dauphinzirka.ca> until September 15th to avoid a late fee of \$30. All fees can be paid by e-transfer to zirkaude@gmail.com – please indicate in your message your dancers full name. Payments are required before attending the 1st class. If you cannot make the above dates to arrange for payments, please email to make arrangements. If you have or will be applying to Jumpstart, please email us with that information or if you need information on Jumpstart visit <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/apply>.

Registration deadline and full payment due: On or before September 15th, 2023. After this date there will be a late registration fee of \$30.

If paying in 2 installments, final payment is due Jan 8th, 2024.

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 23rd, 2023:** Zirka AGM, 5:30pm at the hall. First Board meeting to follow AGM.
- February 10th, 2024:** Valentines Ball
- March 14th - 16th, 2024:** Tavria Competition, Regina.
Optional for All Classes, mandatory for Seniors (Mini's and Intro's do not attend this Competition).
- April 12th -14th 2024:** Troyanda Competition, Brandon.
Expected for all classes, except Mini's
- April 21st or May 12th:** Tentative final Zirka Recital dates. Final date to be announced in the fall.
- April 26th - 28th, 2024:** Kalyna Dance Festival (Competition), Yorkton.
Expected for all ages, except Mini's
- July 6th – 10th:** Senior Summer Tour – Walt Disney World

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations due to weather or any other event will be communicated with families ASAP. Communication via email and our Facebook page are the best ways to get in touch with all families quickly so please follow our page and watch your emails. MVSD bus cancellation announcements will be considered when deciding to cancel classes due to weather. However, the Board will make an assessment and send out communication at that time. Please use your own discretion if you feel you cannot get your student to class safely due to weather. If classes are cancelled for any reason registration fees will not be refunded. If your dancer decides to withdraw at any time, there will be NO refunds.

ZIRKA PROMO WEAR

Please visit zirka.orderpromos.com and check out our promo wear for this dance season! You can order at any point within these dates but your order won't be filled until the deadlines. Ex) I order Oct 3rd but my order won't be placed until the next deadline of Nov 15th.

First Session Deadlines:

September 30th, 2023 & November 15th, 2023 (items received before Christmas).

Second Session Deadlines:

March 15th, 2024 & June 15th, 2024

FUNDRAISING

All families are responsible for paying a \$100.00 fundraising deposit for the 2023 -2024 dance year. This payment is made by providing a postdated cheque for June 2024. If you fulfill the requirements for fundraising, you will get your cheque back. If you do not, Zirka will deposit the cheque in June. Mini's do not require a \$100 fundraising deposit however families are encouraged to volunteer.

Volunteers are an integral part of Zirka's success every year. Our registration fees do not cover all of our expenses during the dance year. We require our families to help with our fundraising efforts during the year.

The fundraising opportunities to date are:

1. Dauphin Kings Home Games:

Families are required to work 6 shifts to earn the \$100 fundraising deposit back for the year. 1 body = 1 shift, 2 bodies = 2 shifts, 3 bodies = 3 shifts. (**Each** Kings Game requires Zirka to fill 3 shifts. More for Ukrainian Night).

2. Become a Board Executive:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Board Members at Large (6)

3. Become a Committee Chairperson:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| - Costumes Coordinator – Seniors | - Promo Wear** |
| - Senior Tour Coordinator** | - Recital Coordinator |
| - Parade Coordinator | - Competition Coordinator (Dauphin 2025) |
| - Communications Coordinator | - Fundraising Coordinator |
| - Countryfest/fair Liaison | - Kings Game Coordinator |
| - Valentines Ball Coordinator | - Parent Rep. for each age group x2 |
| - Grants Coordinator** | - Hiring Committee** |
| - Instructor Lieson** | |

Starred positions are filled within the Board of Directors.

Any person serving on the Zirka Board or is a Committee Chair will have the \$100 fundraising fee returned at the end of the year if the Board has found them to have fulfilled all duties. Committee chairs must submit a monthly written report but are not required to attend meetings. Sub-Committees do not receive the \$100 fundraising fee back. All families are expected to help with a minimum of one committee. If you are a Parent Rep of an age group, you will receive the \$100 fundraising credit back.

DANCE CLASS INFORMATION

Components of Class

Warm-ups, strength and technique exercises, ballet barre, dance combinations, routine choreography, stretching. This helps students understand how to use their bodies to avoid injury and build endurance and strength.

Proper body placement and form improve body and mind coordination, increase flexibility, and range of motion and portray the art of movement in dance.

Dance Class/Rehearsal Attire

Appropriate attire is required.

Black form fitting attire is required for all dance levels. Dancers may not be able to participate without appropriate practice clothing. Shoulder length hair (or longer) must be tied back and secure. No gum or loose jewelry.

Girls: Black body suit or t-shirt/tank top, tights with skirt or shorts and dance slippers.
NO CROP TOPS, JEANS, BAGGY SWEATPANTS.

Boys: Black T-shirt, gym pants with elastic at the ankle or shorts and dance slippers.

