



2026-2027 RDC Dancer and Parent Frequently Asked Question's

What benefits does RDC offer dancers?

RDC offers dancers aged 7-18 who have at least two years of ballet training an opportunity to become more fully educated in the art form of dance. RDC provides:

1. Opportunities to work with master teachers, guest artists and choreographers.
2. An unmatched training program.
3. One-of-a-kind performance opportunities.
4. An atmosphere that nurtures a healthy balance of creativity and self-discipline.

When are auditions? Auditions for the 2026-2027 season are **Saturday, April 26th, 2026 at Byron Dance Academy.**

Auditions are organized by Grade levels for School Year 2026-2027

| Grade Levels | Arrive | Warm Up | Audition | Warm Up Lead By |
|--------------|---------|---------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Grades 10-12 | 8:20am | 8:30am | 9-9:45am | Themselves, with music provided |
| Grades 8-9 | 9:20am | 9:30am | 10-10:45pm | Micaela Ignash |
| Grades 6-7 | 10:20am | 10:30am | 11-11:45am | Micaela Ignash |
| Grades 4-5 | 11:20am | 11:30am | 12-12:45pm | Micaela Ignash |
| Grades 2-3 | 12:20pm | 12:30pm | 1-1:30pm | Micaela Ignash |

What to wear for auditions?

Dancers should wear ballet attire. For auditions, dancers can choose to wear any color ballet shoes, tights and leotard. Dancers with hair long enough to wear in a bun should do so. Dancers with shorter hair should plan to have their hair out of their eyes.

How to prepare for auditions?

Arrive at your scheduled check in time so you can be early to warm up. Make sure you have registered on Jackrabbit Dance, and have your paper audition form printed and filled out to turn it at your audition. Wear proper ballet shoes, attire, and hair style. Bring pointe shoes if you have them.

What to expect during auditions?

Dancers should expect the audition to start with a shortened ballet class for their appropriate age group. Dancers should also prepare to showcase their improvisational facial expression / acting skills for character roles. During the audition, show us that you are ready to work, apply corrections given during the course of the audition, and maintain a positive attitude. We know auditions can be a little scary, but being nervous is okay – it shows us that you care and want to do a good job.

If you are unable to audition at this time, please email rochesterdancecompanymn@gmail.com to make alternate arrangements. All dancers are required to participate in the audition process. A video audition, due before the auditions, will be allowed if needed.

Who should audition for RDC?

A serious dance student who:

1. Enjoys the challenge of learning new choreography.
2. Accepts constructive criticism that is essential for development.
3. Strives to excel and is supportive of their fellow dancers.
4. Is passionate about the art form of dance.
5. Loves the excitement of performing to live audiences in high quality productions.

When do we find out Company placement and return the contract if our family decides to commit?

Contracts with company level placement will be emailed to all dancers by May 18th, 2026. To accept your contract, dancers **must reply to our email and register on Jackrabbit Dance by May 23rd, 2026.** Registration fees will be posted by May 24th and must be paid by May 30th on Jackrabbit Dance to be considered for Nutcracker casting.

What is the commitment?

In addition to RDC class and rehearsals, company members are expected to attend at least two ballet classes a week at a local studio of your choice. We highly recommend that dancers also participate in another style dance class (i.e. modern, contemporary, or jazz). Apprentice level dancers (typically ages 7-8) must attend at least 1 ballet class per week at a local studio of your choice.

RDC Pre-Professional, Senior, Junior and Petit company members have weekly company class on Saturday, with a rehearsal following class; additional rehearsal time may be scheduled as needed. RDC Apprentice members have class at least twice monthly on Saturday, with a rehearsal following class; additional rehearsal time may be scheduled as needed. Petit, Apprentice, Junior Corps and other members may have class and rehearsal on Friday evenings earlier in the season (Sept / Oct).

Although avoiding absences is best, up to two pre-excused rehearsal absences per production with prior notice are allowed.

To achieve the maximum results of training and proper progression, students are asked to attend all RDC classes and rehearsals to which they are assigned. Dance is a physical activity that requires consistent weekly training to establish muscle strength and muscle memory. Classical ballet training is a highly specialized technique that requires excellent instruction by a knowledgeable teacher and committed attendance by the student in order to achieve the desired results. RDC supports dancers participating in other activities but reserves the right to cast accordingly based on conflicts that the dancer will have during the production season. Please submit any known absences as soon as you are aware of them. We know that unexpected illnesses, injuries, and family situations could occur, therefore, if possible, plan to have fewer than 2 pre-planned absences so you will not miss more than 2 rehearsals if something unexpected occurs.

All RDC members are expected to attend Ballet Boot Camp from August 3-7th from 8am-5pm. Ballet Boot Camp is where much of the choreography is taught as well as opportunities for the dancers to get to know each other better and participate in some other types of classes as well (acting, floor barre, yoga, stage directions & terminology, etc). **No absences from Ballet Boot Camp other than illness or family emergency will be accepted unless you provide emailed notification of a planned absence by May 23rd, 2026.**

RDC 2026-2027 Helpful Dates to Remember (times subject to change as needed)

| Date | Time | What |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 3-7 | 8:00am-5:00 pm | Required Ballet Boot Camp at The Dance Lab |
| August 8th | 11:00am-1:00pm | Tentative RDC Pool Party at Stewartville Pool (optional) |
| Sunday, Nov 22nd | 9am-5 pm | Sugar Plum Fairy Tea (optional and not all will be included in cast list) |
| November 30 – December 4 | TBD | Tech week at MCC/School & Special Needs Shows (shows Thurs/Fri) |
| December 5 | 2 pm & 6 pm | Nutcracker Performances |
| December 6 | 2 pm | Nutcracker Performance |
| April 26 – May 2 nd , 2026 | TBA | Spring Production at RCT – Black Box Theatre |

Where are company classes and rehearsals?

Summer Ballet Boot Camp will be held at The Dance Lab and Fall and Spring Rehearsals will mainly be held at Byron Dance Academy.

Tuition

Will be listed on the dancer’s contract, sent a few weeks after the audition. Here are the tuition rates from last year, and this year they would not be higher but may be adjusted slightly based on dancer numbers.

| Dancer Level <small>(please refer to the level explanation sheet on our website if you have questions)</small> | Annual Registration Fee <small>(nonrefundable and paid with contract)</small> | Monthly Fee (Aug – May) <small>(this is an estimate based on last year’s tuition, next year’s tuition will be listed on your dancer’s contract)</small> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pre-Professional | \$100 | \$115 |
| Senior Corps | \$100 | \$110 |
| Junior Corps | \$100 | \$105 |
| Petit Corps | \$100 | \$105 |
| Apprentice | \$100 | \$80 |

- For families with multiple dancers, there is a \$150 maximum family registration fee
- 10% discount for 2nd child, 3rd child, etc. for monthly fees

What else is expected from parents?

Tickets

Parents are required to promote all RDC’s productions by purchasing/selling a minimum of 10 tickets per dancer for each RDC production. These ticket sales are mandatory and if not sold, the fee will be added to the monthly statement. Past ticket sales data proves that parents and company members are a driving force in ticket sales. *Families with more than one dancer in RDC will need to purchase/sell at least 15 tickets total.*

Costume Enhancement Fund

Each family will be required to pay \$50 per production to help fund the maintenance and purchasing of costumes. This is a replacement for our Gertens Fundraisers which we will not be doing this year.

Volunteering

All families are required to volunteer a minimum of 20 hours during a production season including the tech week and production (averages out to 10 hours during the season and 10 during tech week – although you can flex it slightly either direction if needed). Each dancer family will sign up to help with one committee before tech week. Hours will be logged and monitored. **Each family will be required to pay a \$150 opt out fee if you do not volunteer.**

Additional Items

Dancers must provide their own accessories, such as tights, shoes, and make-up, and a black camisole leotard and black wrap skirt or black pants/shorts and a black t-shirt for class and rehearsals. Dancers will have the option to purchase professional cast pictures taken during tech week. Dancers will also be asked to participate in a gift exchange between dancers during Nutcracker Tech Week.

Additional questions, please contact RDC at RochesterDanceCompanyMN@gmail.com.