Dance attire and supplies may be purchased be purchased from:

Pirouette in Brandon - (204) 728-3072

Harlequin in Winnipeg - (800) 823-6706

Mallabar in Winnipeg - 1-800-668-0355

Info@mallabar.com www.ukrainiansite.com

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at every class and will be monitored closely. Your child(s) regular attendance maximizes not only their dance experience but all other students in the class.

Irregular attendance will reflect on a child's ability to learn, retain/execute skills and routines and reflects on the group's ability as a whole. Please make every effort to ensure your child is at class and on time.

Irregular attendance will reflect the number of dances they are able to participate in. This is at the discretion of the instructor/Director.

Please email or advise Abi (director.zirka@gmail.com) if your dancer will be missing class for any reason.

Questions or concerns? Please arrange to discuss outside of class time, so as not to take away from the group instruction. To set up a time, e-mail is easiest: zirkaude@gmail.com or Abi at director.zirka@gmail.com.

At the Hall

1. Please remove footwear at the front door when entering.
2. Any child(ren) or families NOT in class are welcome to wait in the main waiting area as long as they are quiet and clean up after themselves. If you or your child(ren) are being disruptive you will be asked to head downstairs to the second waiting area for the duration of practice. If you choose to, any family can head downstairs to the second waiting area if they want at any time. Please note there is only one space available downstairs for waiting families and dancers and there is ABOSLUTLEY NO RUNNING AROUND. Parent supervision is required in the waiting space downstairs.
3. Please leave the tables, chairs, and bathrooms CLEAN AND TIDY
4. Take your GARBAGE to a can.
5. Senior dancers will take turns with closing duties before instructors lock up.
6. Please assist instructors with any requests they may have.
7. Lost and found items will only be kept at the hall for a few weeks. Unclaimed items will be discarded or donated.

We are renting our space from MMF and are very fortunate to have such a good relationship with them. We need our families and dancers' cooperation and assistance to maintain this working relationship with MMF.

COSTUMING

Costumes are provided by Zirka, however parents are required to pay a refundable damage deposit per costume and dry cleaning fee of \$20 per costume (not refundable). The cost of the damage deposit depends on the type of costume and will be refunded when the costume is returned in good condition. Parents and adult dancers will be held responsible for any negligent use of the costuming.

Girls require their own red beads and black slippers.

Boys require their own black slippers and socks. Senior dancers are responsible for purchasing their own boots and/or character shoes. There may be other items to be purchased by the individual dancer as well (white bloomers, white shorts, bra, etc.). Male dancers may require white underwear.

All dancers must supply their own make-up safety and bobby pins, garment bag, and possibly a hatbox.

Zirka will rent out costumes based on availability to members for solos, duets and trios. Please see the website for costume policy.

Costuming Starter Kits

Our Costuming Committee will have starter kits available for purchase this year. These kits will include the essentials that are needed for performances such as beads, make up, safety pins and bobby pins for girls and black socks, pins and costume make up for boys. The kits will be valuable resources especially for new dance parents. Please watch for more information in your emails on this as the beginning of competition season approaches. The cost of the stater kits are \$125 for girls and \$75 for boys.

DISCIPLINE & BEHAVIOUR CODE

Parents are asked to review this policy with their children prior to the beginning of the dance season.

At Zirka we believe every dancer has the right to a safe and enjoy a rich cultural experience. Dancers are in class for a short period each week; therefore, we expect and encourage each dancer to maintain a positive and appropriate level of conduct. One dancer's misbehavior should not interfere with the progress of the entire class. Our instructors are respectful of the right of each dancer to be treated in a fair manner. We will take a stepped approach to discipline depending on the level of misconduct.

Misbehaviors include repeated interrupting, in attention, distracting others intentionally, talking back to the instructor, refusal to co-operate with the instructor, pushing, roughhousing, swearing, bullying, and name calling.

1. All misbehavior will be dealt with by the instructor at the time of the incident. The Instructor will speak to the student to identify the misbehavior in a firm manner and the student will be asked to correct or stop the misbehavior.
2. If the misbehavior continues, the student will be asked to sit out for a moment in the class.
3. If the misbehavior continues, the student will be asked to sit out for the remainder of the class. The parent will be notified of the misbehavior.
4. If the misbehavior continues, the student will not be allowed back into class until a corrective action plan is agreed upon by the student, parent, Instructors and the Director.
5. If the misbehavior continues, the student will be asked to leave the class indefinitely.

Zirka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble will make every effort to work with dancers and parents to find a solution to behavioral problems whenever possible. Thank you for your co-operation.

We encourage parents and students to communicate any issues they may have, including those that involve instructors to the Zirka President or Vice-president or by emailing zirkaude@gmail.com. We are not able to assist in creating a safe, enjoyable dance environment without your communication.

CONTACTS:

Zirka Email: Michelle Smigelski zirkaude@gmail.com

Zirka Director: Abi Hyrhoruk director.zirka@gmail.com

Zirka President: Talya Oleski - (current until AGM 2023)

Zirka communicates with families in three ways:

1. Email (above) if you are not getting emails, please email the address above and let Michelle Smigelski know.
2. Facebook (Zirka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble)
3. Instagram (zirkaude)